

Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

May 15, 2024
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Lisa Richardson, MD, MPH

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Dr. Richardson provides leadership and direction for all scientific, policy, and programmatic issues related to four cancer prevention programs.



Lisa C. Richardson, MD, MPH, is the director of CDC's [Division of Cancer Prevention and Control](#) (DCPC). She is responsible for providing leadership and direction for all scientific, policy, and programmatic issues related to four foundational programs: the Colorectal Cancer Control Program, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and the National Program of Cancer Registries. She oversees a well-developed research agenda that includes the national Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network.

Dr. Richardson has been a public servant for more than 25 years, holding numerous leadership positions within CDC. Prior to her current role, she served as director of CDC's Division of Blood Disorders, where she led national efforts to prevent complications and improve the quality of life for people living with hereditary blood disorders such as hemophilia and sickle cell disease.

Dr. Richardson came to CDC in 1997 as the medical director for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer and Early Detection Program, the largest organized screening program for low-income, uninsured women in the United States. After a stint at the University of Florida as an assistant professor, she returned to CDC in 2004 as a staff scientist in DCPC's Epidemiology and Applied Research Branch, then served as team lead for the Scientific Support and Clinical Translation Team in DCPC's Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch. In 2010, she was named DCPC's Associate Director for Science, where she reviewed all scientific content produced by DCPC and advised the director in setting scientific priorities. She worked closely with division staff to maintain scientific integrity in division activities.

Dr. Richardson is a highly sought-after expert on public health's role in cancer control, the role of health care delivery and cancer outcomes, health equity, and quality cancer care. She has authored and coauthored nearly 200 journal articles. For a list of publications, see the [Citation Search tool](#).

Dr. Richardson earned her bachelor of science and doctor of medicine degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society as a junior while at the University of North Carolina. She completed the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar's Program at the University of Michigan, where she earned her master of public health degree in epidemiology. She completed her internal medicine residency and hematology/medical oncology fellowship at the University of Florida School of Medicine. She served as faculty of the University of Florida's Department of Medical Oncology from 2000 to 2004 and collaborated extensively with the Florida Cancer Data System, one of the 50 central cancer registries funded by CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries.

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