

SHORT BIO SKETCH

Felicia Marie Knaul BA (International Development, University of Toronto), MA, PhD (Economics, Harvard University), is internationally recognized for her transformative, translational research in global health, health systems, and health economics focused on reducing inequities. Her work has influenced policy and improved the condition of at-risk populations in low- and middle-income countries and especially in Latin America. Her professional trajectory includes serving in high-ranking posts in the Secretary of Public Education and in the Secretary of Social Development of Mexico, and working on the core team that designed the 2003 Mexican health reform and the 1993 Colombian health reform. She has founded and led a Mexican civil society organization, as well as international networks of leaders of higher education, advocacy organizations, policy makers and multi-sectoral policy initiatives. She has produced over 325 academic and policy publications (h-index: 42; over 8,800 citations), delivered hundreds of invited lectures, designed and organized nearly 75 international research symposia, and spearheaded multiple, global research networks.

Since 2015, she has held leadership positions in academia, including Director of the Harvard Global Equity Initiative and Associate Professor at the Harvard Medical School. At the University of Miami, she is the Director of the [Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas](#) and the Office for Hemispheric and Global Affairs, 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 a Full Member of the [Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center](#). She is also the Secretary General of the [Hemispheric University Consortium](#).

In Mexico, Dr. Knaul maintains a strong and synergistic program of research and advocacy. She is a Senior Economist at the [Mexican Health Foundation](#) and mentors a research group in health economics. In 2023 she led the [third in a series of health policy papers](#) in The Lancet on Mexico's health system, a follow-on to the [2012 review of the reform](#) and [The Lancet 2006 Mexico series](#).

As a result of her breast cancer experience, Dr. Knaul founded and serves as President of [Cáncer de Mama: Tómatelo a Pecho](#), a Mexican non-profit agency originally focused on breast cancer and now with an expanded mandate on women's health and health system strengthening. Founded 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, and published [Tómatelo a Pecho](#) (Grupo Santillana, 2009) and [Beauty without the Breast](#) (Harvard University Press, 2013) about her cancer journey.

Her research is focused on access to pain relief and palliative care, cancer and especially breast cancer, violence against women and children, health systems and reform, health financing, women and health, poverty and inequity, female labor force participation, and at-risk children and youth. She led several books including [Closing the Cancer Divide](#) (Harvard U. Press).

She currently serves as Co-Chair of the [Lancet Commission on Cancer And Health Systems](#) and Co-Chair of the [Lancet Commission on Gender-based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People](#), and as Commissioner on [The Lancet Breast Cancer Commission](#) and on the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health 3.0. She founded and co-chaired (with Dr. Paul Farmer) the [Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Relief](#) and lead-authored the [report](#), described as "landmark" by The Lancet, with 61 global experts. Her work was featured in leading outlets including the [BBC](#) and the [Washington Post](#). She served on and is a leading co-author of the [Lancet Commission on Women and Health](#).

In recognition of her achievements, she is an elected member of the Mexican National Academy of Medicine, an inducted Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, an 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 voluntary boards, including [Esperanza United](#), the [International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care](#), and previously on the [Union for International Cancer Control](#).

Knaul is a citizen of Canada and the United Kingdom and a permanent resident of Mexico. She and her husband, Dr. Julio Frenk, have two children, Sofia Hannah and Mariana Havivah.