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Dr. Weissman is a Professor of Epidemiology in Psychiatry Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and Chief of the Division of Epidemiology at New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI). She is a member of the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology at Columbia. Until 1987, she was a Professor of Psychiatry and Epidemiology at Yale University School of Medicine and Director of the Depression Research Unit. She has been a Visiting Senior Scholar at the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. She received a Ph.D. in epidemiology from Yale University School of Medicine in 1974.

Her research is on understanding the rates and risks of mood and anxiety disorders using methods of epidemiology, genetics, neuroimaging, and the application of these findings to develop and test empirically based treatments and preventive intervention. Her current Interest is in bringing psychiatric epidemiology closer to translational studies in the neurosciences and genetics on using electronic health records for research. She directs a 3-generation study of families at high and low risk for depression who have been studied clinically for over 25 years and who are participating in genetic and imaging studies. She directs a multi-center study to determine the impact of maternal remission from depression on offspring. She is one of the PIs in a multi-centered study to find biomarkers of response to the treatment of depression. She was one of the developers of Interpersonal Psychotherapy, an evidenced-based treatment for depression.

Dr. Weissman has been a consultant to many private and public agencies, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science. She has been the author or a co-author of over 600 scientific articles and chapters, and 11 books. She has been the recipient of numerous grants from NIMH, NARSAD Senior Investigators Awards; grants from other private foundations and numerous awards for his research.

In April 2009, she was selected by the American College of Epidemiology as 1 of 10 epidemiologists in the United States who has had a major impact on public policy and public health. The summary of her work on depression appears in a special issue of the Annals of Epidemiology, Triumphs in Epidemiology.

In 2016 she was listed among the 100 most cited researchers including both living and deceased, according to Google Scholar Citations.