

Howard Kyongju Koh, MD, MPH, FACP

Dr. Howard Koh is the Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, and Director of the Division of Public Health Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health. At Harvard, his academic leadership roles also include:

- Principal Investigator of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded Community Networks Program MassCONNECT (Massachusetts Community Networks to Eliminate Cancer Disparities through Education, Research and Training), a community-based initiative to eliminate cancer disparities in underserved communities;
- Principal Investigator of MassCONNECT 4 KIDS, a community-based program funded by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities to reduce disparities in secondhand smoke exposure for children; and
- Director of the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness (HSPH-CPHP), which promotes education about bioterrorism, pandemic influenza, and other emerging health threats.

Dr. Koh graduated from Yale College (where he was the President of the Yale Glee Club) and the Yale University School of Medicine. He completed postgraduate training at Boston City Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, serving as chief resident in both hospitals. He has earned board certification in four medical fields (internal medicine, hematology, medical oncology, and dermatology) as well as a Master of Public Health degree from Boston University. Then, at Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, he was Professor of Dermatology, Medicine, and Public Health as well as Director of Cancer Prevention and Control. He has published over 200 articles in the medical and public health literature, addressing issues such as cancer prevention and control, tobacco control, health disparities, emergency preparedness, skin oncology (melanoma and cutaneous lymphoma), and multiple other topics in health policy and public health practice.

After being appointed Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1997-2003) by Governor William Weld, Dr. Koh served and led the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which included a wide range of services, four public health hospitals, and a staff of over 3000 professionals. In this capacity, he emphasized the power of prevention and strengthened the state's commitment to eliminating health disparities. His tenure as the lead health official in the state was marked by the Fall 2001 anthrax attacks against the United States. During this time, Massachusetts ranked as one of the healthiest states in the country, with advances in areas such as tobacco control, cancer screening, coordination of emergency medical services, bioterrorism response, health issues of the homeless population, newborn screening, organ donation, suicide prevention, and international public health partnerships.

Dr. Koh has received numerous awards and honors for his interdisciplinary accomplishments in medicine and public health. President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Koh to the National Cancer Advisory Board (2000-2002). In addition, Dr. Koh has received the Drs. Jack E. White/LaSalle D. Leffall Cancer Prevention Award from the American Association for Cancer Research and the Intercultural Cancer Council, the Dr. Harold P. Freeman Lectureship Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Cancer Society. An elected member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, he is a member of the IOM Roundtable on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and the IOM Committee on Smoking Cessation in Military and Veteran Populations. He is also Chair of the new IOM Committee on Public Health Priorities to Reduce and Control Hypertension in the U.S. Population. As past Chair of the Massachusetts Coalition for a Healthy Future, the organization that pushed for the Commonwealth's groundbreaking tobacco control initiative, he was named by the New England Division of the American Cancer Society as "one of the most influential persons in the fight against tobacco during the last 25 years." He is also a Fellow of the American

College of Physicians. In recognition of his national contributions in advancing the field of early detection and prevention of melanoma, the Boston Red Sox designated him a “Medical All-Star” (2003) which included the ceremonial first pitch at Fenway Park. Also, the Boston University School of Medicine established the Dr. Howard K. Koh Skin Oncology Award in 2006. Other awards include being named to the K100 (the 100 leading Korean Americans in the first century of Korean immigration to the United States), the Boston University School of Public Health Distinguished Alumni Award (the highest award of the School), the Preventive Oncology Academic Award from the NCI, and an honorary degree from Merrimack College. Dr. Koh was recently appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to the Massachusetts Health Information Technology Council.

Dr. Koh is Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response and also is a member of the CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Control Advisory Committee. He is on the Board of Directors of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, the group that pushed for landmark 2006 Massachusetts Health Care Reform. His service on other Boards includes organizations such as the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics, the American Legacy Foundation, the Harvard University Advanced Leadership Initiative (Co-Chair), the Partnership for HealthCare Excellence, the journal *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* (Associate Board), the *Journal of Public Health*, and the Disparities Action Network (Honorary Co-Chair) of Massachusetts. He previously completed terms on the Boards of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, the American Cancer Society (Massachusetts Division), the Pike School, and was the inaugural Chair of the Committee on Public Health for the Massachusetts Medical Society.

He and his wife, Dr. Claudia Arrigg, are the proud parents of three children.