



Karen A. Rizzo, MD

**Candidate for
At-Large Director
Private Practice**

***What unique attributes do you bring to the Board of Directors?
How would you unify Academy members around a new strategic plan and address issues of scope of practice, payer and regulatory concerns, and workforce challenges?***

I feel I am uniquely qualified to represent private practice interests and advocate for important issues that impact the viability and success of all otolaryngology practice venues. I have started and run a small private practice successfully for over 20 years and understand the challenges professionally, financially, and personally that are necessary to manage a successful practice and provide high-quality care to patients in an efficient, compassionate, and comprehensive manner. I have held several leadership positions at both the state and national level including President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology, gaining significant advocacy experience engaging with state and federal legislatures on legislative, reimbursement, insurance reforms, and socioeconomic matters.

My recent experience as Chair of the Board of Governors (BOG) has given me insight, knowledge, and experience in utilizing the resources of our Academy to support and advocate for not only private practitioners but all otolaryngologists in various practice settings. The importance of collaboration among various practice venues to amplify concerns and challenges to facilitate change is essential to success. Optimizing collaboration and communication among the various Academy sections to reduce redundancy in efforts and streamline focused efforts to improve practice satisfaction is essential. Incorporating technology, bridging communication gaps between private practice and academic centers, and incorporating proven practice efficiencies to increase access to care and reduce overhead to sustain practice viability are vital. As a Regional Representative for the BOG and Otolaryngology Private Practice Section member, I will continue to work to improve communication between our state and national societies so successful outcomes can be achieved.

Please provide a personal statement as to what is your vision for the leadership role for which you are applying, why you are pursuing the elected position, and why you should be chosen.

2024

I am applying for the private practice director at large position for the American Academy of Otolaryngology because I feel I am amply qualified to represent private practice interests and advocate for important issues which impact the viability and success of otolaryngology private practice for the present and future. I have started and run a small private practice successfully for over 20 years and understand the challenges both professionally, financially, and personally that are necessary to manage a successful practice and provide high quality care to patients in an efficient, compassionate, and comprehensive manner.

My recent experience as chair of the Board of Governors has given me insight, knowledge, and experience in utilizing the resources of our Academy to support and advocate for not only private practitioners but all otolaryngologists in various practice settings. I do feel I am uniquely qualified to represent the interests and concerns of private practitioners at the board level as well as at national and state legislative advocacy arenas because of my prior leadership roles as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Otolaryngology Society. I advocated for my specialty on legislative, reimbursement and insurance reforms, and socioeconomic matters. I am a member of the Otolaryngology Private Practice Section as well and continue to stay informed about this new section's activities and important support for private practitioners. Currently as a Board of Governors regional representative, I continue to strive to improve the sharing of information and optimize communication between our state and national specialty organizations. I pledge to work tirelessly on behalf of our specialty to improve current and future otolaryngology concerns and to advocate for the betterment of our profession.

Utilizing my experiences in leadership and mentorship, I will work diligently on behalf of all otolaryngologists to improve the working conditions for our specialty and especially focus on the numerous challenges facing private practitioners, especially with understanding how quality metrics will impact reimbursement in the future. I was significantly involved in the starting of a successful ambulatory surgery center in central Pennsylvania and continue to integrate ancillary services such as hearing aid sales, mid-level use, and in-office procedures to augment the practice's financial viability.

I plan to advocate and collaborate with all interested parties to promote and support the continued growth of private practice in our specialty and encourage the increased exposure of that option to residents and fellows in training, as well as academic otolaryngologists and those employed in large healthcare systems to demonstrate the appeal of the private practice option.

I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Karen A. Rizzo, M.D.

Current Employment: Lancaster Ear, Nose and Throat, LLC

Place of Birth: Passaic, NJ

Education (include institutions, dates, degrees):

Forest City Regional High School Graduate – 1977, Class Valedictorian
Villanova University – 1981, BS in Biology, Magna Cum Laude
Temple University School of Medicine – 1981-1985, Doctor of Medicine
Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia, PA – 1985-1987, General Surgery

Residency and Fellowship:

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital – 1987-1990, Otolaryngology Residency

Specialty: General Otolaryngology

Licensure and Certification:

Medical License – State of Pennsylvania – 1986
American Board of Otolaryngology – 1990 Board Certified

Previous Employment: Otolaryngology Physicians of Lancaster

Memberships and Offices Held /Academy and other societies:

Board of Directors American Academy of Otolaryngology – 2021-2023
Chair, Board of Governors – 2022-2023
Chair Elect, Board of Governors – 2021-2022
Secretary, Board of Governors – 2019-2021
Vice Chairman, Legislative Committee, Board of Governors – 2017-2019
PA Governor for Board of Governors – 2012-Present
Women in Otolaryngology Endowment Committee – 2017-2021
Nominating Committee, American Academy of Otolaryngology – 2017-2020
President, Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology – 2001-2003
Co-Chair/Chair, Pennsylvania Medical Society Interspecialty Section – 1995-2001
Board of Trustees, Surgical Specialty Trustee, Pennsylvania Medical Society – 2003-2011
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Pennsylvania Medical Society – 2010-2011
Vice President, Pennsylvania Medical Society – 2013
President Elect, Pennsylvania Medical Society – 2014
President, Pennsylvania Medical Society – 2015
President, Lancaster City/County Medical Society – 2008-2010
Chairman of Women's Physician Section of Pennsylvania Medical Society – 2019-Present
Otolaryngology Historical Society Member
ENT Advocacy Network Member

American Medical Association
American College of Surgeons

Honors/Awards:

Distinguished Service Award for Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery – 2004
Villanova University Alumni Medallion – 2008
Inducted into the Women’s Big 5 Basketball Hall of Fame – 1990
Inducted into the Villanova University Varsity Club Hall of Fame – 2006
Distinguished Citizen Award for Forest City, Pennsylvania - 2006

Community Service:

WGAL, a local TV station’s annual “Docs on Call” show – 2018-2023
St. Leo the Great Catholic Youth Organization girls grades 2 through 7 Basketball Coach – 2002-2006

Regional/Local Hospital Participation:

Lancaster General Hospital Division Chief of Otolaryngology – 2007-2008
Surgery Center of Lancaster, President – 2006-2012

Summation of Published Works Within the Specialty:

*Karen A. Rizzo, M.D., W. Holmes, M.D., J. Cunningham, M.D. William Lewis, M.D.:
Langerhans Cell Histiocytes of Head and Neck. Transactions of the Pennsylvania
Academy of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology, pp.7611-765, 1988*

*Karen A. Rizzo, M.D., Louis D. Lowry, M.D.: Congenital Choanal Atresia: Diagnosis
and Treatment. Transactions of Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology and
Ophthalmology, pp. 842-846, 1989*

*Karen A. Rizzo, M.D., Louis Lowry, M.D.: Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma of the
Head and Neck. Archives of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (Submitted)*

*Mark Kelly, M.D., J.D. Cunningham, M.D., Karen A. Rizzo, M.D.: Severe Airway
Obstruction from Crycoarytenoid Fixation. Transactions of the Pennsylvania Academy
of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology, pp. 902-940, 1989*