

Herbert D. Kleber, M.D.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Herbert Kleber is Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division on Substance Abuse at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Until 2001, he was also Executive Vice-President and Medical Director of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), a policy center he and Joseph Califano founded in 1992.

Before coming to Columbia University in 1991, Dr. Kleber served for 2 ½ years as the Deputy Director for Demand Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the White House under President George H.W. Bush and Director William Bennett. His office oversaw reducing the demand for illegal drugs, including prevention, education, treatment, and research. Prior to assuming the government position, Dr. Kleber was Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine (1966-89) where he founded and directed both the Substance Abuse Treatment Unit at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, and the APT Foundation.

Since his arrival at Columbia and founding the Division on Substance Abuse with his late wife, Dr. Marian Fischman in 1991, the Division has become one of the leading substance abuse centers in the country, so named yearly in the U.S. News and World Report's issue on medical schools and specialty units. Dr. Kleber heads a number of projects where research is carried out on new medications to treat individuals with cocaine, heroin, prescription opioids, or marijuana problems.

Dr. Kleber has been a pioneer in the treatment and research of narcotics and cocaine abuse for over 35 years. He and his colleagues have helped develop and improve both medications currently used to treat substance abuse and the psychosocial approaches that accompany them. He received his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College, his medical training at Thomas Jefferson Medical School, and his psychiatric residency at Yale University School of Medicine. Following his residency, he spent two years at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, the primary locus for narcotics addiction treatment and research for many decades. He then returned to Yale where he began the Drug Dependence Unit in 1968.

Dr. Kleber is the author or co-author of more than 200 papers, chapters, and books dealing with all aspects of substance abuse, the co-Editor of the American Psychiatric Press Textbook of Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Chair of the APA Substance Abuse Practice Guidelines Committee. He has received numerous awards, two honorary degrees, is listed as one of the "Best Doctors in America" and "Best Doctors in New York," is on the editorial board of five scientific journals, and was elected in 1996 to be a member of The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. He serves on the Boards of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) and the Partnership for a Drug Free America, and was recently selected to serve on the National Advisory Council to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He has served for many years as the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board to DARE America.

He is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, the American College of Psychiatrists, the New York Academy of Medicine, CPDD, and the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. He has served on 3 Institute of Medicine Committees, numerous governmental panels, and chairs or serves on 12 national boards in the areas of prevention, epidemiology, treatment, and policy.