

MARLA J. GOLD, MD, FACP

MARLA J. GOLD, MD, FACP 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. She has a combination of academic, clinical, governmental and personal experience.



Marla is currently Dean Emerita and Professor of Health Management and Policy at the Drexel University School of Public Health. 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, working closely with health care providers as well as those directly affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. 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 many challenging programs and issues.

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. 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.

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 also on the ASPPH Board. Dr. Gold has served as a member of the Philadelphia Board of Health over three Mayoral administrations. Among her honors are the US 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. 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.

Marla led the Drexel University School of Public Health to full accreditation and a significant national ranking while continuing her commitment to improving the lives of Philadelphians directly and through the work of her faculty, students, staff and administration. 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. Marla worked to establish the first public health blog connected to a major newspaper (The Philadelphia Inquirer). When she ended her tenure as dean in June, 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. As a result of robust fund raising 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. Throughout her career, Marla has trained, advised and graduated hundreds of social service, public health and medical professionals. Thus her contributions extend well beyond her individual work. Recently she co-chaired the health and human services committee as part of the transition team of Mayor Jim Kenney. Currently she is teaching leadership, service delivery and advocacy to public health graduate and doctoral students and devoting much of her time to numerous community organizations and issues in the region.

Marla has a unique and broad perspective from which to advise Beyond Celiac. In addition to her professional experience of working with a vast array of individuals across many disciplines, Marla has two close family members with celiac disease and the resultant personal experience of a caregiver ensuring a gluten-free life for loved ones while also working for a life "beyond celiac" with more advanced testing, prevention, treatment and a cure.

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. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a member of both the national medical and public health honor societies.