

Richard J. Deckelbaum

Richard J. Deckelbaum, MD, CM, FRCP(C), received his education at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He now directs the Institute of Human Nutrition at Columbia University where he holds professorships in nutrition, pediatrics, and epidemiology. In addition to his ongoing basic research in cell biology of lipids and issues of human nutrition, he has been active in translating basic science findings to practical application in different populations. He has chaired task forces for the American Heart Association, the European Atherosclerosis Society, the Institute of Medicine, the March of Dimes, and has served on advisory committees of the National Institutes of Health, RAND Corporation, and of the U.S.A. National Academy of Sciences. Early in his career he was a physician in Zambia, and afterwards helped establish the first children's hospital in the West Bank of the Jordan and then continued to organize research and health programs among Egyptian, Palestinian, and Israeli populations. With colleagues at two universities he helped initiate and now directs, the Columbia side of the Medical School for International Health (MSIH), a 'novel' medical school at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center. MSIH aims to help build the international health work force through inoculating global health skills into medical education. He is advising on programs on building health capacity in the Mideast and Africa through novel educational and training initiatives. Dr. Deckelbaum is president of the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC). He has recently been appointed as a Senior Fellow of the Synergos Institute, and as a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Currently, he continues in projects related to health and science as a bridge between different populations in the Mideast, Africa, and Asia.