Dr. Dorkin graduated from Lehigh University’s College of Engineering in 1970. After receiving his MD from Johns Hopkins (where he stayed for a pediatric residency), he became a Pulmonary Fellow at Boston Children’s Hospital (BCH) and Harvard Medical School (HMS). He then joined the Tufts University School of Medicine/Floating Hospital for Children in Boston where he created the Division of Respiratory Diseases and rose to Professor of Pediatrics. While there, he was also Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Center Director and an ICU Attending. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics (elected Pulmonology Section Chair in 1992) and the American Thoracic Society. He has served on the American Board of Pediatrics sub-board for Pulmonology and the National Board of Medical Examiners for Pediatrics.

During his fellowship/early faculty years, his research (in collaboration with the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Boston University) was in the application of airway impedance measurements to detect lung disease in children. Simultaneously, he started a 40-year career in clinical trials research.

Active in organized medicine, he continues a long history of addressing medical issues, including public health advocacy and testimony at both the State and Federal levels. Dr. Dorkin was elected an officer, ultimately President (2017-18) of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) as well as Chairman of its Board of Trustees He has served in numerous leadership roles for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF), currently as a Member of the Medical Advisory Council and the Chairman of the Professional Education Committee.

After 21 years at Tufts, in 2002 he moved to Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) as Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School. There he served as the Joey O’Donnell CF Center Director and launched a CFF Therapeutics Development Network (TDN) Center. In 2008 he was asked to return to Children’s Hospital as Clinical Chief of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine and later also CF Center Director and TDN Center Co-Director. He expanded the Clinical Trials Program; eventually the Program ranked number 1 among all American CF TDN Centers in recruitment/enrollment for complex clinical trials. While Director of Clinical Research, he expanded areas of the Program into Asthma, Interstitial Lung Disease, Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia, Pulmonary Hypertension and Transplantation.

Currently he is a member of the House of Delegates (HOD) of both the MMS and the AMA as well as the Organization of State Medical Association Presidents/Past Presidents. Dr. Dorkin is a member of the Committee on Publications for the MMS (Publishers of the New England Journal of Medicine). He is also an Associate Editor of the journal Pediatric Pulmonology. In 2021 BCH honored him by creating, for a rising mid-career faculty member, the “Henry Dorkin Chair in Pulmonary Health Outcomes Research.” He is now a Corresponding Member of the Faculty and is primarily involved in teaching and education. In 2022 he joined the Dean’s Advisory Committee, new College of Health at Lehigh U., his alma mater.