

Duncan Clark Awardee

Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS

2014

University of Minnesota Medical School and School of Public Health
Executive Director, Center for Health Equity
Associate Director, Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI)
Professor, Department of Medicine
Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology



Dr. Jas Ahluwalia has devoted the past 22 years to improving the health of high risk populations, such as the underserved and ethnic minorities, through his efforts in prevention and population health based approaches. He began at Emory University where he was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Generalist Scholar, and in 1997, joined the University of Kansas as the Sosland Family Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine. In 2005, Dr. Ahluwalia was recruited as the founding Director for the Office of Clinical Research at the University of Minnesota. In summer 2009, he received the NIH Comprehensive Centers of Excellence in Health Disparities and Minority Health award - this Center grant established the Center for Health Equity (CHE) for which he serves as the founding Executive Director. He is also an Associate Director for the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) and directs Research Education, Training and Career Development for the CTSI and the 5 year funded NIH CTSA award. Dr. Ahluwalia has published over 250 papers and in 2009 he received the Herbert W Nickens award for national leadership and research in improving minority health and mentoring of ethnic minority investigators; in 2010, the Joe Cullen award for tobacco research from the American Society for Preventive Oncology; in 2011 Lifetime Leadership Award from the APHA for his work on tobacco; and, in 2012, the 2012 Prevent Cancer Foundation "Prevention Laurel for National Leadership" award for his work on cancer prevention through smoking cessation in high risk populations. He served as the inaugural chair of a chartered NIH study section titled, Health Disparities and Equity Promotion, and in 2011 began service for a 3-year term on the DHHS/NIH National Advisory Council for Minority Health and Health Disparities, for which he now serves the Chair.

Dr. Ahluwalia serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Clinical and Translational Sciences and the Association for Prevention Research and Training. Besides his roles with the Center for Health Equity and CTSI, he serves as senior mentor/scientist Co-PI and Co-I on NIH R01 grants and is mentoring a number of faculty and a postdoctoral fellow. He has received \$20 million in funding as a Principal Investigator and over \$80 million as a co-investigator, largely from the NIH. His primary research work has focused on nicotine addiction and smoking cessation in African American smokers by way of conducting clinical trials, secondary analysis, qualitative research, and clinical epidemiology research. Dr. Ahluwalia has carried out five large trials in African American smokers and extended the work to the role of menthol in quitting. Through his leadership of the Center for Health Equity, his work is extending to health equity and social justice issues. In his role in the CTSI, he has been focusing a significant amount of his time on mentoring and career development of students, fellows, and faculty along with program development. He is also an accomplished educator, having taught medical students and public health graduate students at Emory University, teaching MPH students at the University of Kansas, and through his efforts at the University of Minnesota in leading training for the CTSA award.