

AMWA NEWS

2025 John P. McGovern Award Recipient: Scott Ratzan, MD, MPA

Roshawn (Shawn) Watson, PharmD, PhD, BCPS / 2024-2025 AMWA President

It is our pleasure to honor this year's recipient of the John P McGovern Award, Dr Scott Ratzan, MD, MPA. The McGovern Award recognizes preeminent contributions to any field of medical communication and is presented at AMWA's annual Medical Writing & Communication Conference.

Dr Ratzan is a pioneer in the health communication, health literacy, and public health spaces. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Rhetoric from Occidental College, he pursued a Master of Arts in Communication from Emerson College, a Master of Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, and a Doctor of Medicine from the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

His career has spanned 3 decades and includes stints in academia, governance, the pharmaceutical industry, and nonprofits. His career highlights are numerous and reflect a deep commitment to health communication and global health, including

- founding Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Health Communication
- co-chairing the Nature Medicine Commission on Quality Health Information for All
- founding the Emerson-Tufts Masters Program in Health Communication
- developing the global health communication strategy for the United States as a member of the Board of Global Health of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine
- co-chairing Every Woman Every Child, a United Nations initiative aimed at improving health outcomes for women and children
- co-chairing the Council for Quality Health Communication
- serving on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Board of Scientific Counselors of Office of Infectious Disease



- serving as a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard Kennedy School, where he contributed to the development of the Guiding Principles for Multisectoral Engagement for Sustainable Health
- serving as executive director of Business Partners for Sustainable Development, an initiative of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) focused on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals
- serving as executive director of Business Partners to CONVINCe, a global initiative of USCIB promoting vaccine confidence and uptake
- launching and co-chairing Nature Medicine Commission on Quality Health Information for All, which aims to advance the credibility, accessibility, and governance of health information worldwide

He has also published extensively in the field of health communication and policy, including peer-reviewed articles in prestige journals, such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *JAMA*, *Nature Medicine*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *National Academies of Medicine Perspectives*.

He has authored the following books: *Vaccine Communication in a Pandemic: Strengthening Vaccine Literacy, Restoring Trust and Engaging Communities to Foster Vaccine Confidence and Uptake*, *The Mad Cow Crisis: Health and the Public Good*, and *Attaining Global Health: Challenges and Opportunities*.

Please join AMWA in congratulating Dr Ratzan and celebrating his lifelong commitment to medical communication. We're thrilled that he will deliver the McGovern Award Address at the 2025 Medical Writing & Communication conference this November in Phoenix.

Author declaration and disclosures: The authors note no commercial associations that may pose a conflict of interest in relation to this article.

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