



Roberta G. Williams MD, MACC
Cardiologist since 1973
68 years old

I am the Chair of Pediatrics/VP for Academic Affairs at Keck SOM at USC/Childrens' Hospital, Los Angeles, CA

Pediatric Cardiology is my specialty because I am interested in congenital heart disease.

I've learned that Cardiology has an endless variability of jobs and aspects.

The most difficult aspect of my job is patient access to care.

The most rewarding part of my job is the endless novelty and learning opportunities.

I have found a worldwide group of collaborators and friends through my affiliation in Cardiology.

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Nicole Weinberg MD

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Cardiologist since 2007
34 years old

I am an attending physician at Pacific Heart Institute, St Johns Hospital, Santa Monica, CA. I am a Non-invasive Cardiologist. I chose it because I want to apply results of imaging tests to a patient's clinical scenario.

Cardiology is a gratifying field. You evaluate someone with a problem and fix it. Data that is gathered is objective, treatments scientific. You can see heart disease with imaging tests, go through treatments, then follow them over the years to ensure that the disease state doesn't progress. Cardiology melds the basics of medicine and science.

Being able to handle the emotional toll on the patient is a huge responsibility, but making a difference in a patient's life is very rewarding. One has the ability to establish close connections with patients and truly become part of their lives.

Through the years, I was discouraged from becoming a cardiologist. It was not until I met women in the field that I was able to 'see' myself in their position. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see if one of 'us' could potentially be 'you' some day!

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Jin Kyung Kim MD, FACC
Cardiologist Since 2007
39 years old

I am Assistant Professor at the University of California, Irvine and am a physician scientist in general adult cardiology. I study mechanisms of anti-apoptotic actions of estrogen on ischemia-induced cardiomyocyte death. It is important to me that basic biomedical research be done with the "big picture" of clinical advancement in mind. I wanted to be part of connecting scientific discoveries to medical application. That is why I wanted the training as an M.D.-Ph.D.

During internship in internal medicine, I fell in love with cardiology. Since I was already committed to a career of a physician scientist, it made sense to me to enroll in the Research Pathway offered by the American Board of Internal Medicine. It shortens residency and subspecialty clinical fellowship. (It enrolls early in the residency, ideally in PGY 1 -ask me for details.)

I spend 75% of my time in the lab 25% as an attending cardiologist. I derive satisfaction knowing that my knowledge and experience in each contributes to better understanding and practices of the other. It is plain fun to discover something new, something novel that explains what happens to the cells in the heart of a patient.

Being productive in research is frustrating as a beginning investigator with limited resources; as is achieving balance between my professional and family life (a husband and 2 small children).

I accepted a job at the same institution I trained at. During my post-graduate training, there was little guidance to what to do in seeking an academic position. Consequently, I would have done a few things differently now that I look back. I believe there should be better training of those still in fellowship for prospective job search and negotiations at each institution.

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Noel Bairey Merz MD, FACC, FAHA
Cardiologist Since 1987
53 years old

I am Women's Guild Endowed Chair in Women's Health Director, Women's Heart Center Director, Preventive Cardiac Center, Professor of Medicine Cedars-Sinai Medical Center at the Heart Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

Cardiology is very interesting and very rewarding from patient care and research standpoint.

I've learned that women should enter the field. It is somewhat similar to OB-GYN which women now dominate.

The most difficult aspect is the male majority.

The most rewarding part of my job is a lot of patient care and research – lots to do, nothing boring!

Remember: Women will be a prized commodity in cardiology now and in the future.

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