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Dr. Harlan received his M.D. magna cum laude from the Medical College of Virginia and trained in internal medicine at Duke University and subsequently had training in cardiology and biochemistry at that institution. During a career in academic medicine, he has been a professor of medicine at Duke University, University of Alabama, Birmingham, and The University of Michigan. At these last two schools, he was also associate dean of the schools of medicine. In 1987, Dr. Harlan became Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, N.I.H. In this position, he was responsible for the portfolio development and oversight of observational and interventional clinical research studies supported by the Institute. In 1991, Dr. Harlan was named Associate Director for Disease Prevention for N.I.H. and charged with the development of the Women's Health Initiative, a large multidimensional set of clinical trials and observational studies. He was also responsible for development of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the Office of Dietary Supplements at the N.I.H. and served as interim Director of each. Dr. Harlan retired from the government in 2001 and has served as a consultant and Senior Advisor to the Division of Services and Intervention Research at the National Institute of Mental Health and to the Office of Dietary Supplements. He is currently working as a senior consultant with the National Library of Medicine on clinical trials registration and a database of results that are part of ClinicalTrials.gov.