

MARY CATHERINE MANCINI



Mary Mancini received her B.S. Degree in Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in 1974, Phi Beta Kappa, and entered the Medical School that September. She did her internship and residency in general surgery followed by further training in cardiothoracic surgery, all at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. While in medical school she convinced the administration, after a battle, to allow her to do a medical round at Albert Einstein in New York where they had a special program in nephrology. While there she wrote two papers, including an early paper on brain death. This little story illustrates two facets of Dr. Mancini, brilliance and toughness. She needed the latter as she blazed a trail for women in surgery and particularly heart surgery. An unnamed faculty member even told her directly that he was going to make her quit, only because she was a woman.

He failed and she has had a stellar career. She is currently Professor of Surgery, Chief of Cardiothoracic surgery, and Director of Cardiothoracic Transplantation at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. As of several years ago she was one of five female heart transplant surgeons in the U. S. She has over 40 peer reviewed articles, is author or coauthor of several books, has contributed numerous book chapters, and has given many invited lectures. She has been on a number of government advisory committees and has been active in professional organizations. She is currently managing editor for the Vascular Surgery portion of the eMedicine textbook, and editor-in-chief of the Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantation section of that text. She most recently completed a Ph.D. in Cellular Biology and is spending more time doing basic research—receiving major funding from the NIH.