

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marian Johnson-Thompson

PERSON

Johnson-Thompson, Marian, 1946-

Alternative Names: Marian Johnson-Thompson;

Life Dates: December 9, 1946-

Place of Birth: Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Residence: Durham, NC

Occupations: Molecular Virologist

Biographical Note

Molecular virologist, research director, and professor Marian Cecelia Johnson-Thompson was born in Boston, Massachusetts on December 9, 1946. She grew up in Rivera Beach, Florida. After graduating from high school in 1956, Johnson-Thompson enrolled at Howard University and graduated from there with her B.S. degree in microbiology in 1969 and her M.S. degree in microbiology in 1971. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in molecular virology from Georgetown University Medical School in 1978.

Upon graduation, Johnson-Thompson was hired by the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) where she became a Professor of Biology in 1995. She also served as an adjunct professor of Pharmacology at Georgetown University, and as an adjunct professor in the Department of Botany at Howard University. In addition, Johnson-Thompson held appointments as a visiting scientist at the Lawrence Livermore Radiation Laboratory, and as a molecular virologist at the National Cancer Institute. In 1992, Johnson-Thompson was appointed as the Director of Education and Biomedical Research Development for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). While there, she developed K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education programs as well as minority training programs. Her major initiatives include the Bridging Education, Science and Technology (BEST) Program, Advanced Research Cooperation in Environmental Health (ARCH) program. Her publications include over forty-five articles, book chapters and abstracts that focus on training, mentoring, and developing public policy to advance underrepresented groups in STEM fields. In 2004, Johnson-Thompson was named Professor Emerita of Biology and Environmental Sciences at UDC and she began serving as an adjunct professor in the School of Public Health at the University of NC-Chapel Hill.

Johnson-Thompson served as chair of the NIEHS Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects. At the national level, she served as a member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee and the Trans-NIH Human Microbiome Working Group. Johnson-Thomson is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the International Congress of Black Women. In 1978, she was a founding member of the National Network of Minority Women in Science.

Her awards and honors include the Alice C. Evans Award from the American Society for Microbiology in 2004 for her contributions to the advancement and full participation of women in microbiology. Johnson-Thompson was elected as a Fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology in 1998 and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2001.

Marian Johnson-Thompson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 7, 2013.

Related Entries

Georgetown University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

University of Maryland [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

None

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Howard University Department of Botany [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199001 to 199006]

Adjunct Professor

Space Sciences Div, General Electric [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197506 to 197508]

Consultant

Lab of Bio Chemistry, National Cancer Institute, NIH [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198806 to 198908]

IPA- Intergov Personnel Agreement

National Institute of Health (NIH) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199208 to 200809]

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University of the District of Columbia [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197109 to 199512]

Professor (at retirement)

Lab of Bio Chemistry, National Cancer Institute, NIH [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 198909 to 199208]

Visiting Scientist

Pharmacology Dept., Georgetown University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199109 to 199208]

Research Adjunct Professor

[MEMBEROf]
[from 2004 to ?]

Trustee

[MEMBEROf]
[from 2009 to 2013]

Member, Board of Directors

[MEMBEROf]
[from 2009 to 2012]

Member, External Advisory Committee

African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer [MEMBEROf]
[from 2009 to ?]

Howard University [MEMBEROf]
[from 201209 to ?]

Trustee