



Cheryl R. Whitaker; MD, MPH, FACP

Chief Medical Officer

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Dr. Cheryl R. Whitaker is the Chief Medical Officer at Merge Healthcare Incorporated. At Merge, Dr. Whitaker will help guide new product strategy designed to enhance the company's product portfolio as well as support new federal healthcare initiatives. She will also act as Merge's liaison with clinician-focused industry organizations as the company continues its focus on improving the usability and interoperability of electronic healthcare. Prior to joining Merge, she was the Senior Program Officer at the Chicago Community Trust, where she directed the strategy and priority for funds that support the health of the Chicago region. Dr. Whitaker held an appointment as an assistant professor of preventative medicine at Rush University Medical Center. In her former role as full-time faculty, she conducted research on how lifestyle and behavioral factors affect health and disease risk reduction. As an expert hypertension specialist, she received funding from the National Institute of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to lead clinical studies designed to improve behavioral and coping skills in low-income communities with chronic conditions of diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and cardiovascular disease.

Education:

- Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency, 1997
University of California; San Francisco, CA
- Medical Internship, 1995
Stanford University Medical Center; Stanford, CA
- Master's in Public Health, 1994
Harvard School of Public Health; Boston, MA
- Doctor of Medicine, 1993
Washington University School of Medicine; St. Louis, MO
- Bachelor of Arts in Biology/Pre-Med, 1989
Emory University; Druid Hills, GA

Organizations & Affiliations:

- American Heart Association - Go Red for Women Leadership Team
- Grantmakers in Health
- Health Information Management Systems Society
- American College of Physicians; *Northern Illinois Advisory Council*

Awards & Honors:

- Illinois Chapter Laureate Award, 2009; *American College of Physicians*
- Fellow, *American College of Physicians*
- Secretary of Health and Human Services Award for Innovation in Health; *Harvard School of Public Health*
- Midwest Trainee Investigator Award; *Central Society for Clinical Research*
- GlaxoSmith Kline Medical Fellowship Award

