

Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD
Immediate Past President
American Medical Association

Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD, an internist from Buffalo, N.Y., served as the 163rd President of the American Medical Association (AMA) from 2008 to 2009. Previously she was Speaker of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) and served on the AMA Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA), where she helped formulate policy positions for debates on scientific and public health issues. She is a strong proponent of the need for affordable health insurance for all Americans and was the AMA's spokesperson for its "Voice for the Uninsured" campaign.

Dr. Nielsen has served as a member of the National Patient Safety Foundation Board of Directors and the Commission for the Prevention of Youth Violence. She is active in many quality initiatives, including the National Quality Forum, the AMA-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, the Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance (AQA), and the Quality Alliance Steering Committee. She is a member of the NIH Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health. She served on the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Evidence Based Medicine, and is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine.

She received her medical degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, where she is clinical professor of medicine and senior associate dean for health policy, and she earned a PhD in microbiology from The Catholic University of America. She was a member of the board of directors of Kaleida Health, a five-hospital system in western New York, and was president of her county medical society and her hospital's medical staff. She also was Chief Medical Officer of Independent Health, a large regional health plan in the Buffalo area.

Currently, Dr. Nielsen is on leave from her medical school to work for a year in Washington DC as senior advisor to the Center for Innovation within the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Nielsen is a resident of Orchard Park NY and is the mother of five children. She began medical school when her fifth child was two months of age.