

Karen J. Nichols, DO was in the private practice of internal medicine and geriatrics in Mesa, Arizona from 1985 through 2002. She is most recently the Dean of the Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine serving since 2002 until stepping down July 2018. Prior to serving as Dean, she was Assistant Dean, Post-Doctoral Education, and Chair, Internal Medicine at the Midwestern University/Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine since 1997. A graduate of the Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCU-COM) with a DO degree, she holds a Master's degree in Management with a specialty in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University. Dr. Nichols holds eight honorary degrees.

She has served as President of the American Osteopathic Association, the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and the American College of Osteopathic Internists and was the first woman to hold all those positions. Dr. Nichols is chair of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education board which is the accreditor for the 150,000 physician residency/fellowship positions in the US.