

Crowell & Moring Int'l Adds Global Health Financing Trio

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (April 24, 2023, 4:11 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring International has added three former Access Health International health policy leaders to its offices in Singapore and Washington, D.C., the firm announced Monday.

Sejal Mistry joins Crowell & Moring International's Singapore office as a director, while A. Vigneswari joins that office as a consultant. Adrienne Mendenhall joins as a director in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

The team from Access Health International — a nonprofit focused on expanding global health care access — is focused on issues related to innovative health financing, health system reform and other health care-related work, Crowell & Moring International said.

The trio is well-versed in counseling life science, technology and financial services companies on how to improve health systems in emerging markets, according to the release. The team often works with development banks and foundations to connect startups, private capital and government innovation labs to build scalable and sustainable health financing and last-mile care delivery models.

The firm's global health team focuses on leveraging public-sector leadership to widen access to quality health services, diagnostics and medicines, while working with companies to support health care for all.

Robert Holleyman, president and CEO of Crowell & Moring International, said Monday that the team's experience would be essential to the group's clients, considering the rapidly transforming nature of global health care systems.

"This dynamic group deepens our ability to serve clients in the biomedical and fintech sectors, major insurers, and healthcare startups," Holleyman said in a statement.

Mendenhall has over a decade of experience with Access Health International, most recently working as the health care nonprofit's global business development lead. She previously worked as the group's country manager before being promoted to director of business development in Singapore, according to



Sejal Mistry



A. Vigneswari



Adrienne Mendenhall

her LinkedIn profile.

Mendenhall has a master's degree from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health. According to the release, Mendenhall has a decade of experience working at community-based health clinics and other social service organizations.

In an email to Law360 Pulse on Monday, Mendenhall said the team was focused on working toward the goal of universal health care in both Asia and Latin America, through private-sector innovation. The team wanted to move to Crowell & Moring International because they saw an opportunity to bring their "in-country and regional work to a global platform," Mendenhall said.

"We work across industries, from health care to financial services to logistics and technology companies, along with nonprofit organizations and social enterprises, with a shared goal of ensuring that people can see a highly trained doctor or nurse, get screened for an infectious disease, understand their diabetes, get their cancer treated, and safely delivery their babies, all in the communities where they live and work," Mendenhall said.

Mendenhall also noted how telemedicine had expanded as a result of the pandemic, saying that expansion, along with the growth of e-commerce, digital wallets and insurance purchased through digital platforms, were all important pillars to ensuring people had access to quality medical service, she said.

"We are public health people first and foremost and went into this field with the belief that all people deserve to access high quality care, regardless of where they live or how much money they make," Mendenhall said. "The most rewarding part of this work, especially in this unique space of working with innovators and policy makers, is seeing a partnership or model that we've been working on implemented and seeing people access care because of the model."

Mistry has 15 years of global health care research, policy and consulting experience. She spent almost six years at Access Health International, most recently as regional director of Southeast Asia, according to her LinkedIn profile.

She has a range of professional experience that includes serving as a senior policy adviser to the Korean government, according to the news release.

Mistry has worked in a range of similar roles in the U.S. government, working as a senior management analyst with the Department of Health and Human Services, as a senior multilateral affairs adviser with the State Department's Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, and as a policy analyst with Fogarty International Center at the National Institute of Health, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Mistry has two master's degrees from Johns Hopkins: one from the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the other from the School of Advanced International Studies.

In a statement Monday, Mistry said she was looking forward to her new role and a continued focus on Latin America and Asia, which she described as "a diverse and rapidly developing region that is on the fast track to leapfrog legacy systems."

"Urbanization, aging populations, digitalization and a growing middle class are all converging to set the stage for innovation specific to the needs of emerging markets," Mistry said. "Latin America is similarly

catapulting health systems reforms and is home to a dynamic startup environment."

Vigneswari's experience includes policymaking and health system consulting, according to the release. Her focuses include helping to develop and execute health care financing initiatives and healthy aging-related programs.

Vigneswari earned her bachelor's degree from the National University of Singapore, and focused on life sciences and political science. She spent more than three years with the Ministry of Health in Singapore, before joining Access Health International in 2021, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Clark Jennings, managing director of Crowell & Moring International's Asia operations and Singapore-based regional headquarters, said Monday that the trio's experience would bring "a deep, nuanced understanding of health systems in global key commercial markets."

"They have a proven track record of creating cross-sectoral, innovative partnerships to drive health care reform, particularly in the area of health care financing," Jennings said in a statement.

--Editing by Marygrace Anderson.