

Dr. Nickens is a Medical Officer in the Heart Failure and Arrhythmias Branch in the Division of Cardiovascular Science in the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Dr. Nickens is responsible for the scientific development and fiscal management of relevant research programs focused on prevention, recognition and treatment in cardiovascular medicine. Her research portfolio has included many mechanisms of research: investigator-initiated projects, center grants, contract and grant solicitations, small business and conference grants to support basic and clinical investigations including clinical trials. Her current portfolio includes a deep phenotyping network, an international multisite trial, a large pragmatic trial addressing heart failure and CardioOncology investigations. Dr. Nickens is responsible for initiative development, workshops, and meetings and provides updates within these scientific areas to the Division and Institute Directors. Dr. Nickens is a reviewer for several journals and is the NHLBI liaison to the Heart Failure Society of America. She has special interest in improving outcomes for underserved populations and addressing adverse social determinants of health.

Dr. Nickens received her Bachelors Degree in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Medical Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She began an Internal Medicine residency at the Thomas Jefferson University Medical Center and completed her training in Internal Medicine as a NHLBI medical staff fellow at the Clinical Center of NIH. Dr Nickens is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr Nickens joined NHLBI in 1982 and was the project officer for the TIMI trial. In 1987 Dr Nickens left NIH to serve as primary care physician in Detroit and in 1988 in Baltimore. Dr Nickens rejoined NHLBI in 1991 and was responsible for research initiatives that investigated coronary disease in for underserved populations including women and African Americans. Dr. Nickens interests include training, the practice of medicine and public health policy and its impact on cardiovascular health disparities and their effect on women and minorities.