

BIO SKETCH

Felicia Marie Knaul. BA (International Development, University of Toronto), MA, PhD (Economics, Harvard University) is internationally recognized for her transformative and translational research in global health, health systems, health economics, and for her work's focus on reducing inequities. Her work has influenced policy and improved the condition of at-risk populations in low and middle-income countries, particularly in Latin America. She founded a Mexican civil society organization; spearheaded multiple global networks of researchers, higher education leaders, advocacy organizations, policymakers, and multi-sectoral policy initiatives. She has authored over 350 academic and policy publications (SCOPUS: h-index: 44; 11,550 citations), delivered hundreds of invited lectures, and designed and organized nearly 75 international research symposia.

At the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) she is Associate of the Chancellor, Distinguished Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine; Senior Advisor to the Dean and to the President of UCLA Health; Director of Global Health and Member to the Cancer Control and Survivorship Research Program, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Before coming to UCLA, at the University of Miami, she served as Director of the Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas and Director of the Office of Hemispheric and Global Affairs. She was also a Professor at the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, with cross-appointments at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, the Miami Herbert Business School and the College of Arts and Sciences, and was a Full Member of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to her time at the University of Miami, she served as the Director of the Harvard Global Equity Initiative and was an Associate Professor at the Harvard Medical School.

In Mexico, she maintains an active research presence, leading a research team focusing on health equity and collaborating with the Mexican Health Foundation, and was Honorary Research Professor of Medical Sciences at the National Institute of Public Health. As of November 2024, she is Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Member of the Faculty of Excellence initiative at TEC de Monterrey.

She previously served in high-ranking posts in the Secretariat of Public Education and in the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico and worked on the teams that designed and implemented the 2003 Mexican health reform (*Seguro Popular*) and the 1993 Colombian health reform. While serving in Mexico's Ministry of Education, Dr. Knaul designed and implemented *Sigamos Aprendiendo en el Hospital* (Let's Keep Learning in the Hospital), a groundbreaking national program that established officially recognized schools within tertiary hospitals across the country.

A woman who has lived through breast cancer, Dr. Knaul founded and serves as President of *Cáncer de Mama: Tómatelo a Pecho*, a Mexican non-profit agency originally focused on breast cancer which has now expanded its mandate to include women's health and health system strengthening. Since its founding in 2008, *Tómatelo a Pecho* has trained thousands of primary care personnel using novel techniques.

She lectures globally on the challenge of cancer, both as a patient advocate and health systems researcher. She chronicled her own cancer journey and those of other women in two published books: *Tómatelo a Pecho* (Grupo Santillana, 2009) and *Beauty without the Breast* (Harvard University Press, 2013).

Dr. Knaul's wide-ranging research has focused on violence against women and children, access to pain relief and palliative care, cancer (particularly breast cancer), health systems and reform, health financing, women and health, poverty and inequity, female labor force participation, and at-risk children and youth. She led and edited several books including *Closing the Cancer Divide* (Harvard U. Press).

She has established and led multiple global research networks. Dr. Knaul currently serves as the Co-Chair of *The Lancet Commission on Violence against Women and Children* and *The Lancet Commission on Cancer and Health Systems* and as Commissioner on *The Lancet Oncology Commission on Cancer in the Commonwealth* and *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine Commission on Palliative Care Integration in Serious Respiratory Illness*.

From 2014 to 2017, she founded and co-chaired (with Dr. Paul Farmer) *The Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Relief* and lead-authored its report, described as “landmark” by *The Lancet*, with 61 global experts. Her work was featured in major outlets such as the BBC and the Washington Post. From 2012 to 2015, Dr. Knaul contributed to *The Lancet Commission on Women and Health* as a leading co-author, and more recently served on *The Lancet Commissions on the Value of Death* (2022) and *Breast Cancer* (2024). Dr. Knaul has also led a series of health policy papers in *The Lancet* spanning two decades of health reform in Mexico, most recently in 2023 covering the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and originating from *The Lancet’s* 2006 Mexico series, which she chaired. Dr. Knaul also played a leadership role in establishing the *Covid-19 Latam Observatory*, which brought together a group of researchers from eight Latin American countries to collect and analyze data on COVID-19 and sub-national policymaking.

Dr. Knaul is an elected member of the Mexican National Academy of Medicine, inducted Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and was awarded Senior Level III of the Mexican National System of Researchers in 2018. She sits on several volunteer boards, including Kristi House, Esperanza United and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.

Knaul is a citizen of Canada and the UK and holds residency in the USA and Mexico. She and her husband, Dr. Julio Frenk, have two children, Sofia Hannah and Mariana Havivah.