

Faculty Bio



Mark S. Gold, MD

ASAM's Annual Lifetime Achievement John P. McGovern Award & Prize winner

Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry

Washington University School of Medicine

St. Louis, MO

17th University of Florida Distinguished Alumni Professor

Gainesville, FL

Dr. Mark S. Gold is a teacher of the year, translational researcher, author, mentor and inventor best known for his work on the brain systems underlying the effects of opiate drugs, cocaine and food. He has worked as an Advisor to many White House Drug Czars, White House's, NIDA and NIMH Directors over his 40+ year career. He is an author and inventor who has published over 1000 peer reviewed scientific articles, texts, and practice guidelines. This pioneering work started with detoxification studies using clonidine and lofexidine as a non-opiate detox followed by oral Naltrexone at Yale in the late 70s and continued at the University of Florida. Gold has translated opioid studies using mouse, rat, non-human primate models before developing his opioid withdrawal hypothesis with his Yale colleagues. He then, led the first studies to demonstrate non-opioid treatment efficacy for alpha-2 agonists. He also led rapid detoxification and clonidine to naltrexone studies in the late 70s and early 80s. Gold, trying to find patients who would take oral Naltrexone, began his studies of Impaired Health Professionals and employees in health and safety occupations.

Gold has been awarded a number of national awards for his research including the Lifetime Achievement Award of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Professionals, Foundations Fund Prize (APA) , PRIDE Lifetime Achievement Award, DEA 30 Years of Service Pin, the McGovern Award for Lifetime Achievement (ASAM-ABAM 2015), National Leadership Award (NAATP) , DARE Lifetime Achievement Award, Public Relations Society's Silver Anvil Award, China Academy of Sciences and DARE awards for his career in research and prevention (2015). More recently, he received the PATH Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award (2016) as one of the "father's" of addiction medicine presented to him by President Obama's White House Drug Czar Michael Botticelli. He was awarded Distinguished Alumni Awards at Yale University, University of Florida, and Washington University in St Louis and the Wall of Fame at the U.F. College of Medicine.

Gold was a Professor, Eminent Scholar, Distinguished Professor, Distinguished Alumni Professor, Chairman, Emeritus Eminent Scholar during his 25 years at the University of Florida. His work is widely cited by his peers. It includes citation classics in cocaine neurobiology, opioid addiction neurobiology and treatment, food and process addictions. He proved cocaine was misclassified as safe or the champagne of drugs leading to revision in the DSM 3 and diagnosis of addiction. He has been called a groundbreaking researcher, father of medication assisted recovery, the first to translate rat experiments into theory and treatments for human addicts,

mentor of the next generation of addiction researchers and clinicians. Working closely with Bart Hoebel at Princeton University, Gold helped develop the food addiction theory he posited in the 80s. With Nicole Avena, he worked on sugar self-administration models for hedonic overeating and developed new treatments for overeating and obesity. Kelly Brownell and Gold's Oxford University Press's Food Addiction has been widely recognized as groundbreaking. While working on food and drug-like reinforcement systems has been an important part of his work for 30 years, he has also worked on dual disorders, Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa. Dr. Gold worked closely with Al Rhoton and Bill Luttge to establish the UF Brain Institute. He was an original member of the McKnight Brain Institute and Director working to develop programs in Psychiatry, Addiction, Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Since his retirement as a Director of the McKnight Brain Institute, Chairman, Distinguished Professor, and a full-time academic in 2014, Gold has continued his teaching, mentoring, research, and writing. He finished his 5-year State Department grant on opium smokers and the effects of second and third hand opium on children in Afghanistan. He has worked on de novo clinical addiction programs at the Medical College of Georgia, Northwestern, U.F. and Tulane Lakeview Health. Dr. Gold regularly lectures at National & International Meetings, Medical Societies, Grand Rounds around the USA and at international and national scientific meetings on his career, bench-to-bedside science in eating disorders, obesity, and addictions. Recently, he has given a Keynote speech at the National Opioid Summit, Florida Opioid Summit, and for the DEA-DOJ. He speaks regularly at Medical Schools across the USA recently at Yale University, Mayo Clinic, Tulane, Washington University in St Louis, Stanford, U Conn, UCSF, Emory, Harvard-McLean-Borden Cottage and UNC. He has given recent Keynote Addresses at American College of Psychiatrists, CADCA, ASAM, NAATP, APA, and Biological Psychiatry as well as a many States, Medical and Psychiatric Associations dealing with the opioid epidemic.

He is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University and an active member of the Clinical Council at the Washington University School of Medicine's Public Health Institute. He has Wash U mentees and works with them regularly. He is the Director of Research for the DEA Educational Association, working closely with DEA and moderating their quarterly educational events broadcast from DEA Headquarters around the world.