



Vania E. Fernandez, M.D. is a Double Board Certified physician in both Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine from the American Board of Anesthesiology with additional Fellowship Training in Interventional Pain Management. She completed all of her training at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital where she stayed on as Faculty for a few years before turning to private practice. She is currently part of the Voluntary Faculty of the Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University where she lectures second year students about pain management. She holds additional faculty appointments at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University where she offers yearly capstone lectures to the graduating medical students and is a site rotation for the Hospice Fellowship. Although she has written several chapters and published numerous research articles, she now dedicates most of her professional time to treating chronic pain patients with minimally invasive procedures. Throughout her years in training and practice, she has served as a mentor to undergraduate students, medical students, residents and early career physicians, often having them rotate through her practice. She participated in the Florida Medical Association Karl M. Altenberger Physician Leadership Academy as well as the inaugural class of the South Florida Physician Leadership Academy. The latter was a collaboration with Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties to empower physicians to lead in their communities and within their healthcare teams. Shortly thereafter, she became Chair of the program to pay it forward and provide these tools for the classes that followed. She is most honored to have been asked to lecture and serve on a panel for the Women Physicians Leadership Academy. Dr. Fernandez is an active member in numerous professional organizations where she focuses much of her energy on advocacy and education in healthcare. Specifically, she is involved with the Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, where she serves on the Board of Directors and is currently the President-Elect, The Florida Medical Association, where she serves on the Legislative Committee, the Committee on Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and the PAC Board. She is also an FMA Delegate to the American Medical Association. She is Past President of the Broward County Medical Society, serving on the Board of Trustees and the Women Physicians' Section. She is also a member of the Dade County Medical Society which collaborates with the BCMA. She is on the planning committee for the upcoming 2nd Annual South Florida Women Physician's Retreat. She believes in the importance of joining like-minded individuals to speak out for patients and preserve the role of physicians as leaders of the healthcare team