Nancy R.G. Church, MD: Improving health of patients, medical profession

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Staff News Writer
The AMA “Members Move Medicine” series profiles a wide variety of doctors, offering a glimpse into the passions of women and men navigating new courses in American medicine.

**On the move with:** Nancy R.G. Church, MD, an ob-gyn with Wellness Connections in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

**AMA member since:** 1986.

**What inspired me to pursue a career in medicine:** I was brought up in a medical care family—my father was a physician and my mother a nurse. The family philosophy was: “Wherever you go in life and whatever you do, leave that place in a better condition than it was when you arrived.”

**How I move medicine:** I am dedicated to the education and treatment of my patients and to partner with them to achieve the highest level of a healthy life. I lead them by my life example.

**Career highlights:** I have had the opportunity to be appointed or elected to many leadership positions. I am only the third female elected to the governing council of the AMA’s Organized Medical Staff Section in its near century-old history. I am the co-founder of the reorganized American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) Chicago branch.

I am honored to have represented AMWA in the AMA House of Delegates. I was recently appointed to the Physician Wellness Committee of Advocate Christ Medical Center. I have been a leader and a pioneer in my hospital in promoting and establishing state-of-the-art enhanced recovery after surgery, i.e., a focus on reducing opioid usage.

**Advice I’d give to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine:** If you desire to give back to the universe and to increase the wellness and improvement of the human race on this planet—please join me! Step forward, become engaged, become a member, speak out, and lead others forward to move medicine!

**Aspect of my work that means the most:** My work is multi-faceted: Helping to bring my patients to a healthy interaction with their lives; and, on the other side, to make sure that medicine can be practiced in the best way possible to empower the medical field to be all it can be.

**How I advocate for physicians and patients:** I am proactive every day in my medical practice and in my interaction with the structure of medicine. My mantra is: If I step off into the unknown, I might lose my footing; but if I do NOT step off into the unknown, I will lose myself!

**My hope for the future of medicine:** My hope is that we can all acknowledge the greatness in others and that we can all work to increase the greatness of my beloved profession.

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