

Vivian W. Pinn, M. D.
Associate Director for Research on Women's Health
Director, Office of Research on Women's Health
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Vivian W. Pinn is the first full-time Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an appointment she has held since November 1991. In February 1994, she was also named Associate Director for Research on Women's Health, NIH. Dr. Pinn came to NIH from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., where she had been Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology since 1982, and has previously held appointments at Tufts University and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pinn has long been active in efforts to improve the health and career opportunities for women and minorities. She has been invited to present the ORWH's mandate, programs and initiatives to many national and international individuals and organizations with an interest in improving women's health and the health of minorities. She led a national effort to reexamine priorities for the women's health research agenda for the 21st Century, involving over 1,500 advocates, scientists, policy makers, educators and health care providers in a series of scientific meetings across the country to determine progress as well as continuing, or emerging, areas in need of research. Her recent focus has been to raise the perception of the scientific community about the importance of sex and gender factors in basic science, clinical research, and health care.

Dr. Pinn received her early education in the schools of Lynchburg, Virginia. She earned her B.A. from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and received her M.D. from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1967, where she was the only woman and minority in her class. She returned to Massachusetts to complete her postgraduate training in Pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, during which time she also served as Teaching Fellow at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pinn then joined the faculty of Tufts University School of Medicine and Tufts New England Medical Center Hospital in 1970 and held the positions of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, and Associate Professor of Pathology, with a primary interest in renal immunology, at the time she left to assume the Chairmanship of the Department of Pathology at Howard University College of Medicine and Howard University in September 1982, becoming the third woman to chair an academic department of Pathology in the U.S. She is a member of long standing in many professional and scientific organizations, in which she held many positions of leadership. She also served as the 88th President of the National Medical Association (and second woman president) during the year 1989-1990.

Dr. Pinn has received numerous honors, awards, and recognitions, and has been granted nine Honorary Degrees of Laws and Science since 1992, including Lynchburg College (VA), Doctor of Laws; Tufts University (Medford, MA), Doctor of Science Honoris Causa; College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA), Doctor of Science Honoris Causa; the University of Massachusetts, Doctor of Science Honoris Causa; University of South Florida, Doctor of Science; New York College of Podiatric Medicine, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Honoris Causa; MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine (PA) Doctor of Medical Science, Honoris Causa, University of Massachusetts (Boston), Doctor of Science, and Doctor of Science, Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Pinn is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1995. She received an Alumni Achievement Award from Wellesley College in February 1993, and served on the Wellesley College Board of Trustees. She also received the second annual Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Virginia in September 1992, and was honored by the UVA medical school as one of their Alumni Luminaries in 1998. She was honored in 2005 as the speaker for the University of Virginia Commencement. In May of 1994, Dr. Pinn was named by Cosmopolitan magazine as one of "The Big Time_ 8 (in feminism now) who got only where only men got before," for her accomplishments in medicine. She has also been featured in a number of magazines such as Ladies Home Journal including in 1999, when she was cited among the Top 10 Researchers in Women's Health as one of the country's most vocal and most effective leaders, Essence magazine in 2003 recognized Dr. Pinn among "50 Women Who Are Shaping Our World", and, in 2005 More magazine recognized her as one of its 16 "Superstars of Medicine".

Among her other honors, The American College of Physicians awarded Dr. Pinn the James D. Bruce Memorial Award in 1998 for distinguished contributions in preventive medicine; she also has received awards such as the Athena Award in 1999 from the Partnership for Women's Health at Columbia University; the North American Menopause Society in 1999; and in 2000 she received the Catherine McFarland Award from the University of Pennsylvania for distinguished service in women's health; in October 2000 The Association of American Medical Colleges honored Dr. Pinn with the 2000 Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award; also in 2000, the National Organization for Women honored Dr. Pinn for her leadership and contributions to women's health; and in September 2000, Dr. Pinn was awarded the Commonwealth Fund's Margaret E. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Service for work in advancing the quality of health care for women. In April 2001, Dr. Pinn was honored by the establishment at the University of Virginia School of Medicine the "Vivian W. Pinn Distinguished Lecture in Health Disparities."

In 2004, Dr. Pinn received the President's Achievement Award from the American Medical Women's Association. The Dr. Dorothy I. Height Leadership Award for Carrying the Torch of the Earth Shaker and Dream Maker, from the Committee for the International Salute for the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jacobs Institute. In 2005, Dr. Pinn was awarded the first Dorothy I. Height Vision Award from Meharry Medical College.