Dena Wilson, MD, FACC



Dr. Wilson is Lead Cardiologist with the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) in Phoenix, AZ. She received her BA from Chadron State College in Chadron, NE, and her MD from the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. Dr. Wilson completed both her residency in internal medicine and cardiovascular fellowship at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Wilson grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and, as a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, has been dedicated to serving the Native American population since she was a child. She has been involved with the Indian Health Service (IHS)—an agency within the US Department of Health & Human Services responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives—beginning with her involvement in the Native American Cardiology Program as a medical resident at the University of Arizona and, later, a permanent staff member. Dr. Wilson eventually transferred to the PIMC, where the tribal identity of eligible beneficiaries receiving care represents 67% of the 567 federally recognized Native American tribes.

Dr. Wilson has been an active member of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) since she was a fellow in training. Further, she has represented the US Public Health Service (USPHS) on the Board of Governors Federal Section as the first Native American cardiologist to hold the position, and she was the first USPHS officer to hold the position in several years. Dr. Wilson has given numerous presentations about the state of health within the American Indian community and has played a lead role in building partnerships among Northern Arizona Healthcare, IHS, and various tribal agencies to provide quality healthcare to underserved populations, including inpatient, outpatient, and telemedicine services.