Dr. Pritpal S Tamber is the Co-Founder and CEO of Bridging Health & Community, a Seattle-based nonprofit dedicated to transforming how we approach health so that it goes beyond health care and public health to include fostering the ‘agency’ of a community - its ability to make purposeful choices.

Dr. Tamber the former Physician Editor of TEDMED, TED’s dedicated health event. In that role, he reviewed over 1600 innovations and helped shape the 40 talks that made it into the 2013 program. It was through that role that he became convinced that current efforts in health innovation will fail to meaningfully impact population health or health equity.

In response, he founded the Creating Health Collaborative, an international group of innovators exploring health from the perspective of people and communities. Their work adopts a broader understanding of health to encompass things like safety, physical functioning, financial security, emotional security, and nourishing relationships.

The Collaborative’s membership includes individuals from Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic, the California Endowment, FSG, HealthPartners, MIT, the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund, ISAIAH, the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund and the Democracy Collaborative.

Common to all of their innovations is the key insight that risk factors alone cannot explain why people are healthy or sick. The missing link is whether people have a sense of control over their lives, something that requires individuals and communities to have ‘agency’.

The Collaborative is now part of Dr. Tamber’s Seattle-based nonprofit, Bridging Health & Community, which takes a radical approach to ‘health equity’ and the ‘social determinants of health’. It explores...

Testimonials

“Dr. Tamber was excellent. Such an enjoyable person. Kind, smart, humble, funny...I can’t say enough good things about him. His talk was on point and very well received. He incorporated the right amount of humor while also delivering a direct message that we can’t just keep doing what we’ve been doing if we want anything to change in our communities; a message that this group needed to hear....Judging by the mob of people that he stuck around and patiently chatted with, I think everyone enjoyed him and his message. It definitely closed out the conference on a super high note. I can’t thank you enough for connecting us with him. Thank you for making us look good!”

- WSHA.