



Susan V. Karol, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer

Indian Health Service

Susan V. Karol, M.D., was selected in September 2008 as the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Indian Health Service (IHS). She is a member of the Tuscarora Indian Nation, located near Niagara Falls, NY. Dr. Karol previously served in the IHS from 1988-1990 as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Public Health Service while holding the position of Chief of Surgery and Anesthesia at the Shiprock Indian Hospital, Shiprock, New Mexico.

As the IHS CMO, Dr. Karol provides medical advice and guidance to the Office of the Director and staff on American Indian and Alaska Native health care policies and issues. She serves as the primary liaison and advocate for IHS field clinical programs and community-based health professionals. Dr. Karol also provides national and international health care leadership and representation for the agency. In addition, she ensures that patient care and medical standards and concerns are represented in the decision-making process of the agency.

Dr. Karol came to the IHS from the Essex Surgical Associates, PC, in Beverly, Massachusetts. She founded Essex Surgical Associates, PC, in 2004. From 1991 to 2008, Dr. Karol also served as the Medical Director of The Hunt Breast Center, Hunt Hospital, Danvers, Massachusetts, and as an active staff member of the Beverly Hospital. From 1996 to 2008, she served as Chief of Surgery at the Beverly Hospital. Her other appointments included serving as an assistant Professor of Surgery at Tufts Medical School; Trustee of the Northeast Health Systems, Inc., Beverly Hospital; and as Assistant Medical Director of Specialty Care of the New England Community Medical Group.

Dr. Karol graduated from Dartmouth College with an A.B. in biology and received her M.D. from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her post doctoral training included work as a Clinical Fellow in Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital; Chief Resident and General Surgery Residency, University of Massachusetts Medical Center Coordinated Surgical Program; General Surgery Resident, St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center; and Categorical Surgical Resident, University of Massachusetts Medical Center Coordinated Surgical Program.

Dr. Karol is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a fellow of the American College of Physician Executives. She also is a member of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, Association of American Indian Physicians, Essex Surgical Society, and the Massachusetts Medical Society.