

Nancy (Meyer) Van Buren, MD

PATHOLOGIST AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SPECIALIST

FSHS CLASS OF 1975



Nancy Van Buren, MD is a medical doctor specializing in pathology and transfusion medicine. She explains that pathologists are physicians with specialized training to diagnose medical conditions using tests performed on blood or fluid samples. Blood banking and transfusion experts oversee testing and collection of blood for patients in need of transfusion therapy.

Dr. Van Buren's passion for the medical field came naturally. She was inspired growing up in a family consisting of generations of doctors and a father who encouraged her to become a physician in an era when few women were doctors. Her high school nurses' aide job caring for elderly patients at St. Lucas Nursing Home helped her make a decision to follow family footsteps into the field of medicine. She remained close to home for her medical training, earning a degree in Biology from St. Olaf College in 1979 and graduating from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1983.

During her career, she worked for 27 years as a hospital-based pathologist and transfusion medical director for hospitals in Northeast Tennessee and St. Paul, MN, serving in various hospital leadership positions and volunteering as medical director on local and national blood banking organizations. She co-founded a bone marrow donor registry in Tennessee and later served Minnesota Blood Centers and Transfusion Services as Director at Hennepin Healthcare HCMC and Children's Hospitals of Minnesota.

Dr. Van Buren earned recognition and multiple awards including America's Top Physicians (2006 and 2007), and Top Doctor (2024). Since her retirement in 2023, she continues to consult and speak on the topic of transfusion medicine, contribute to medical journals and textbooks, visit elderly people in assisted living facilities with her trained therapy dog, and participate in a reading program for children.