



Mark S. Gold, M.D.
Distinguished Professor

Mark S. Gold, M.D. is a Distinguished Professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine's Brain Institute, Departments of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, Anesthesiology, Community Health & Family Medicine, Vice Chair for Education and Chief, Division of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Gold is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (2003), University of Florida College of Medicine 2003 Exemplary Teacher, Underrepresented Minority Mentor (2004), UpToDate's Addiction Medicine Section Editor, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (2005; Founder's Award), 24th Annual Nelson J Bradley Career Life Time Achievement Award (2006), Teacher of the Year, researcher, and inventor who has worked for 35 years to develop models for understanding the effects of tobacco and other drugs on the brain and behavior. Dr. Gold has developed animal models which have led to new treatments for addicts and also conceptualized hypotheses which were more-than novel but also yielded new approaches to treat patients. Under his leadership, the Division of Addiction Medicine at the University of Florida has grown from Dr Gold in 1990 to one of the largest addiction medicine research, education and practice Divisions in the USA. At the present time, the Division has major funded projects in proteomics, self-administration, functional imaging, public health, stem cells, impaired professionals, and nanotechnology.

Dr. Gold's work on the brain systems underlying the effects of opiate drugs led to a dramatic change in the way opiate action was understood. Gold was the senior author on the discovery paper and was awarded a patent for the discovery of clonidine (Catapres) which remains widely used for opiate withdrawal and pain management. During the mid-1980s Gold and colleagues developed a new theory for cocaine action in the brain. Gold's work on cocaine led to a complete change in thinking about cocaine's addiction liability, acute and chronic actions. In addition to theory, Dr. Gold's research has led to changes in the treatment of opiate and also cocaine addiction. Most recently he has made many contributions to the understanding of the second hand effects of tobacco and for that matter all drugs that are smoked and the consequences of expired medications in closed spaces such as an operating room Dr Gold, a Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Pharmacology and also Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

In 2005, Gold and co-workers were first to demonstrate that intravenously administered anesthetics and analgesics were exhaled and these controlled and dangerous substances are active in the air of operating rooms and other sites where given to patients. Second-hand drug exposure, like second hand tobacco smoke, is being studied in self-administration, fMRI, and proteomic studies in his research group. In this case, the research is going from man and the operating room to animal models as Gold tries to explain the role of the workplace environment in physician drug abuse and addictions. Dr. Gold and his nanotechnology colleagues at the Brain Institute have been awarded recent patents for the invention of breath tests for marijuana and other drugs of abuse which someday may become as commonplace as breathalyzer for alcohol intoxication. Dr. Gold has also been a co-inventor for the invention of breath tests for adherence, compliance and therapeutic drug monitoring for medications used to treat epilepsy and other medical conditions.

Gold is distinguished alumni award recipient from both his undergraduate and medical school. He was Phi Beta Kappa and an Honors graduate of Washington University and an Honors graduate of the University of Florida College of Medicine where he was an AOA, Wall of Fame and Faculty Research Award winner. Dr. Gold is a current U.F. College of Medicine Alumni Board member, Washington University (St. Louis, Mo.) Undergraduate Board member, DEA Museum (Washington D.C.) , Florida Medical Foundation Board Member , Florida Center for the Performing Arts Board member, and active in numerous national organizations including the Betty Ford Institute.

Since beginning his career in research at the University of Florida in 1970, he has been the author of over 900 medical articles, chapters, and abstracts in journals for health professionals on a wide variety of psychiatric research subjects and authoring twelve professional books including practice guidelines, ASAM core competencies, and medical text books for specialists and primary care professionals. He is the author of 15 general audience books. According to a review in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA 272:18, 1996), "Mark S. Gold, M.D. the most prolific and brilliant of the addiction experts writing today..... Dr. Gold has spent his career trying to bridge the gap in medical education and practice with the belief that addictions are diseases and that all physicians have a critical role in prevention and, if that fails, in early identification and prompt treatment".