1. **Hans Rosling – Global health expert**

In Hans Rosling’s hands, data sings. Global trends in health and economics come to vivid life. And the big picture of global development — with some surprisingly good news — snaps into sharp focus.

*Latest talk:* ***How not to be ignorant about the world***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/hans\_and\_ola\_rosling\_how\_not\_to\_be\_ignorant\_about\_the\_world#t-118235*](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_and_ola_rosling_how_not_to_be_ignorant_about_the_world#t-118235)

1. **Michael Specter - Writer**

[Michael Specter is a staff writer for the New Yorker. His new book,](https://www.ted.com/speakers/michael_specter?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)*[Denialism](https://www.ted.com/speakers/michael_specter?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)*[, asks why we have increasingly begun to fear scientific advances instead of embracing them.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/michael_specter?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***The danger of science denial***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/michael\_specter\_the\_danger\_of\_science\_denial*](https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_specter_the_danger_of_science_denial)

1. **David Christian – Historian**

David Christian teaches an ambitious world history course that tells the tale of the entire universe — from the Big Bang 13 billion years ago to present day.

*Latest lecture:* ***The history of our world in 18 minutes***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/david\_christian\_the\_history\_of\_our\_world\_in\_18\_minutes*](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_christian_the_history_of_our_world_in_18_minutes)

1. **[Melinda Gates – Philanthropist](https://www.ted.com/speakers/melinda_french_gates?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[Melinda French Gates is co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she puts into practice the idea that every life has equal value.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/melinda_french_gates?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***Why giving away our wealth has been the most satisfying thing we've done***

[*https://www.ted.com/speakers/melinda\_french\_gates?referrer=playlist-bill\_gates\_my\_13\_favorite\_tal*](https://www.ted.com/speakers/melinda_french_gates?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

1. **Bruce Aylward – Epidemiologist**

"Ebola threatens everything that makes us human," says Bruce Aylward of the World Health Organization. And when the Ebola epidemic exploded in 2014, it caused a worldwide panic. But humanity can beat Ebola -- and Aylward shows four strategies that show how we are succeeding. The fight against Ebola is not yet won, he says, but it can be.

*Latest talk:* ***Humanity vs. Ebola. How we could win a terrifying war***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/bruce\_aylward\_humanity\_vs\_ebola\_how\_we\_could\_win\_a\_terrifying\_war*](https://www.ted.com/talks/bruce_aylward_humanity_vs_ebola_how_we_could_win_a_terrifying_war)

1. **[Atul Gawande – Surgeon, writer, public health innovator](https://www.ted.com/speakers/atul_gawande_1?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[Surgeon and public health professor by day, writer by night, Atul Gawande explores how doctors can dramatically improve their practice using approaches as simple as a checklist – or coaching.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/atul_gawande_1?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***Want to get great at something? Get a coach***

[*https://www.ted.com/speakers/atul\_gawande\_1?referrer=playlist-bill\_gates\_my\_13\_favorite\_tal*](https://www.ted.com/speakers/atul_gawande_1?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

1. **[Steven Pinker – Psychologist](https://www.ted.com/speakers/steven_pinker?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[Steven Pinker is a professor of cognitive science (the study of the human mind) who writes about language, mind and human nature. Steven Pinker charts the decline of violence from Biblical times to the present, and argues that, though it may seem illogical and even obscene, given Iraq and Darfur, we are living in the most peaceful time in our species' existence.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/steven_pinker?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest lecture:* ***Is the world getting better or worse? A look at the numbers***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/steven\_pinker\_is\_the\_world\_getting\_better\_or\_worse\_a\_look\_at\_the\_numbers*](https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_is_the_world_getting_better_or_worse_a_look_at_the_numbers)

1. **[Nathan Myhrvold – Polymath](https://www.ted.com/speakers/nathan_myhrvold?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[Nathan Myhrvold is a professional jack-of-all-trades. After leaving Microsoft in 1999, he's been a world barbecue champion, a wildlife photographer, a chef, a contributor to SETI, and a volcano explorer. Nathan Myhrvold and team's latest inventions -- as brilliant as they are bold -- remind us that the world needs wild creativity to tackle big problems like malaria. And just as that idea sinks in, he rolls out a live demo of a new, mosquito-zapping gizmo you have to see to believe.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/nathan_myhrvold?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***Could this laser zap malaria?***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/nathan\_myhrvold\_could\_this\_laser\_zap\_malaria*](https://www.ted.com/talks/nathan_myhrvold_could_this_laser_zap_malaria)

1. **Salman "Sal" Khan – Educator and Social entrepreneur**

Salman "Sal" Khan is the founder and chief executive officer of Khan Academy, a not-for-profit with a mission of providing a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere.

Would you choose to build a house on top of an unfinished foundation? Of course not. Why, then, do we rush students through education when they haven't always grasped the basics? Yes, it's complicated, but educator Sal Khan shares his plan to turn struggling students into scholars by helping them master concepts at their own pace.

*Latest talk:* ***Let's teach for mastery — not test scores***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/sal\_khan\_let\_s\_teach\_for\_mastery\_not\_test\_scores*](https://www.ted.com/talks/sal_khan_let_s_teach_for_mastery_not_test_scores)

1. **[Blaise Agüera y Arcas – Software architect](https://www.ted.com/speakers/blaise_aguera_y_arcas?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[Blaise Agüera y Arcas works on machine learning at Google. Previously a Distinguished Engineer at Microsoft, he has worked on augmented reality, mapping, wearable computing and natural user interfaces. Blaise Aguera y Arcas leads a dazzling demo of Photosynth, software that could transform the way we look at digital images. Using still photos culled from the Web, Photosynth builds breath taking dreamscapes and lets us navigate them.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/blaise_aguera_y_arcas?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***How computers are learning to be creative***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/blaise\_aguera\_y\_arcas\_how\_computers\_are\_learning\_to\_be\_creative*](https://www.ted.com/talks/blaise_aguera_y_arcas_how_computers_are_learning_to_be_creative)

1. **[David Blaine Illusionist, endurance artist](https://www.ted.com/speakers/david_blaine?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[With a deck of cards and authoritative cool, David Blaine brings the wonderment of magic off the stage and onto the sidewalk. In this highly personal talk from TEDMED, magician and stuntman David Blaine describes what it took to hold his breath underwater for 17 minutes -- a world record (only two minutes shorter than this entire talk!) -- and what his often death-defying work means to him. Warning: do NOT try this at home.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/david_blaine?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* [***How I held my breath for 17 minutes***](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_blaine_how_i_held_my_breath_for_17_minutes)

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/david\_blaine\_how\_i\_held\_my\_breath\_for\_17\_minutes*](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_blaine_how_i_held_my_breath_for_17_minutes)

1. **[Susan Cain – Quiet revolutionary](https://www.ted.com/speakers/susan_cain?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[Our world prizes extroverts, but Susan Cain makes a case for the contemplative. She's leading a social revolution that's showing people that looking inward is a virtue, not a problem.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/susan_cain?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

[In a culture where being social and outgoing are prized above all else, it can be difficult, even shameful, to be an introvert. But, as Susan Cain argues in this passionate talk, introverts bring extraordinary talents and abilities to the world, and should be encouraged and celebrated.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/susan_cain?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***The Power of Introverts***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/susan\_cain\_the\_power\_of\_introverts*](https://www.ted.com/talks/susan_cain_the_power_of_introverts)

1. **[Vijay Kumar – Roboticist](https://www.ted.com/speakers/vijay_kumar?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)**

[As the dean of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science, Vijay Kumar studies the control and coordination of multi-robot formations.](https://www.ted.com/speakers/vijay_kumar?referrer=playlist-bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal)

*Latest talk:* ***The future of flying robots***

[*https://www.ted.com/talks/vijay\_kumar\_the\_future\_of\_flying\_robots*](https://www.ted.com/talks/vijay_kumar_the_future_of_flying_robots)