

## **Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D.**

Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D., is President of the Children's Research Triangle and a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He is one of the nation's leading researchers in the field of maternal drug use during pregnancy and the effects on the newborn infant and child. His research projects include a study of the long-term cognitive, behavioral and educational developmental effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, cocaine, and other drugs; the effects on birth outcome of prenatal treatment and counseling for pregnant drug abusers; and the effectiveness of both outpatient and residential treatment programs for pregnant drug abusers. Dr. Chasnoff and the team at CRT opened and operated a laboratory preschool classroom to develop specific interventions for children prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs and developed a model Head Start Family Service Center for children and their families at risk from drugs and the drug seeking environment. In addition, Dr. Chasnoff and the CRT research team were one of five national sites conducting research into the integration of behavioral health interventions into primary health care services for high-risk children and their families, and through this project they studied the impact of concurrent planning on permanency placement for children in the foster care system. In 2002, Children's Research Triangle under Dr. Chasnoff's leadership was selected by the Centers for Disease Control as one of five national centers for research into innovative treatment for children with Fetal Alcohol syndrome. Dr. Chasnoff's current work focuses on community approaches to the integration of behavioral health services into primary health care for women and children.

Dr. Chasnoff received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and served a pediatric residency at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Society for Pediatric Research and the Society for Research in Child Development. He is the author of five books and numerous articles on the effects of drug use on pregnancy and on the long-term cognitive, behavioral, and learning outcomes of prenatally exposed children. Dr. Chasnoff's first book, *Drug Use in Pregnancy: Mother and Child*, was published in 1986 by MTP Press. His second book, *Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy, and Parenting* received the Book of the Year Award from the *American Journal of Nursing*. His fourth book, *Understanding the Drug-Exposed Child: Approaches to Behavior and Learning*, has been cited as an important addition to the literature on helping children at risk of educational failure. Dr. Chasnoff's most recent book, *The Nature of Nurture: Biology, Environment, and the Drug-Exposed Child*, explores the biological and environmental factors that impact the ultimate development of alcohol- and drug-exposed children and presents practical strategies for helping children reach their full potential at home and in the classroom.

The recipient of several awards for his work with high risk women, children, and families, Dr. Chasnoff for several years has been selected by a poll of physicians across the nation for listing in *America's Best Doctors*, cited for his ability to translate complex medical and psychosocial issues into relevant policy that guides the delivery of quality services. Dr. Chasnoff has been active in establishing comprehensive family intervention programs for children in Australia, Denmark, Portugal, and the former Soviet Union and across the United States and has lectured on this topic around the world.