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Dr. Donington is Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Section of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Chicago. She obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and medical degree from Rush University. She completed surgical training at Georgetown University, cardiothoracic training at Mayo Clinic, and a surgical oncology fellowship in the Surgical Branch of the NCI. She was on faculty at Stanford and NYU prior to her current position at the University of Chicago.

She has expertise in multimodality therapy for locally advanced lung cancer, lung cancer clinical trials, and treatment for medically high-risk patients early-stage lung cancer. She is co-chair for the Thoracic Malignancy Steering Committee for the NCI, serves on the Board of Directors and as vice chair of the Council for Education for the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the surgical chair for the NRG Oncology Lung Group and a Director for the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. She is a past president of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association, the New York Society for Thoracic Surgery, and the Women in Thoracic Surgery. She was named 2025 Nina Starr Braunwald Extraordinary Woman in Cardiothoracic Surgery, Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Women in Thoracic Surgery.