Paula A. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.

Paula A. Johnson, President of Wellesley College, is an innovator recognized the world over for advancing, promoting, and defending women’s education, health, and well-being. This critically important work is deeply informed by her broad range of experience as a pathbreaking physician-scientist and educator who is an expert in health care, public health, and health policy. With a remarkable track record of accomplishments—including founding the Connors Center for Women’s Health and Gender Biology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital—she has led in the field of women’s health, taking an approach to biology that integrates insights from sociology, economics, and many other fields.

A cardiologist, President Johnson was the Grayce A. Young Family Professor of Medicine in Women’s Health at Harvard Medical School and professor of epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Her research—and the research, health care models, and training programs of the Connors Center—has had an impact on women across the country through its influence on health care and health policy reforms. Her work has also influenced and educated emerging leaders beyond the borders of the United States who are seeking to improve the health of women globally. Recently, President Johnson co-chaired the landmark report of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, entitled *Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering and Medicine*.

President Johnson is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, the nation’s leading advisory organization providing expertise on issues relating to biomedical science, medicine, and health. She has been recognized as a national leader in medicine by the National Library of Medicine and has received several honorary degrees and numerous awards for her contributions to science, medicine, and public health. Most recently, she received the Stephen Smith Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Public Health by the New York Academy of Medicine.

In her three years as president of Wellesley, she has advanced women’s higher education, championing cross-campus efforts to integrate the ideals of inclusive excellence into every aspect of academic and residential life. Under her leadership, the College is also developing new opportunities across all fields by drawing on the synergies found at the intersection of science, the humanities, and social sciences.

President Johnson attended Harvard and Radcliffe colleges, received her A.B., M.D., and M.P.H. degrees from Harvard, and trained in internal medicine and cardiovascular medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. A native of Brooklyn, New York, she and her husband are the parents of a son and a daughter.