

# Robert Califf, MD



## Biography

Robert Dr. Califf is a prominent American cardiologist. Dr. Califf was born in Anderson, South Carolina and attended high school in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Califf attended Duke University for his undergraduate degree and for medical school. Dr. Califf also spent some of his residency at the University of California in San Francisco. Following his graduation at Duke, Dr. Califf became a cardiology fellow and later a professor of medicine and vice chancellor for clinical and translational research. During his time at Duke, Dr. Califf was in charge of many research studies and was the founding director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute. He has been recognized nationally and internationally for his work in cardiovascular medicine, healthcare quality, and clinical research. Dr. Califf has also served on several Institute of Medicine committees that recommended Medicare coverage of clinical trials and preventing medication errors. From 2009 to 2013, Dr. Califf was a paid consultant for Merck Sharp & Dohme, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, and Eli Lilly. From 2012 to 2015, Dr. Califf spent some time as Director of Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc. In 2015, Dr. Califf was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Medical Products and Tobacco. By September 2015, he was nominated to be the next commissioner for the FDA. In February 2016, Dr. Califf was confirmed as commissioner.

## Biography

Currently:  
Commissioner of the FDA

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Previously:  
Deputy Commissioner of the FDA’s Office of Medical Products and Tobacco

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Education:  
Duke University  
University of Cal.  
Duke School of Medicine

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Birth Year: 1951

## Previous Experience

- Director Portola Pharmaceuticals (2012-2015)
- Medical Consultant (2009-2013)

## Major Milestone

Recognized by the Institute for Scientific Information as one of the top 10 most cited medical authors with 1,200 peer-review publications

## Senate Confirmation Vote

YEAs	89
.....	.....
NAYs	4
.....	.....
No Vote	7
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## Notable Opposition

Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT)	Insisted that Dr. Califf’s history with the pharmaceutical industry could prevent him from aggressively regulating
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Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	Briefly stalled nomination because she wanted the FDA to begin the labeling requirements for genetically engineered salmon, she later lifted her opposition
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Sources: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, “Meet Robert M. Califf, MD, Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco,” June 30, 2015; National Institutes of Health, “Robert M. Califf, M.D., M.A.C.C.,” December 16, 2015; Reuters, “Senate Confirms Dr. Robert Califf to Lead FDA,” NBC News, February 24, 2016; Brady Dennis, “Senate Confirms Robert Califf as New FDA Commissioner,” The Washington Post, February 24, 2016.