

A TRUE TALE

Throughout her years at medical school, JoAnn Manson, MD, DrPH, expected to become an academic endocrinologist. During her endocrinology fellowship, however, she grew increasingly distressed by the advanced state of disease she saw in her diabetic patients, including the high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors and late stage complications. Dr. Manson became convinced that many of the lifestyle risk factors for diabetes and its cardiovascular complications were preventable.

As a result of that clinical fellowship, and deeply motivated by her mother's death from ovarian cancer, Dr. Manson became passionately interested in women's health and disease prevention. She felt that by pursuing medicine from a public health vantage point, she could make a difference in the lives of many people. She returned to school to develop her background and training in prevention and etiologic research, earning a doctorate in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health.



JoAnn E. Manson, MD, DrPH

Dr. Manson entered the field of public health by way of a National Research Service Award Training Grant, and then an Andrew Mellon Fellowship, which enabled her to conduct epidemiology research at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, a nonprofit teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. There she developed a research agenda, meeting her public health goals through research grants. At this point, her career in preventive medicine shifted into high gear. She remained at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she is currently the Chief of the Division of Preventive Medicine, the first woman to be named to that position. She is also a full professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a board-certified

"Epidemiologic research is extremely gratifying because it provides an opportunity for scientific and intellectual stimulation combined with public service."



Research Epidemiologist Checkpoint

Are you willing to spend a great deal of time, perhaps years, working toward a single goal?

Does doing data analysis and interpreting study results appeal to you?

Do you enjoy writing papers and are you willing to write grants?

If so, read on