



MARLA J. GOLD, MD, is an inspiring physician leader who makes a tangible difference in the lives of countless others through work with philanthropy, government, educational institutions, business leaders, non-profits and individuals to leverage opportunities and achieve optimal outcomes. Passionate about the values of diversity and equity in all she does, Dr. Gold is currently Senior Vice Provost, Community Health and Chief Wellness Officer at Drexel University. In this role she oversees University population health and wellness including COVID-19 operations and campus wellness. Dr. Gold is dean emerita of the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health and a tenured professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management. In the early 1990s, she served as Philadelphia's assistant health commissioner for infectious disease control in the Public Health Department, where she was responsible for all reportable and communicable diseases and conditions in Philadelphia. In that role she served as director for the city immunization program and as the regional grantee for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS

Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. She oversaw all grant-making related to CARE Act funding in the region. During her tenure in the Philadelphia Health Department, she worked to establish a comprehensive system of HIV care for under- and uninsured Philadelphians at the City's ambulatory health centers and addressed challenging programs and issues including the availability of needle exchange programs in the city and comprehensive sexual health education in Philadelphia high schools.

In 1996, she created and led an innovative, interdisciplinary integrated clinical practice for persons with HIV/AIDS, containing a full complement of linked services. Today the Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice is one of the largest regional comprehensive HIV programs and recently celebrated its 26th anniversary. She served as chief of the Division of HIV/AIDS Medicine and vice chair of the Department of Medicine at the former MCP-Hahnemann Medical School, a predecessor of Drexel University College of Medicine.

Dr. Gold assumed the deanship of the Drexel University School of Public Health in 2002. Under her leadership, the school became established as the first highly ranked, fully accredited school of public health in the greater Philadelphia region. The school has a longstanding commitment to issues of health equity and an education, research and practice focus on the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

Dr. Gold has published in the area of health policy, treatment and prevention, and lectured extensively on an array of related health and welfare topics to diverse audiences. She has served as chair of the Diversity Committee in the national Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and on the ASPPH Board. Dr. Gold has served as a member of the Philadelphia Board of Health over three mayoral administrations and continues that work today. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA) and is a former member of the stakeholder engagement committee of the Philadelphia Zoo.

Among her honors are the U.S. Public Service Assistant Secretary of Health Award for outstanding service to persons with HIV/AIDS, the Sisterhood Award from the National Commission of Christians and Jews, and Health Care Provider of the Year in Pennsylvania from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She has been listed as a "Top Doctor" for women with HIV/AIDS, in *Philadelphia Magazine*. In November 2007, she was among the recipients of the "Women of Distinction" awards from the *Philadelphia Business Journal* for her life work and leadership in medicine, public health and higher education. In 2016 she received the National Partnership Award from the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition in Washington, D.C., for her career-long work in HIV/AIDS care and service delivery. In 2022, she was named among "Fifty Over 50" of the most distinguished public servants in Pennsylvania by *City & State PA*.

Dr. Gold believes deeply in the importance that academic enterprises serve the region in which "they live." She continues her commitment to improving the lives of Philadelphians directly and through collaborative work with faculty, students, staff, administration and residents of Drexel's surrounding neighborhoods. The school established an Autism Research Institute, the only such place in the nation where autism is studied through the lens of public health. A Center for Hunger Free Communities addresses the connectedness of poverty and hunger and works toward policy solutions, and a Center for Violence Prevention and Social Justice addresses the need for trauma-informed approaches to victims of violence.

Dr. Gold worked to establish the first public health blog connected to a major newspaper (the *Philadelphia Inquirer*). In 2013, Drexel University honored her accomplishments with the title of dean emerita and the establishment of the Marla J. Gold Endowed Scholarship Fund, which supports young leaders who seek to become physicians with public health expertise. Over the years, her leadership has given rise to clinical services, sound policies and strategic vision for the health and welfare of the region. Because of robust fundraising and wide support, the School of Public Health moved to a newly refurbished building in the center of Drexel University and, notably, was named the Dornsife School of Public Health with a \$45M gift in 2015.

Through her leadership, Dr. Gold has trained, advised and graduated hundreds of social service, public health and medical professionals, many of whom have kept their roots in the region. More recently she co-chaired the health and human

services committee as part of the transition team of Mayor Jim Kenney. She has taught public health leadership, service delivery and advocacy to public health graduate and doctoral students and devotes time to numerous community organizations and issues in the region. She received her BS from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey, and an MD from University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey. She completed her internal medicine residency and infectious disease fellowship at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, now part of the Drexel College of Medicine.