



Name: **Mary Milne Gilbert Lawrence**

Degrees: MD—Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA, 1983
MPH—Yale School of Medicine (Epidemiology and Public Health), New Haven, CT, 1998

Highest Academic Rank: Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Minnesota (2008)

Current Position: Deputy Executive Director,
Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs
Vision Center of Excellence

Born in Austin, Texas, Dr. Lawrence spent her high school years in Madison, Wisconsin, where her parents were both professors at the medical school of the University of Wisconsin. She received her BA in chemistry from Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and her M.D. in 1983 from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Following an internship in pediatrics at the University of Colorado, she completed an ophthalmology residency at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia.

After her residency, Dr. Lawrence completed a year of glaucoma training with Dr. Thomas Richardson at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. She spent two years in private practice in the Boston area before joining the full-time faculty at Harvard Medical School in 1990 as Director of the Cataract Consultation/General Eye Service at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. While at Harvard she received the Residents' Teacher of the Year Award and the Dean's Commendation for her teaching efforts.

In 1994, she was awarded a Clinical Epidemiology Fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar under the supervision of Drs. Alvan Feinstein and Ralph Horwitz. She also received her M.P.H. from the Yale School of Medicine (1998). Following the fellowship, Dr. Lawrence became the Assistant Chief of Service in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital in New York City, an affiliate of the Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Lawrence joined the faculty of the Ophthalmology Department of the Medical School of the University of Minnesota in 1997, where her major clinical duties were at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). She served as Associate Chief of Ophthalmology at the Minneapolis VAMC and started the TeleRetinal Imaging Program for patients with diabetes in a large, mostly rural, area that spans into 6 states, the Upper Midwest Veterans Integrated Service Network. In 2006 she won the Surgical Teacher of the Year Award for the Department of Ophthalmology, and in the summer of 2008 she achieved the rank of full Professor. She also served as a member of the Glaucoma Service and as the Director of the Vision Rehabilitation Service at the University of Minnesota.

In 2010, Dr. Lawrence was appointed as the Deputy Executive Director of the Department of Defense (DoD)/Veterans Affairs (VA) Vision of Excellence Center in Washington, DC, a Congressionally mandated center addressing the full scope of eye care including prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, rehabilitation, and research for military eye injuries and diseases including vision dysfunction related to traumatic brain injury. She serves as an adviser to the National Director of Ophthalmology, the Chief Officer of Patient Care Services, and the Under Secretary for Health for the VA on eye care policies and procedures.

Dr. Lawrence has served as President of the Association of Veteran Affairs Ophthalmologists and currently chairs the Veterans Affairs National Ophthalmic Surgical Outcomes Database (OSOD) project. She has authored or co-authored over 60 papers, educational videos, abstracts and chapters. She has served on editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals and held leadership positions on State and National committees for several ophthalmology societies.