



# RRB News

## U.S. Railroad Retirement Board

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### **RRB Appoints Chief Medical Officer**

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has appointed Dr. Christine E. Lawless to the newly created position of Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Lawless will provide expert medical guidance to the RRB's Office of Programs, which is responsible for the adjudication of claims for disability annuities and sickness insurance benefits. Additional duties and responsibilities will include the training of examiners on medical issues, serving as an expert consultant on medical contract solicitations, and acting as the RRB's medical liaison to other federal agencies and the public.

A Chicago resident, Dr. Lawless is residency trained and board certified in internal medicine and cardiology. At the time of her selection, she had served 5 years as a contract hospitalist for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and also had extensive experience conducting employee physical examinations, as well as disability and return-to-work reviews for various entities, including MetLife and her own company.

She started the heart transplant program at the Hines VA Hospital, the third of its kind in the country, in the late 1980s, and served as director of heart failure, heart transplant cardiologist, and faculty member at Loyola University Medical Center/Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois, for almost 10 years starting in 1993. Dr. Lawless has also served as a staff cardiologist and physician at several hospitals and medical practices in the suburban Chicago area.

*(More)*

Also active in the field of sports medicine, Dr. Lawless created and founded the sports medicine section of the American College of Cardiology, and has served as a team doctor or consultant for U.S. Figure Skating and Major League Soccer.

She received her bachelor's degree in biology from Northern Illinois University (1974), her medical doctor degree from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine (1977), and a master's of business administration degree from the University of Notre Dame (2004). Dr. Lawless served her residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology at Loyola University Medical Center, along with a subsequent fellowship in sports medicine at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois.

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*An independent federal agency headquartered in Chicago, the RRB administers almost \$12.3 billion a year in benefits under the federal Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts covering the nation's railroad workers and their families.*