

James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D. is the 12th president and chief executive officer of Meharry Medical College, the nation's largest private, independent historically black academic health sciences center. He obtained a Ph.D. in immunology from Oxford University where his studies focused on the biology of virus-specific cytotoxic T cells. He obtained an M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 2002, Dr. Hildreth became the first African American in the 125-year history of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to earn full professorship with tenure in basic sciences. In July 2005, Dr. Hildreth became director of the NIH-funded Center for AIDS Health Disparities Research at Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Hildreth's research in immunology and virology, with a focus on HIV, has resulted in more than 130 publications in top journals and 11 patents. He has received numerous NIH grants to support his research including a prestigious NIH Director's Pioneer Award.

Dr. Hildreth has received numerous awards for his research, commitment to diversity in medicine, biomedical research and service to communities. He was recently named "Nashvillian of the Year" by Nashville Scene magazine for his leadership in the COVID-19 pandemic response and one of the "Fifty Most Influential Clinical Leaders" by Modern Healthcare. In February of 2021, he was appointed by President Biden to the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.