

# Commonwealth Medicine's Perspectives in Health Care | SPEAKER SERIES

## FEATURED SPEAKER:

### **Mitchell Besser, MD**



Dr. Mitchell Besser, an obstetrician and gynecologist, has dedicated his career to the public health needs of women. As a faculty member at the University of Cape Town, his focus was on pregnant women living with HIV and preventing the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children.

Based on his experiences, Dr. Besser founded *mothers2mothers*, a peer-to-peer education and psychosocial support program. Health centers and communities employ mothers with HIV to educate and support pregnant women and new mothers with HIV. Since 2001, *mothers2mothers* has provided care to nearly 1.5 million mothers living with HIV in nine countries in Africa. He took this model and created *AgeWell Global*. *AgeWell* employs and trains tech-enabled, independent older people to provide companionship and promote well-being and wellness among less able older people. The program has been piloted in Cape Town, New York, and Limerick, Ireland.

Dr. Besser's work has been recognized internationally, and he's received Global Health Council's Best Practice Award, the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, and the Presidential Citizens Medal from the United States government.

## **Communities Caring for Communities: A Vision for Better Health Care**

**Monday,  
April 24, 2017  
10–11 a.m.**

**Amphitheater, 4th Floor  
333 South Street,  
Shrewsbury, MA**

