



MEMORANDUM

TO: Sirona Strategies Clients

DATE: November 26, 2024

RE: Background on Dr. Janette Nesheiwat - Nominee for U.S. Surgeon General

On November 22, President-elect Trump [announced](#) the appointment of Dr. Janette Nesheiwat to serve as the U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Nesheiwat is a family and emergency medicine doctor and medical news correspondent. She currently serves as a New York City Medical Director for CityMD, an urgent care chain.

This memo provides an overview of Dr. Nesheiwat and her health care priorities.

Priorities

Dr. Nesheiwat's key health policy priorities may include lifestyle changes and addressing alcohol and substance use disorder. She has criticized vaccine mandates and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) guidance about COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccines

Dr. Nesheiwat has [publicly supported](#) vaccines, having said the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is highly effective. However, she has [opposed](#) COVID-19 vaccine mandates and argued against the dismissal of soldiers who refused to be vaccinated. She has also [criticized](#) the CDC's guidance about COVID-19 vaccines, saying earlier this year that the vaccine's risks outweigh benefits for many Americans (particularly younger Americans), while acknowledging that risk is small for most patients.

Alcohol, Drug, and Smoking Use

As a Fox News contributor, Dr. Nesheiwat has [discussed](#) the reduction of alcohol, drug, and smoking use in the U.S. She has noted the percent of young Americans (ages 18 to 34) who believe one or two drinks per day is "detrimental to health" has increased from 34 percent in 2018 to 52 percent in 2023, saying this trend reflects a "healthier lifestyle" among younger Americans. Based on this public stance, we anticipate Dr. Nesheiwat would continue focusing on alcohol, drug, and smoking use as Surgeon General.

Background

Dr. Nesheiwat earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida. After completing the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, she decided to pursue medical school. Nesheiwat graduated from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She completed emergency room (ER) rotations at Johns Hopkins University. She began her career as a family medicine physician in Northwest Arkansas, where she practiced at Washington Regional Medical Center and Northwest Medical Hospital. She is double board-certified in family and emergency medicine.

In 2016, Dr. Nesheiwat began hosting an educational medical television show, "Family Health Today," which focused on health, wellness, and lifestyle topics and aimed to provide viewers with expert advice to improve their everyday well-being. In 2020, she began hosting a TV segment titled, "Health Minute with Dr. Janette," which featured brief, informative content aimed at educating viewers on various medical topics. She has also provided commentary for various national media outlets including ABC's

Good Morning America. Lastly, she has written a book to be released on December 17, 2024, *"Beyond the Stethoscope: Miracles in Medicine,"* which highlights medical miracles and the transformative power of prayer to healing.

Her sister Julia Nesheiwat, a former Army officer, was homeland security adviser in the first Trump administration and is married to Representative Mike Waltz of Florida, whom Mr. Trump has tapped to be national security adviser.

Dr. Nesheiwat currently serves as a Medical Director at CityMD, a network of urgent care centers in the New York metropolitan area. Throughout her career, she has led various medical relief missions around the world with the American Red Cross, including in the aftermath of Haiti's catastrophic earthquake in 2010. She was also provided emergency medical assistance following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and a tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri in 2011.

Background on U.S. Surgeon General

The U.S. Surgeon General is the leading public health official in the United States, responsible for overseeing the nation's public health and promoting well-being. The Surgeon General is the head of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC) and serves as the principal medical advisor to the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Key responsibilities of the U.S. Surgeon General include public health advocacy, health promotion, medical leadership, policy advice, health crisis response, and public communication.

Conclusion

Due to her expressed support for vaccines, Dr. Nesheiwat may face less resistance from Senate Democrats than other political nominees such as HHS Nominee Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose views on vaccines are regarded by some as controversial and scientifically unfounded. Additionally, Dr. Nesheiwat's criticism of vaccine mandates will likely be supported by most Senate Republicans. However, there have been concerns about selecting a doctor with little public health experience.