John M. Barry is an award-winning author whose books have also involved him in policy making. He is the only non-scientist ever to give the National Academies of Sciences Abel Wolman Distinguished Lecture and was the only non-scientist on a federal government Infectious Disease Board of Experts. An advisor to the Bush and Obama White Houses on pandemic preparedness and response, he served on the original team which recommended public health measures to mitigate a pandemic. After Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana congressional delegation asked him to chair a bipartisan working group on flood protection, and he served on both the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the levee board protecting metropolitan New Orleans. Barry has worked with the private sector and with state, federal, United Nations, and World Health Organization officials on pandemics, water-related disasters, and risk communication. He has served on numerous advisory boards including at MIT’s Center for Engineering Systems Fundamentals and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Society of American Historians.

The National Academies of Science named his 2004 book *The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History*, a study of the 1918 pandemic, the year's outstanding book on science or medicine, and it has been a #1 New York Times best-seller. His earlier book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America* won the Francis Parkman Prize of the Society of American Historians for the year's best book of American history; in 2005 the New York Public Library named it one of the 50 best books in the preceding 50 years, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

His latest book is *Roger Williams and The Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty*, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and winner of the New England Society Book Award.

A keynote speaker at such varied events as a White House Conference on the Mississippi Delta and an International Congress on Respiratory Viruses, he has also given talks in such venues as the National War College, the Council on Foreign Relations, and Harvard Business School.

His articles have appeared in such scientific journals as *Nature* and *Journal of Infectious Disease* as well as in lay publications ranging from *Sports Illustrated* to *Politico*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Fortune*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Esquire*. A frequent guest on every broadcast network in the US, he has appeared on such shows as NBC's Meet the Press, ABC's World News, and NPR's *All Things Considered*, and on such foreign media as the BBC and Al Jazeera. He has also served as a consultant for Sony Pictures and contributed to award-winning television documentaries.

He is co-originator of what is now called the Bywater Institute, a Tulane University center dedicated to comprehensive river research. Currently a Distinguished Scholar at Tulane's Bywater Institute and a professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Mr. Barry lives in New Orleans.