

William E. Kraus, M.D., FACSM, is the Richard and Pat Johnson Distinguished University Professor of Cardiovascular Genomics and Professor with Tenure in the Division of Cardiology at Duke University School of Medicine; Director of Translational Research at the Duke Molecular Physiology Institute; and Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Kraus is an outstanding clinician-scientist, mentor, and leader in the fields of molecular biology, genetics, integrative human exercise physiology, and metabolism. He has contributed over 20 years of service and scientific advancement to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) – including serving as ACSM President during 2019-2020.

Dr. Kraus earned a Bachelor of Arts in Astronomy and Astrophysics from Harvard College and Doctor of Medicine from the Duke University School of Medicine, where he has since developed an illustrious career. For over 30 years, he has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, industry sponsors, and more. He has over 500 peer-reviewed publications and his scientific work has been cited over 60,000 times; he currently has an h-index of 122 and an i10-index of 453.

Dr. Kraus has established himself as one of the leading authorities on the dose-response effects of exercise on cardiometabolic health. His scientific contributions have also impacted our understanding of the role and underlying mechanisms of exercise training for the treatment of chronic diseases – including coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure, and cancer. Findings from his work have significantly influenced both clinical care and public health policy. Throughout his career, Dr. Kraus has consistently displayed his genuine concern for not only his team members and collaborators, but also the success of every one of his research participants; he and his team have touched the lives of over 1,000 people through his exercise interventions.

In line with his scientific work, Dr. Kraus is a prolific contributor of professional service to public and non-profit entities, and continues to be a leading force establishing physical activity as a key focus in both healthcare and public health sectors. He served on the US Physical Activity Guidelines Scientific Advisory Committee in 2008 and 2018, and has been a leader in the development of the National Physical Activity Plan. Since 2006, he has provided dedicated service to the ACSM through several leadership roles including: Medical Science and Policy Committee, Board of Trustees, Exercise is Medicine Committee, Vice President, President-Elect, and President.

Dr. Kraus' commitment to education and mentorship is unrivaled. He has served as a mentor to over 50 residents, fellows, and post-doctoral fellows. Many of his mentees have become exceptional scientists and educators making independent contributions to the fields of exercise physiology, molecular biology, and metabolism. Those fortunate enough to be his mentee know he truly believes his success is built upon the success of his mentees – in some ways more than even his own successes.

ACSM is proud to recognize Dr. Kraus' contributions to research, clinical care, public health, education, and service with the 2024 Citation Award.