

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey

PERSON

Lavizzo-Mourey, Risa

Alternative Names: Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey;

Life Dates: September 25, 1954-

Place of Birth: Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Residence: Philadelphia, PA

Work: Philadelphia, PA

Occupations: Nonprofit Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Non-profit executive Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey was born on September 25, 1954 in Seattle, Washington to Dr. Blanche Sellers-Lavizzo and Dr. Philip Lavizzo. She attended the University of Washington before transferring to the State University of New York-Stony Brook for two years. Lavizzo-Mourey then continued her education at Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1979. In 1984, she was selected as a Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar, and earned her M.B.A. degree in health policy from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1986.

Lavizzo-Mourey joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as an assistant professor. During her tenure, she served as the director of the Institute on Aging from 1984 to 1992. She took a leave of absence from the university to work as deputy administrator for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research under President George H.W. Bush's administration.

Lavizzo-Mourey then served as quality of care chair for President Bill Clinton's panels on health care until 1994, when she returned to the University of Pennsylvania as a professor. Lavizzo-Mourey served as the associate executive vice president for health policy for the health system from 1994 to 2001, and the Sylvan Eisman professor of medicine and health care systems at the university from 1997 to 2002. In 2001, Lavizzo-Mourey was hired as a senior vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and was appointed to serve as the president and CEO of the foundation in 2003. While at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Lavizzo-Mourey continued to see patients at a clinic in New Jersey, and launched an influential campaign against childhood obesity in 2007. The initiative decreased the obesity rate among children aged two to five years and halted its rise among those aged two to nineteen years.

Lavizzo-Mourey was the recipient of numerous awards, including twenty honorary doctorates from institutions like Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania, Tufts University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. She appeared on Forbes' list of the most important women in the world eight times, and as one of Modern Healthcare's one hundred most influential people in health care eleven times.

Lavizzo-Mourey and her husband, Robert Lavizzo-

Mourey, have two adult children.

Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 14, 2016.

Related Entries

Our Lady of Mount Virgin [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

John Muir Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Asa Mercer Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

The Bush School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

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

Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

MBA

Harvard [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1982]

Clinical Instructor

Various [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 2001]

Instructor / Professor

University of Pennsylvania [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 1995]

**Associate Executive Vice President for Health
Policy**

University of Pennsylvania [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 2004]

Various

The Robert Wood Johnson Medical School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2004 to 2010]

Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2010 to ?]

President and Chief Executive Officer, Trustee

**American College of Physicians - American Society of
Internal Medicine** [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Master; Chair

American Geriatrics Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Fellow; Chair of the Advisory

National Medical Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Association of Academic Minority Physicians
[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Fellow

Gerontologic Society of America [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Heart Lung & Blood Institute [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

American Academy of Arts and Sciences [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member (2014)