

Dr. Mehret Mandefro is a primary care physician and public health researcher. She is the Founder and President of Truth Aid, a public health consultancy that specializes in community-based public health education efforts that address the social determinants of health using media. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Health Policy at the George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services.

Appointed by President Obama as a 2009-2010 White House Fellow, Dr. Mandefro worked on behavioral health policy issues for returning Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan War as a health policy advisor with Secretary Eric K. Shinseki at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In this role, she co-convened the first ever, joint Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense mental health summit and co-authored the policy recommendations to overhaul the mental health system for returning Veterans. In addition, she co-chaired the health subcommittee for the National Security Council's Presidential Study Directive 9 and co-authored the final report evaluating ways in which the nation could strengthen support to military families. She also co-chaired the health systems and life experiences sub-committee of the Federal Inter-agency Health Equity Team, which was responsible for developing the nation's first public health strategy to end health disparities. Upon completion of her fellowship, she joined the Office of the Secretary of the VA as an expert assistant for the President's first term.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Dr. Mandefro was a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economist at Wharton Business School, and staff physician at the Adolescent HIV Clinic of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Mandefro began her career as a physician and public health practitioner working extensively with HIV infected and affected communities in Botswana, South Africa, Ethiopia, and New York on issues of prevention and treatment. Her HIV work among women is the subject of a feature-length documentary film *All of Us* that premiered on Showtime Networks from 2008-2010 and is used in over 1500 educational institutions around the world. She has produced and co-written two feature length films, *Difret* and *Little White Lie*, about issues related to the social determinants of health that premiered and will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and PBS respectively in 2014. *Difret* recently won the Audience Awards at the Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival. She is also author of the textbook *The History of Public Health: A global perspective* (Jones and Bartlett, 2015).

Dr. Mandefro has received several awards in the past that include a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, American Association of University Women Selected Professional Fellowship, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Kean Fellowship, UK Fulbright Scholar and the Samuel Huntington Public Service Fellowship. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the international reproductive health organization EngenderHealth as the Chair of Public Affairs and Development.

Dr. Mandefro received her BA in Anthropology and her MD from Harvard University, and a Masters of Science in the Public Health of Developing Countries at the London School of

Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as a Fulbright Scholar. She completed her internal medicine primary care residency at Montefiore Medical Center.