

Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA

Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA, is president elect of the National Medical Association (NMA). She is the managing partner and an internist in a partnership in Baltimore, Maryland, and has been in private practice since 1984.

Dr Edwards received her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and holds a Masters in Business Administration from Loyola College of Baltimore. Her medical experience began with a 4-year tour with the US Navy at Annapolis and the Bethesda Naval Hospital (Maryland). She was promoted to chief of the Internal Medicine Department while in Annapolis. Dr Edwards has also served as assistant dean of Student and Faculty Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Dr Edwards has held national offices in both the American Medical Association (AMA) and the NMA. In 1995 she became the first physician to serve concurrently as president of both local medical societies of the AMA and NMA. She is currently a delegate to the AMA from Maryland and a past chair of the AMA Women Physicians Congress. She also served as president of the Maryland state medical society (AMA) in 2004-2005. She served as the national director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Health Advocacy Division until 2004. She then served as president and chief operating officer of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc from 2004-2009.

Dr Edwards has served for more than 18 years on the NMA board of trustees in numerous capacities, including Chairman of the board and Treasurer. This year, in the position of president-elect of the National Medical Association, she chairs the NMA Health Policy Committee. This committee reviews the association policy agenda and elevates the stage upon which the association brings attention to health care and health care disparities in the minority community.

Dr Edwards is a recipient of the 1997 Zeta Phi Beta Women of the Year in Medicine award. In 2003 she received Maryland's Top 100 Women award and was recognized by The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland in 2004. In 2007 she received the Congressional Black Caucus award for literature for the coauthored book, *The Black Woman's Guide to Black Men's Health*, with Andrea King Collier.

Dr Edwards has served on several governor-appointed commissions and task forces, including the Maryland High Blood Pressure Commission and the Maryland hospital rate-setting commission, Health Services Cost Review Commission, where she was a commissioner for 8 years. Her task force experience includes work on the Maryland appeals and grievances process (with insurers, particularly HMOs), graduate medical education, and the task force on small group insurance.

She currently serves on the board of the Medical Mutual Liability Co, Maryland's medical liability insurer, and holds an appointment to the Federal Drug Administration Blood Products Advisory Committee.