

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Vivian Pinn

PERSON

Pinn, Vivian W.

**Alternative Names:** Dr. Vivian Pinn;

**Life Dates:** April 21, 1941-

**Place of Birth:** Halifax, Virginia, USA

**Residence:** Washington, D.C.

**Occupations:** Medical Director

## Biographical Note

Medical director Vivian W. Pinn was born in 1941 in Halifax, Virginia. She grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia. Pinn received her B.A. degree from Wellesley College in 1963. She earned her M.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1967 where she was the only woman and only minority in her class. Pinn completed her residency in pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1970 while also serving as a teaching fellow at the Harvard Medical School

In 1970, Pinn joined Tufts University as assistant professor of pathology in the School of Medicine and the Tufts New England Medical Center Hospital, with a concurrent appointment as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. In 1982, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she served as a professor as well as the third woman and first African American woman appointed to chair a department of pathology in the U.S. while at Howard University College of Medicine. Pinn became the first director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) in the Office of the Director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1991. In February of 1994, she was named associate director for Research on Women's Health at NIH. While there, Pinn completed a national initiative to reexamine priorities for the women's health research agenda, as well as areas in need of research. This new strategic plan for the coming decade, Moving into the Future with New Dimensions and Strategies: a Vision for 2020 for Women's Health Research, was presented publicly at the 2010 NIH Scientific Symposium and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ORWH. She also served as co-chair of the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers.

In 1989, Pinn was elected as president of the National Medical Association after serving in many other capacities including as Speaker of the House of Delegates and Trustee. The UVA School of Medicine established the Vivian W. Pinn Distinguished

Lecture in Health Disparities, and further honored her in 2010 by naming one of its advisory colleges for medical students in her name, the Vivian Pinn College of UVA. In 2011, she received the Tufts University School of Medicine Dean's Medal. Pinn was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Institute of Medicine. Pinn has also been elected as an Honorary Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and received the Academy Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Health Policy.

Dr. Vivian W. Pinn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 22, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Robert S. Payne Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Dunbar High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Wellesley College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**University of Virginia School of Medicine** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.D.**

**National Institute of Health (NIH)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199111 to 201108]

**Director, Office of Research on women's Health**

**Tufts University New England Medical Hospital** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to 1982]

**Various**

**Chlease Soldier's Home** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1972 to 1977]

**Consultant in Pathology**

**Boston Veterans' Administration Hospital** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1976 to 1990]

**Consultant in Nephrology**

**Howard University Hospital and Howard University College of Medicine** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1991]

**Various**

**National Institute of Health (NIH)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199402 to 201108]

**Associate Director for Research on Women's Health**

**National Institute of Health (NIH)** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 19970315 to ?]

**Senior Scientist Emrita, Fogarty International Center**

**Hadley Memorial Hospital** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1985 to ?]

**Chief of Pathology and Member, Medical Staff**

**American Society of Nephrology** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1985 to 1987]

**Central Recruitment Council, Boston Teaching Hospitals** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1980 to 1987]

**International Society of Nephrology** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2009 to ?]

**New England Medical Society** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2011 to ?]

**Central Recruitment Council, Boston Teaching Hospitals** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1988 to 1989]

**Co-Chairman**

**New England Society of Pathology** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1972 to ?]

**Massachusetts Society of Pathologists** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1972 to 1986]

**Suffolk District Medical Society** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1973 to 1983]

**Massachusetts Medical Society** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1973 to ?]

**Association of American Medical Colleges** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1974 to 1993]

**American Heart Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1975 to 1979]

**Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease**

**National Medical Association (NMA)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1976 to ?]

**Bay State PSRO, Inc.** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1978 to 1982]

**New England Medical Women Administrators** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1978 to 1982]

**International Academy of Pathology** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1990 to ?]

**Councillor**