

Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller, Ph.D.*Professor, Epidemiology & Population Health**Dorothy and William Manealoff Foundation & Molly Rosen Chair in Social Medicine**Head, Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology & Population Health*

Dr. Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller has done seminal research on population-based studies of women's health, hypertension, stroke and cardiovascular disease, as well as on Hispanic health and health disparities.

She has been a leader in studies that have changed medical practice and have informed guidelines of care for cardiovascular disease prevention, hypertension treatment and women's health, most notably the Women's Health Initiative, for which she is principal investigator. The initiative has transformed the use of hormone therapy by showing that it increases the risk of cardiovascular events, and stroke in particular. Dr. Wassertheil-Smoller has made important contributions to research on stroke and stroke biomarkers, on depression as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease and mortality, on the use of antidepressants and on disparities in cardiovascular care. A founding member of the Task Force on Women's Health of the American Heart Association, she serves on national and international committees devoted to reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease in women.

Dr. Wassertheil-Smoller has published more than 160 scientific papers and invited book chapters, as well as a textbook, *Biostatistics and Epidemiology: A Primer for Biomedical and Health Professionals*, now in its third edition (Springer-Verlag). She has also written a historical novel about World War II, *Rachel and Aleks*. Committed to the career development of women and minorities, she has served as a mentor for a generation of students, fellows and junior faculty, and her work, and her colleagues' extension of it, has opened new avenues of research that continue to yield important answers to pressing public health questions.