



Victor Dzau, MD, was appointed President and CEO of Duke University's Health System and Chancellor for Health Affairs at Duke University effective from July 1, 2004. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Genzyme Corporation. He has also been elected chairman of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and the National Institutes of Health. He is also the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and Director of Molecular and Genomic Vascular Biology at Duke. Before coming to Duke, Dzau was the Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic (Medicine) at Harvard Medical School, chairman of the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and physician in chief and director of research at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston. Prior to this post, he served as Arthur Bloomfield Professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine at Stanford University. Dzau's academic interests are in cardiovascular translational research and mission-based education.

His laboratory studies the molecular and genetic mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and applied genomic and gene transfer technologies to develop novel therapeutic approaches. His work on the renin angiotensin system (RAS) paved the way for the contemporary understanding of RAS in cardiovascular disease and the development of RAS inhibitors (e.g. ACE inhibitor) as therapeutics. He pioneered gene therapy for vascular disease, being the first to introduce DNA decoy molecules to block transcriptions as gene therapy in vivo. Two of his discoveries, E2F decoy and nitric oxide synthase gene therapy are currently being evaluated in clinical trials.