



Harold P. Freeman, M.D.
Founder

Harold P. Freeman, M.D., founder of the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute and founder and president of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention, is the known authority and pioneer of patient navigation. He launched the Patient Navigation concept in 1990 in Harlem after recognizing there is a small but critical window of opportunity to save the lives of patients. It's the window between the point of an initial positive finding of potential cancer and the resolution of that finding through further diagnosis and treatment. Patient navigators guide patients through the complexities of the health care system, removing barriers to early diagnosis and treatment. Based on this early experience, Dr. Freeman developed the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Model, the gold standard of Patient Navigation.

Dr. Freeman also serves as Senior Advisor to the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Freeman has been Medical Director of the Breast Examination Center of Harlem, a program of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, since 1979. Dr. Freeman served as the Director of Surgery at Harlem Hospital for twenty-five years, from 1974-1999. He also serves as a Professor of Clinical Surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Freeman has held national leadership positions and served on numerous committees as a surgical and oncology expert. He served as National President of the American Cancer Society from 1988-1989. Dr. Freeman is the chief architect of the American Cancer Society's (ACS) initiative on cancer and the poor. The American Cancer Society established the "Harold P. Freeman Award" in 1990 in recognition of Dr. Freeman's role as a leading authority on the interrelationships between race, poverty and cancer. This award is given annually in ACS divisions throughout the United States to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the fight against cancer in the poor.

He also served as the Chairman of the United States President's Cancer Panel for four three-year terms, first by President Bush in 1991 and subsequently by President Clinton in 1994, 1997 and 2000. On June 29, 2005, the \$25 million national "Patient Navigator, Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act" was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush based primarily on Dr. Freeman's model. Dr. Freeman is a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

As a graduate of Catholic University of America, Dr. Freeman received the Harris Award for "Outstanding Scholar, Gentleman, and Athlete." He later was recognized as "Outstanding Alumnus in the Medical Arts" at Catholic University and was inducted into the Athlete's Hall of Fame of the University. Additionally, he received the Daniel Hale Williams Award for Outstanding Achievements as Chief Resident at Howard University Hospital.

Select awards include: The Mary Lasker Award for Public Service; the Time, Inc. International Health and Medical Media Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award; the American Cancer Society's Medal of Honor; The Centers for Disease Control Foundation's Champion of Prevention Award; The American Society of Clinical Oncology's Special Recognition Award; the Avon Breast Cancer National Leadership Award; the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer National Foundation's Betty Ford Award; the Rudin Prize in Medicine and Health; the 2006 Black History Makers Award of The Associated Black Charities; the Dorothy Height Life Time Achievement Award; the American Association for Cancer Research "The Public Service Award.

Dr. Freeman graduated from the Catholic University of America and received his medical degree from Howard University.