

Dr. John A. Rock

Dr. John A. Rock, an experienced medical educator and one of the nation's most respected physicians, was selected in 2006 as the founding dean of the new College of Medicine at Florida International University. He received his M.D. from Louisiana State University Medical Center in 1972 and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Duke University Medical Center in 1976. He went on to complete a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at The Johns Hopkins University Medical Center in 1978. Twenty-five years later, he became a student once again, earning a master's degree in public health from Harvard University's School of Public Health. Dr. Rock, who speaks Spanish fluently, is licensed to practice medicine in Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland and North Carolina.

A board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with a subspecialty in reproductive endocrinology, Dr. Rock has built a distinguished career leading up to this historic appointment. He came to FIU from the Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center in New Orleans where he served as chancellor and chief executive officer for three years.

By turns a clinician, surgeon, researcher, educator, author, fund-raiser and administrator, Dr. Rock considers his team-building skills to be among his greatest strengths. He spent the early part of his career at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Throughout his 13-year tenure as director of their Division of Reproductive Endocrinology, he had concurrent appointments as head of reproductive surgery (from 1978 to 1984) and deputy director of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics (from 1985 to 1988). In 1991, Dr. Rock became chairman and director of the Residency Training Program in Union Memorial Hospital's Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins University. Among his many publications are 186 juried articles and 83 books.

In 1992, Dr. Rock joined Emory University School of Medicine. For the next decade, he served as chairman and director of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. In his most recent position at LSU, Dr. Rock served as dean of the Medical School, chancellor of the Health Sciences Center and had management oversight of Louisiana's statewide Charity Hospital System.

Among Dr. Rock's leadership highlights at LSU Health Sciences Center are the establishment of the School of Public Health on the New Orleans campus; an 84.3 percent increase in total research funding; a rise in NIH rankings from 90 in 2002 to 76 in 2004; development and implementation of a strategic planning process that included the creation of a five-year plan; implementation of the organization's first comprehensive diversity initiative. His accomplishments at Union Memorial Hospital and Emory University School of Medicine are equally impressive.

Dr. Rock is a member of the American College of Surgeons' Health Policy Steering Committee. A prolific author, he was awarded the American Medical Writer's Association's 1996 Medical Book Award for his text, "Reproductive Endocrinology, Surgery, and Technology". The recipient of many honors, he has been included for the last several years in the annual listing of America's Best Doctors, an independent ranking system that reflects the opinions of 50,000 physicians worldwide.

Dr. Rock has accepted the challenge of leading the creation of the FIU College of Medicine. He is one of the nation's most respected reproductive endocrinologists and an accomplished administrator who brings to the position more than 25 years of experience. With this appointment, he becomes only the fourth individual since 1980 to guide the growth and development of a new U.S. allopathic medical school.