



BIOGRAPHY DR FELICIA KNAUL

UICC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2014



Director, Harvard Global Equity Initiative Member of UICC Board of Directors 2010-2012 Mexico, Mexico

Felicia Knaul served on the UICC Board of Directors from 2010-2012, and has been re-elected for a second term (2012-2014).

Dr Knaul received her PhD in Economics from Harvard University (1995) and her B.A. from the University of Toronto (1988). She has worked extensively in the fields of health economics, health financing reform and economic development in low and middle income countries, and specifically Latin America. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, her personal experience led her to focus her health systems

expertise on the issue of expanding cancer care and control in developing regions.

She is Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and Director of the [Harvard Global Equity Initiative](#) where she serves as Secretariat for the [Global Task Force on Expanded Access to Cancer Care and Control in Developing Countries](#), an initiative she helped to found in 2009. She is also Senior Economist at the [Mexican Health Foundation](#) where she has led a research group focused on health and the economy since 2000.

Dr Knaul is founder and President of [Cáncer de Mama: Tómatelo a Pecho](#) - a Mexican non-profit association that promotes research, advocacy, awareness, and early detection initiatives for breast cancer in Latin America. She has published several articles on the topic of breast cancer in low and middle-income countries in academic journals, lectures extensively from the point of view of a patient-advocate and a researcher in health systems, and has been featured in several magazines including *Science* and *Newsweek en Español*. Her book, [Tómatelo a Pecho](#), released in October of 2009, recounts her personal experience with breast cancer and as founder of this civil society organization, and will be published in English in October 2012 and distributed through Harvard University Press as [Beauty without the Breast](#).

Her research is focused on cancer in low and middle income countries, breast cancer, health system reform, health financing and poverty, women and health, and children in especially difficult circumstances. Dr Knaul has more than 130 academic and policy publications, including several articles in *The Lancet* and much of her work is available in both English and Spanish. She is lead author of the book [Closing the Cancer Divide: An Equity Imperative](#) published in September of 2012, and distributed by Harvard University Press. She has also led the production of several reports for the Mexican government and participated in the World Health Report 2000.

She holds a visiting academic appointment at the [National Institute of Public Health of Mexico](#), and is a board member of numerous organizations including: the International Advisory Board on Cancer for the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; the Electronic Living Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Cancer Survivorship Research at Princess Margaret Hospital; the Harvard-Mexico Foundation; the Jalisco Cancer Institute; and the Sheikh



Mohammed Hussein Al-Amoudi Center of Excellence in Breast Cancer, Saudi Arabia. She has held senior government posts at the Ministries of Education and Social Development of Mexico and at the Department of Planning of Colombia. She has also worked for WHO, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and UNICEF.

Dr Knaul is a Canadian and British citizen, and a permanent resident of Mexico, dividing her time between Boston and Cuernavaca. She and her husband, Dr Julio Frenk, have two children, Hannah and Mariana Havivah.