



## **2015 Changing the Equation Award Recipient**

### **Deborah Frank, MD**

*Professor of Child Health and Wellbeing, Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), Founder and Principal Investigator of Children's HealthWatch, Director of the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center, and Developmental Pediatric Specialist*

Dr. Deborah Frank is a nationally recognized expert on food insecurity in children's health. In her leadership role at Children's HealthWatch, Dr. Frank and a nonpartisan network of pediatricians, public health researchers, and children's health and policy experts shine a spotlight on the economic and social challenges very young children (aged birth to five) face during the most important years of their cognitive and physical development. Through data, research, and publications this impressive team has, for almost two decades, led the national "food is medicine" conversation, working tirelessly to advocate for federal nutrition and income benefits.

Additionally, Dr. Frank is the inaugural incumbent of the endowed Professorship on Child Health and Well-being at BUSM. As a board certified Developmental Behavioral pediatrician, she has extensive clinical experience working with young children with Failure to Thrive (FTT). She has published widely in peer reviewed journals on the effects of material hardships on young children's health and development, and has been invited as an expert witness to testify before national and local legislatures on food insecurity's impacts on young children. Dr. Frank has also been credited as "the woman who saved SNAP (formerly known as food stamps)" following the 2008 Farm Bill negotiations where she led Children's HealthWatch in bringing a health perspective to legislative debates by showing that food stamps improve health. In February 2003, she was cited as one of Boston's best pediatric doctors in *Boston Magazine's* annual 'Best of' list, and in 2014, she was appointed by Nancy Pelosi to the National Commission on Hunger. Dr. Frank has received the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps' Embracing the Legacy Award, The American Medical Association Dr. Debasish Mridha Spirit of Medicine Award for Selfless Elimination of Human Suffering, and The Congressional Hunger Center Leadership Award, which recognizes those who use their talents in the fight against hunger.

Dr. Frank graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor's degree from Radcliff College and received a Doctorate in Medicine from Harvard Medical School. She currently lives in Brookline with her husband, Rabbi Neil Kominsky.