

## Dr. Sania Nishtar SI, FRCP, Ph.D

- Founder and President, Heartfile
- Co-chair WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity
- Former Federal Minister, Government of Pakistan

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## Education and Professional qualifications

- FRCP, Fellow of Royal College of Physicians of London, 2005
- Ph.D, Medicine, Kings College London, 2002
- MRCP (UK), Member Royal College of Physicians of London, 1996
- MCPS, Member College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, 1991
- MBBS, Khyber Medical College Peshawar, 1986. Best graduate of the year with 16 distinctions and gold medals

## Professional experience: a snapshot

- **Founding institutions:** experience in building institutions from scratch; founder of the NGO think tank *Heartfile*, a powerful health policy voice and catalyst for health reform in Pakistan; designed and deployed *Heartfile Health Financing*, the award-winning mHealth access to treatment initiative; gained extensive experience in fund mobilization, partnership building, and use of innovations for systems building, based on which the Global Innovation Award was conferred by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2011; instrumental in re-establishing Pakistan's Ministry of Health during term as Federal Minister
- **Experience working with the Government of Pakistan:** served as Federal minister in the 2013 Pakistan Caretaker government; undertook the widely-acclaimed accountability approach to working with the government, while in office through publication of the 'Handover Papers'; member of national commissions, restructuring committees and judicial commissions tasked with complex problem solving; chair of task forces with responsibility to write strategies and reform plans; member of public sector boards and governance bodies of regulatory agencies; author of Pakistan's first health reform plan, Pakistan's first compendium of health statistics, and the country's first national public health plan for Non-Communicable Diseases.
- **Experience in the multilateral system:** chaired/co-chaired UN and WHO commissions and expert panels; chaired resolution drafting and declaration/international statement writing committees; well known for

thought leadership in global health in the multilateral system; deeply engaged in the international discourse on health and development. Attended over 200 major international conferences, consultations and convenings over the last 15 years as invited expert, chair, moderator, resource person, speaker, and keynote speaker.

- **Civil society experience:** in addition to founding civil society institutions, key civil society health policy voice demanding improved governance and transparency in Pakistan; mobilized over 100 stakeholders to mainstreaming the voice of the civil society in the decision making process in the Pakistan Health Policy Forum; member of the boards of many INGOs and apex international networks; chaired award-winning international global campaigns.
- **Research, intellectual and academic pursuits and thought leadership:** deeply engaged in global health through work leading and being part of global commissions, contributing intellectually in areas spanning health systems, health reform, non-communicable diseases, public-private engagement, and health governance; extensively published, with six books, 116 publications in peer reviewed journals including The Lancet and British Medical Journal; led the Pakistan Lancet Series on health reform; Op-ed contributor in The News International, Huffington Post, Wall Street Journal, Guardian and Project Syndicate on matters relevant to health and governance; one of the six books, Choked Pipes, (Oxford University Press, 2010) is a post-graduate text book and has been the subject of a documentary by an award winning British filmmaker; member of Advisory Boards of many international journals; faculty member of the National School of Public Policy, Pakistan; Pakistan Administrative Staff College, National Management College, National Defense University and other academic institutes in Pakistan.
- **Physician cardiologist** with experience working in the most difficult health systems settings (1990-2000); Principal Investigator of the first case control study on coronary risk factors in Pakistan (1996); became an advocate for prevention and health promotion using study findings; developed national public awareness campaigns for heart disease prevention and evaluated impact (2000-2006)
- **Peace building;** involvement with several peace building initiatives, using health as an entry point to peace building and promoting Western-Muslim engagement

## Details about professional experience and assignments

### Work experience

- Founder and President, Heartfile (1998-present)
- Federal Minister, Government of Pakistan (portfolios: Education and Training, Science and Technology, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Health, (2013)
- Senior Registrar, Cardiology, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad (1997-2000)
- Clinical attachment, Guys hospital, London (1996)
- Medical Officer, General Medicine, PIMS, Islamabad (1994-1996)
- Medical Officer, Hayat Shaheed Teaching Hospital, Peshawar (1990-1994)

### Government of Pakistan

- Candidate, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2015)
- Member, National Commission on Science and Technology (2014-present)
- Member Board of Governors, Benazir Income Support Program (2014-present)
- Member, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (2016-present)
- Member, High Court of Pakistan's Commission on Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (2015)
- Chair, Ministry of Finance's Task Force on Strengthening Social Safety Net Institutions (2014-2015)
- Member, Economic Advisory Council, Ministry of Finance (2014-present)
- Member Advisory Committee, Planning Commission (2014-present)
- Member, Advisory Committee, Federal Tax Ombudsman (2014-present)
- Member Board of Directors, Infrastructure Project Development Facility, Ministry of Finance (2006-2009)
- Member Health Committee, National Commission on Government Reforms (2006-07)

### United Nations

- Chair, UN Secretary General's Independent Accountability Panel for the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2015-2016); *stepped down after announcement of candidacy to avoid perception of conflict of interest*
- Board Member, UN University International Institute for Global Health, Malaysia (2016-2019)

### World Health Organization

- Headquarters:
  - Co-Chair, WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (2014-present)
  - Member, WHO expert review group on an integrated response to mental health and other chronic diseases (2013-present)

- Member Advisory Group, WHO Health Systems Research Strategy (2013)
- Member, WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Health Promotion (2008-2013)
- Board Member, [WHO's] Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, (2008-2014)
- Member, WHO's Strategic Advisory Committee for Stewardship on Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty (2009)
- Member, WHO Consortium on Maximizing Positive Synergies between Health Systems and Global Health Initiatives (2008-2009)
- Member, WHO Director General's Expert Working Group on R&D and Financing (2008-2009)
- Member, WHO Director General's High-Level Task Force on Health Systems (2008)
- Member, WHO's Steering Committee, Mega Country Network on Health Promotion (2003-2004)
- Served as Temporary Advisor on numerous occasions
- WHO Conferences
  - Member, Senator Group, WHO NCDs Ashgabat European Ministerial Conference (2013)
  - Council of Deans; First and Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (2011 and 2012)
  - Member, WHO's International Steering Committee, First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and NCDs (2011)
  - Chair, Drafting Committee, WHO's Venice Statement on Global Health Initiatives and Health Systems (2009)
  - Member, Programme Committee, WHO Global Forum IV (2004)
- Regional Office (WHO EMRO)
  - Member, Network of Health System Experts (2013-present)
  - Member, Regional Director's Technical Advisory Committee (2013)
  - International Advisory Panel, Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (2013-present)
- Country Office
  - Founder and author, National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion, Pakistan. Tripartite Heartfile-Ministry of Health-WHO partnership (2003)

#### **Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI)**

- Member, GAVI Board (2015-2016)
- Chair, GAVI's Independent Evaluation Committee (2011-2014)

#### **International Non-Governmental Organisations**

- Trustee, Future of Health Global Challenge initiative, World Economic Forum (2016-present)
- Member, NCD Alliance Expert Advisory Council (2014-present)
- Member, World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council (2007-present)
- Member, US-Muslim Engagement Initiative (2011)
- Member, Healthcare Advisory Council, Pakistan American Foundation (2011)
- Member, Partners for a New Beginning, Aspen Institute (2011)

- Member, Clinton Global Initiative (2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011)
- Panel of Advisors, Center for Health Market Innovations R4D (2010)
- Member, Board of Trustees, International Union for Health Promotion (2004-2010)
- Member, Working Group, Private Sector in Health Systems, Rockefeller Foundation (2008-2009)
- Member High-Level Task Force, Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health, Aspen Institute (2008)
- Chair, International Consortium on Community Health Promotion, IUHPE (2004-05)
- Chair, Expert Panel on Women and Heart Disease, World Heart Federation (2007)
- Chair, Foundations Advisory Board and Board Member, World Heart Federation (2003-2006)
- Chair, Steering Committee, World Heart Day (2003-2006)
- Chair, International 'Go Red for Women' campaign (2004)
- Executive Council Member, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Cardiac Society (2000-2002)

#### **Civil Society positions in Pakistan**

- Founder and President of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum (2005)
- Member Board of Governors
  - Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (2009-present)
  - Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (2013-2016)
  - Trust for Voluntary Organizations (2005-2008)
  - Chal Foundation (2012-2016)

#### **Commissions and academic roles**

- Member, Stockholm Resilience Centre, The EAT-Lancet Commission, (2016-present)
- Member, The Lancet and Rockefeller Foundation Commission on Planetary Health (2014-present)
- Member, The Lancet and Harvard Commission on Pain and Palliative Care (2014-present)
- Lead, Pakistan Lancet Series, Health Transitions in Pakistan, (2010-2013)
- Member Steering Committee, the Emerging Markets Symposium, Green Templeton College, Oxford University (2014-present)
- Member Advisory Committee, Lancet Global Health (2014-present)
- Visiting faculty, National School of Public Policy, Pakistan Administrative Staff College, National Management College; current senate member of the National Defence University and formerly, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

#### **Private Sector**

- Member, Global Health Policy Advisory Committee. PepsiCo, New York (2009-2010)

## Publications

- A list of 116 peer reviewed publications can be accessed at <http://www.heartfile.org/publications/>

Selected books, book chapters and monographs

- Sectoral Cooperation for the Prevention and Control of NCDs. In: Noncommunicable Diseases in the Developing World: Addressing Gaps in Global Policy and Research: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.
- NCDs and Civil Society, a history and a roadmap. In: Global Handbook on Non-communicable diseases: Springer, 2013.
- Nishtar S. Pakistan: potential to achieve universal coverage for health. Attaining Universal Health Coverage. EGEA 2010
- Choked Pipes: Reforming Pakistan's Health System. Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-19-547969-0
- Health Indicators of Pakistan. Gateway Paper II. Heartfile, Federal Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Health; 2006.
- The Gateway Paper: Reforming Health Systems in Pakistan. Heartfile 2005. Nishtar S. The National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion in Pakistan. Ministry of Health and WHO, 2004
- Nishtar S. Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease in South Asia. SAARC Cardiac Society. ISBN 969-8651-00-4. Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Nishtar S. Public-Private Partnerships in the health sector – a call to action. The Commonwealth Health Ministers Book; 2007

Details of international talks and keynote speeches posted at [www.sanianishtar.info](http://www.sanianishtar.info)

## Awards and honors

- Named as the top 20 Women Scientists in the Muslim World, 2014
- Rockefeller Foundation's Global Innovation Award, 2011
- Medical Mission Hall of Fame; Toledo, Ohio; 2011
- Featured at the Women in the World Foundation launch in New York, 2011
- Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan, 2005
- European Society Population Science Award, 2005
- President of Pakistan Student Award and gold medal, 1986
- Best graduate of Khyber Medical College and gold medal, 1986
- Topped all four professional examinations of MBBS with distinction, and awarded 15 gold medals, one for each professional examination and one each for 11 subjects.