

Holly Atkinson

Senior On-Air Medical Correspondent and Chief of Medical Affairs for HealthiNation

Professional Experience. Dr. Holly Atkinson is clinical professor and medical student advisor at the CUNY School of Medicine in New York. She is also assistant clinical professor of Medical Education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Prior to joining the faculty at CUNY, Dr. Atkinson was at Mount Sinai for 10 years, where she was director of the human rights program. In that capacity, Dr. Atkinson founded and directed the Mount Sinai Human Rights Clinic, where asylum seekers who have suffered torture, human trafficking, and other human rights violations are medically evaluated.

Dr. Atkinson has a broad background in human rights, having served on the board of directors of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization, Physicians for Human Rights, for more than 16 years, including four years as president. She now serves as an expert medical advisor to the organization and is a member of PHR's asylum network.

Dr. Atkinson brings a unique blend of experience and skill to her work—She has medical expertise, business acumen, media savvy, and editorial proficiency. She has degrees in both medicine and journalism, and broad international business experience. She has worked in print, broadcast television and web-based technologies for both the medical professional and consumer audiences.

Education & Affiliations. Dr. Atkinson graduated Phi Beta Kappa with Honors in biology from Colgate University. She has an MD from the University of Rochester and an MS from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and a member of the AOA Honor Medical Society, the American Public Health Association, and the American Medical Women's Association, where she helped launch AMWA's Physicians Against Human Trafficking initiative. Dr. Atkinson is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Recent Work. Today, Dr. Atkinson's works with medical students and young physicians to inspire them to become change agents and address the health disparities and social injustice that confronts us on a daily basis. Her research focuses on documenting the linkages between the human rights violations and health outcomes, especially as it applies to the well-being of women and girls. She has conducted research in several countries around the world, including most recently Bahrain and Burma. Dr. Atkinson also has extensive experience as a medical correspondent, including assignments with NBC's *Today show*, *The CBS Morning News*, Lifetime Medical Television, the PBS health show, *BodyWatch*, and most recently, HealthiNation. She was founding editor of *HealthNews*, the consumer health newsletter of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), publisher of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, where she remained at the helm for more than 12 years.