



# AGAINST ALL ODDS

---

CELEBRATING BLACK WOMEN  
IN MEDICINE

Crystal R. Emery



First edition publication.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication can be reproduced without written permission of the author/publisher.

© 2015 Crystal R. Emery

URU, The Right To Be, Inc.

P.O. Box 26925

West Haven, CT 06516-0968

(203) 389-7466

Contact us at: [urutherright@gmail.com](mailto:urutherright@gmail.com)

Visit us at: <http://www.changingthefaceofmedicine.org/>

Editorial production:

Marrathon Production Services.

[www.marrathon.net](http://www.marrathon.net)

Design: E.K. Weymouth Design

[www.ekweymouth.com](http://www.ekweymouth.com)

ISBN 978-0-692-55050-2

# AGAINST ALL ODDS

---

CELEBRATING BLACK WOMEN  
IN MEDICINE

Crystal R. Emery





For their belief in a power greater than what is visible to the naked eye and for demonstrating integrity, courage, and determination that paved the way for future generations to transcend the trappings of race, gender, or economics, this book is dedicated to

Dr. Beatrix Hamburg

Guru Madeleine

Reverend Mattie McRae

Dr. Doris Wethers

# CONTENTS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | 6

## FOREWORD

Darlene Clark Hine, PhD | 7

## INTRODUCTION

Crystal R. Emery | 9

## ANCESTORS

Rebecca Lee Crumpler | 17

Susan McKinney Steward | 19

Emma Reynolds | 21

Georgia E.L. Patton Washington | 23

Ida Gray Nelson Rollins | 25

Matilda Arabella Evans | 27

Georgia Rooks Dwelle | 29

Annie Elizabeth Delany | 31

Ruth Janetta Temple | 33

May Edward Chinn | 35

Geraldine Burton Branch | 37

Myra Adele Logan | 39

Muriel Petioni | 41

Dorothy Lavinia Brown | 43

Jane Cooke Wright | 45

Blanche L. Sellers Lavizzo | 47

## CONTEMPORARIES

M. Natalie Achong | 53

Jay-Sheree Allen | 55

Regina Benjamin | 57

Deborah L. Bernal | 59

Alexa Irene Canady | 61

Kristel Carrington | 63

Donna M. Christensen | 65

Gail C. Christopher | 67

Alice Tolbert Coombs | 69

Lisa Cooper | 71

Denice Cora-Bramble | 73

Takeisha C. Davis | 75

Sharon D. Deans | 77

Deborah Dyett Desir | 79

Roberta Doucet | 81

Louito C. Edje | 83

Wendi El-Amin | 85

Joycelyn Elders | 87

Jennifer Ellis | 89

Travelle Franklin-Ford Ellis | 91

Icilma V. Fergus | 93

Antonia P. Francis | 95

Vikisha Fripp | 97

Sandra L. Gadson | 99

Tyeese Gaines | 101

Marilyn Hughes Gaston | 103

Helene D. Gayle | 105

Melanie Rose Gordon | 107

Carla R. Gunn | 109

Pearl Grimes | 111

Beatrix Hamburg | 113

Margaret A. Hamburg | 115

Dionne A. Hart | 117

Takijah T. Heard | 119

Lynne M. Holden | 121

Linda Holifield-Kennedy | 123

Anita Jackson | 125

Camara P. Jones | 127

Camille Jones | 129

Clara Y. Jones | 131

Edith Irby Jones | 133

Carolyn King | 135

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey | 137

Alicia Lee | 139

Monica Michele Lee-Griffith | 141

Anna Lizama-Clark | 143

Donna-Marie Manasseh | 145

Sharon L. Marable | 147

Lucille N. Martinez | 149

# CONTENTS

Kameron Leigh Matthews | 151  
 Aletha Maybank | 153  
 Jackqueline J. McLean-Markes | 155  
 Donna M. Mendes | 157  
 Juanita L. Merchant | 159  
 Edith Peterson Mitchell | 161  
 Kisha Mitchell-Richards | 163  
 Valerie Montgomery Rice | 165  
 Karen Morris-Priester | 167  
 Jewel Mullen | 169  
 Jocelyn A. Myers | 171  
 Gina Michelle Northington | 173  
 Marcella Nuñez-Smith | 175  
 Sandra R. Nurse | 177  
 Nancy E. Oriol | 179  
 Angela R. Perry | 181  
 Vivian W. Pinn | 183  
 Jeanette M. Pitts | 185  
 Ayanna F. Poindexter | 187  
 Annelle Beneé Primm | 189  
 Deborah Prothrow-Stith | 191  
 Ruth A. Reid-Thornton | 193  
 Esi M. Rhett | 195  
 Carolyn Woodfork Richardson | 197  
 Susan Rogers | 199

Barbara Ross-Lee | 201  
 Brandi J. Rudolph Bolling | 203  
 Natalee S. Sansone | 205  
 Velma P. Scantlebury-White | 207  
 Rosalyn P. Scott | 209  
 Tonya Hawkins Sheppard | 211  
 Jessie L. Sherrod | 213  
 Constance L. Smith-Hicks | 215  
 Ramona Tascoe | 217  
 Claudia L. Thomas | 219  
 Glenna P. Tolbert | 221  
 Shirlee E. Turner | 223  
 Nikki Waddell-Wilson | 225  
 Eleanor M. Walker | 227  
 Doris Louise Wethers | 229  
 Leslie-Ann Williams | 231  
 Rashele Yarborough | 233

## **NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION** | 235

## **OUR FUTURE**

*In order of appearance* | 245  
 Yazmine James  
 Arianna Dunlap

Angel Lajoy Coe Miller  
 Kierra Guest  
 Yazmine James  
 Coletta Morton  
 Kaylah Guest  
 Makieya Randall  
 Kaliyah Tucker  
 Kyana Kelly  
 Deyaneh Greene

## **HONORING A TRAILBLAZER**

Darlene Clark Hine, PhD | 259

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Crystal Renée Emery | 261

## **PHOTO CREDITS** | 262

## **SOURCES** | 263

## **WOMAN OF THE NMA** | 264

## **FUNDERS** | 264

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank God, The Holy Order of Yodh, and Master Teacher, Guru Madeleine. Her teachings have taught me that I am a writer and to never allow my body to define what I am capable of. I was given the vision for this work and, through God's grace, the courage to make it happen. What are the odds that someone considered a quadriplegic, with paralyzed hands and legs, could produce the first book of biographical photo-essays dedicated to the extraordinary efforts of Black women doctors?

I owe a special thanks to Michael Benson and Brooke Dianna Jones, the two photographers on my team whose breathtaking work planted in me the seed that became *Against All Odds: Celebrating Black Women in Medicine*. When we began shooting the documentary *Changing the Face of Medicine*, I asked coproducer Pat Bates, during one of our late-night conversations, "We have all of these beautiful photos of these amazing women — what if we did a coffee table book?" She replied, "You have all of these great interviews too. They should be in the book." Little did I know how much the project would mature in scope and beauty, and evolve to become a book of biographical photo-essays. *Against All Odds: Celebrating Black Women in Medicine* is a perfect marriage of our two visions.

This union would not have been possible without assistance from Cherise Fisher at The Scribe's Window and Christine Marra at *Marrathon* Production Services. Throughout the process Cherise and Christine ensured that we adeptly navigated all of the technical obstacles involved with bringing this idea to print. I thank them both for sharing their industry insights and patience. Eva Weymouth joined us in the eleventh hour as the designer for the cover and layout of the book. This is my fourth project with her, and as always, her artistic choices created a vision for the book that I could not put into words. Thank you, Eva, for making this book so beautiful.

Thank you to Carol Pompano, Lauren Wimbush, Ariel Shearer, Patrick Short, and the many others who assisted at different points in the book process with research, rewrites, and tracking down doctors. I will be very honest here: trying to interact effectively with eighty doctors around the country at once is not a task for the faint of heart.

A special thank you as well to Judy Aley for locating and acquiring all of the archival images used in the book. Thanks also to the Long Wharf Theatre and Dr. "Woody" Forrester A. Lee of Yale University's Medical School for his ongoing support and for providing the doctors' outfits for the photoshoot with the young women at the end of the book. Thank you to Dr. Dorsey Kendrick and Gateway Community College for allowing us to use their nursing suite and for their continuing support of the project. And last but certainly not least, this project would not have been possible without the initial funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President's Grant Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

Humble thanks go to my husband, Michael Kerr, along with Sean Wilson, Allen "CT" Scott, Kim Edwards, my URU staff, and my personal care staff who helped keep me together throughout this process. Also, to my production team: Robert Emery-Thomas, Patrick Lee, Michelle Materre, Ted Maynard, Jason L. Pollard, and Bobby Shepard, without whom I could have never produced the film that ultimately led to this book.

A huge thank you to Darlene Clark Hine for her beautiful foreword and to Drs. Joycelyn Elders, Claudia Thomas, Jennifer Ellis, Velma Scantlebury-White, Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, and Gail Christopher not only for their participation, but also for their emotional support along the way. Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all of the doctors who, by sharing their amazing journeys, made this book possible.

# FOREWORD

*Against All Odds: Celebrating Black Women in Medicine* by Crystal R. Emery is an invaluable celebration of Black women in the medical profession. In providing a broad perspective on the historical and present status of Black women in medicine, the book illuminates future possibilities and opportunities for the next generation. These admirable biographical profiles introduce readers to a richly diverse cadre of Black medical women, many of whom, against all odds, entered the profession in the post–Civil Rights Movement era. Their truly significant record of life-saving accomplishments in medical research and private practice, unwavering public service, and leadership in their communities and various educational institutions will surely inform and educate readers and students who may not be aware of or appreciate the depths and range of their work and legacy.

The women profiled in Emery’s book exemplify the courage, brilliance, and resilience required to transcend intersecting obstacles of race, class, ethnicity, and gender inequity. The book and the film, *Changing the Face of Medicine*, should serve as an essential and powerful introduction to the largely unknown record of Black women’s engagement in medical practice, research, education, and service in America. Future generations of young girls and boys will be inspired to work toward achieving their own careers in medical practice, research, education, and public policy. After all, it is easier to imagine becoming what you can see.

When I accepted Crystal R. Emery’s invitation to facilitate conversations with Black women in the medical profession, I was intrigued and excited about the project. I could not have imagined the immense reward that I would derive from making the journey to a dreadfully cold and snowy New Haven, Connecticut, in early January 2015. Over the course of several days the stories and conversations with some of the most accomplished women physicians in America transfixed me. Their forthright responses to my probing questions about their backgrounds, motivations, and

aspirations; their invariably astute analyses of current and future challenges revolving around the delivery of quality health care to underserved populations; and the reasons for a persistent shortage of women and minorities in the medical profession were illuminating and sobering.

To be sure, the women in the film and those included in the book shared their painful recollections of encounters with teachers and colleagues who refused to call them by their earned titles. They recounted the pain felt when experiencing inequitable denials of promotions and fellowships. They recalled encounters with biased patients who questioned their capacity to give them superior care. Still, I was heartened by their individual and collective brilliance, and resilience, and demonstrable achievements. Every woman interviewed indicates the strength derived from family, friends, and mentors that steeled their resolve to persevere against all odds.

I assure Crystal R. Emery of my immense gratitude for her illustrative work in both film and book that gives us all a broader perspective on the history and a deeper appreciation of the current contributions of Black women in medicine. She inspires us to work and hope for an even more inclusive future.

Darlene Clark Hine

*Northwestern University, 2013 National Humanities Medalist*



# INTRODUCTION

In December of 2010 Dr. Forrester Lee of the Yale School of Medicine invited me and several doctors to meet with Dr. Doris Wethers to discuss her participation in a short video celebrating the school's bicentennial. In 1952 Dr. Wethers became the third Black woman to graduate from the Yale School of Medicine.

Dr. Wethers was a petite, quiet woman who exuded a warm confidence befitting her life of earned accomplishments. The restaurant where we sat was noisy, making conversation difficult. When one doctor seated across the table asked her which of her life achievements and accolades meant the most to her, she responded that it was her sorority's lifetime achievement award. The questioning doctor shook his head and clarified, "No, no, I mean nationally." Dr. Wethers, nonplussed, replied, "My sorority is national," in a well-practiced tone that made it clear that she had not misunderstood the question. I recognized that here was a woman accustomed to needless questioning and correction by her peers.

"You must be an Alpha Kappa Alpha," I said.

She smiled, turned to me, and replied, "How did you know?"

"Well, the first Black woman to do all of the things you've done could only be a part of the first Black women's sorority," I answered, to her amusement. I saw her shoulders relax, and she eased into conversation with me for the rest of the evening. That was the moment our friendship was born.

I asked her why, in the late 1940s, she chose to go to the Yale School of Medicine, and she replied, "When you graduate summa cum laude with degrees in biology and chemistry, where else would you go?" She obviously had not been deterred by the university's history as a citadel for the good ol' boys; instead, she went where she knew she deserved to go. Her story intrigued me, and I wanted to hear

more about her experiences. I knew that there must be more women like her who didn't allow their dreams to be dashed by a society that too often sees little value and pays no interest in what a Black girl can grow up to be.

Three weeks later my crew and I accompanied Dr. Lee and the same group of doctors to Washington, DC, where I was introduced to Dr. Beatrix Hamburg. In 1948 Dr. Hamburg had been the very first African American woman to graduate from the Yale School of Medicine. I was also introduced to her husband, Dr. David Hamburg, and their daughter, Dr. Margaret Hamburg. Dr. Beatrix Hamburg's charm and ease immediately drew me in, and as we spoke, I noticed the tenderness in her interactions with her husband of sixty years. Throughout the lunch they shared private moments, and at the end of the afternoon they helped one another with their coats. He looked around for the hat that she had already picked up to hand to him. He smiled, and she smiled back, and it was clear that these two people were — and probably had always been — on their own team. As an African American woman in love with and loved by a White, Jewish man, Beatrix Hamburg shared with her husband a bond forged by the fire of public and familial scrutiny, one that had endured countless slings and arrows. She had the same quiet confidence I had observed in Dr. Wethers weeks prior — a satisfaction in a life well lived and well earned.

Later that afternoon I was introduced to the incomparable Dr. Jennifer Ellis, a cardiothoracic surgeon — one of very, very few Black women who hold that title. It turns out that she had grown up in Hamden, Connecticut, in the same area where I had grown up. Our fortuitous meeting felt like being reacquainted with an old friend. Dr. Ellis's easy charm and sharp wit were magnetic; there was, again, an easiness about her that very likely had served her well as she navigated the obstacles of becoming one of the few specialized Black women surgeons in America.



On the following day my crew and I left Washington and traveled to Delaware. It was there that I met Dr. Velma Scantlebury-White, the first Black woman transplant surgeon. We spoke, and once again I sensed the now-familiar quiet but solid grace and determined spirit. I was bewildered by the realization that up to this point no one had ever tried to reach out to these amazing women. Every one of them was unique in their own way, and yet the same thread ran through all of their stories. They were connected, one to the other, by a shared determination, resilience, and strength, refusing to allow any other human being to keep them from becoming the person they each wanted to be.

I realized I had to make a film that introduced these extraordinary women and their stories to the world. This, in a nutshell, is how my documentary *Changing the Face of Medicine* began.

Weaving this magical thread that connected the spirits of these women to one another into a cohesive story proved to be easier said than done. Even more difficult was placing them appropriately in the American Quilt. Though the project proceeded in stops and starts, I was nonetheless encouraged by how these doctors overcame what Dr. Thomas LaVeist referred to, during a conversation with me, as the “-ism vortex.” In listening to each doctor speak about her life, I realized they rarely knew if the obstacles they encountered were rooted more heavily in institutionalized racism, sexism, or classism. While striving to finish medical school and residencies, they had little time to consider these kinds of issues; they just knew they had to rise above the ideas and people who stood in the way of their dreams.

All filmmakers lament about how much of their best footage ends up on the cutting-room floor. Throughout the production of *Changing the Face of Medicine* my heart broke each time I had to cut short the amazing work done by my production team. After three years of

shooting interviews and building relationships with doctors across the country, I was bursting at the seams with photos and stories that were delivered with such genuine enthusiasm. Something, I thought, had to be done with all of this energy and material. I realized then that while I was serving the past and current doctors, I had not thought about how these accomplished women’s stories could be utilized to benefit new generations of Black women doctors. It was impossible to include all of this material in a documentary ... but what about a book?

For *Against All Odds*, I decided to broaden my scope beyond the physicians included in the film. My team and I proceeded to reach out to Black women doctors all over the country. The response was almost overwhelming, and after a few short months we had a hundred doctors representing diverse medical specialties who all felt overjoyed to be a part of the project.

As the book took form, I followed this thread of courage and indomitable spirit connecting the contemporary doctors to the past. The beginning pages of the book highlight the untold stories of the Black women who paved the way for our modern doctors. Women like Rebecca Lee Crumpler, who was such a talented medical apprentice that her supervising doctors recommended her to the New England Female Medical College, where she became the first Black woman in America to achieve a degree in medicine. Dr. Crumpler and other women like her were the real pioneers for future generations of Black women in America.

When I look at the evolution of Black women in medicine, one thing stands out: the early doctors’ complexions were invariably light skinned. Many could have passed for White. Access to the medical profession was not only restricted by gender and race but also strongly biased against dark skin color. As I began laying out the

Contemporary section of the book, I saw the same bias, which only began to change during the 1960s. Black women proclaimed, “Say it loud: I’m Black and I’m Proud.” This forward-thinking attitude encouraged a broader representation of Black women to pursue medical careers. Over time a more varied palette of skin tones emerged in medicine and throughout the American professional workforce, reflecting the diversity among Black Americans.

While working tirelessly on both the film and the book, my days were often made brighter by my neighbor’s two daughters. They would peek through my screen door, burst in unannounced, and, in their disruption, leave a trail of unbridled joy and sparkling energy. One day I recognized in these beautiful girls the continuation of the thread connecting all of the doctors in my book. I saw possibility. I saw them as the future. These two girls could grow up to be any one of the women highlighted in *Against All Odds*, but did they know that?

Three weeks later I gathered a group of young women and their parents in the Nursing Suite at Gateway Community College in New Haven, Connecticut. As the girls changed into a “costume” of scrubs and lab coats, a palpable joy filled the room. The children were obviously having fun, and I was thrilled with the photos we were taking. At the end of the shoot one of the parents approached me, and I noticed that there were tears welling up in her eyes that began streaming down her face as she leaned over to embrace me.

“Thank you,” she said, “Thank you so much. You have no idea how much this means for me and my daughter. You have made my daughter’s dream come to life. This picture has made it real for her and me. This picture is something she can work toward achieving.”

I joined this young mother with tears of my own. In that moment I realized the common thread connecting all of these women — past, present, and future — was anchored in the love and support of their champions, the people who believed in them during hard times — the people who helped them regain their footing after moments of self-doubt.

It is my hope that *Against All Odds: Celebrating Black Women in Medicine* can be a path through the woods and a light in the darkness for many. May you, as a reader, find the strength and courage to be whatever your heart desires, and may you leave this world a better place for those who follow you.

*“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Hebrews 11:1

Namaskar,  
Crystal R. Emery



A vintage wooden wheelchair is the central focus, positioned in a park-like setting. The wheelchair has a high wooden backrest, armrests, and large spoked wheels. The background is filled with out-of-focus trees and foliage, creating a bokeh effect. A dark horizontal band across the middle of the image contains the title text.

THE ANCESTORS





# THE ANCESTORS

I believe in the wisdom of the West African term *sankofa*: you must understand the past in order to understand where you are going in the future.

Ancestry has not just a physical but a spiritual component as well. I have often called upon the ancestors for guidance and strength in my work. Originally the film *Changing the Face of Medicine* highlighted the stories of the pioneering Black women who paved the way for others to walk down that road less traveled. Can you imagine what it was like for Rebecca Lee Crumpler to be the only Black woman doctor of her time? She was never allowed to practice in a hospital, never allowed the privileges of her colleagues. Can you imagine what it took to get her book published? Or what it was like for Georgia Rooks Dwelle to establish the first general hospital for Blacks as well as the first obstetrical hospital for Black women in Atlanta, Georgia?

The following selection of profiles represents only a fraction of the Black foremothers of medicine. Let us also be clear here: they are the foremothers of all women in medicine. Gathering information on these amazing women was difficult, as the hostile time period in which they lived and worked has resulted in a lack of documentation. Piecemeal information was gathered through class photos, biased newspaper articles, and other relics of history. The most remarkable characteristic about these women is that in the face of gross prejudice and hostility, without any thoughts of recognition, they worked for the advancement of not only their own people, but all people.

*1918: College of Medical Evangelists (which is now Loma Linda University) class photo, Ruth Temple. If you look closely at the look on her face, the intensity in her eyes, you will see she is saying, "I am here." Her nearly imperceptible smile belies an indomitable confidence.*







# IDA GRAY NELSON ROLLINS

1867 – 1953

Ida Gray Nelson Rollins, the first Black woman dentist, was born in Clarksville, Tennessee. She became an orphan when her mother, Jennie Gray, died in Ida's early teens, and she was then raised by her aunt, Caroline Gray.

During high school Ida worked as a seamstress and a dressmaker as well as an office assistant in a dental office. She graduated from Gaines Public High School in 1887 when she was twenty years old.

Her part-time job in the dental office of William and Jonathan Taft was instrumental in Miss Gray's desire to become a dentist. Jonathan Taft was the dean of the Ohio College of Dentistry and also the cofounder and an early president of the American Dental Association. In 1870 Taft became the first dean of the Dental College at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. During his tenure as dean he was a staunch supporter of admitting women to dental school.

The mentorship Taft provided set the foundation for Ida Gray to become the first Black woman to graduate from a

dental school. Her ability to pass the entrance exam at the University of Michigan was aided by the experience she'd gained working in his dental office. Dr. Gray enrolled in October 1887 and, three years later, became the first Black woman to graduate with a doctorate of dental surgery in the United States.

After graduation Dr. Gray returned to Cincinnati, Ohio, and opened a private dental practice. In 1895 she married Sanford Nelson and moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she again set up a practice serving men and women of all races. She soon became the first Black — male or female — to practice dentistry in Chicago. Dr. Gray took a particular liking to the children she treated in her office and served as a role model for her young patients. Her husband died in 1926, and when she was sixty-two, Dr. Gray married William Rollins. She retired from her dentistry practice in the mid-1930s and was active in a number of women's organizations, including a stint as vice president of the Professional Women's Club of Chicago.



# MAY EDWARD CHINN

1886 – 1980

May Edward Chinn was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Her father, William Lafayette, was the son of a plantation slave, and her mother, Lulu Ann, was the daughter of a slave and a Chickahominy Native American. May's mother worked as a live-in cook for jewelry magnate Charles Tiffany, and saved enough money to send her daughter to the Bordentown Manual and Training Industrial School, a New Jersey boarding school, until May contracted osteomyelitis of the jaw. She remained in New York City after her surgery but couldn't afford to finish high school. Despite her lack of a diploma, Miss Chinn took the entrance examination to Columbia University's Teachers College and passed, matriculating in 1917. She later proceeded to study at Bellevue Medical College, becoming in 1926 the school's first African American woman graduate.

Following her graduation, Dr. Chinn became the first African American woman to intern at Harlem Hospital,

accompanying paramedics on ambulance calls. After being refused practicing privileges at the hospital, she established a private practice, seeing patients in her office and performing procedures in their homes. She later earned a master's degree in public health from Columbia University in 1933. While at Columbia, she worked with Dr. Georgios Papanikolaou, who invented the Pap Smear, still used for early detection of cancer in women.

Dr. Chinn was finally granted admitting privileges from Harlem Hospital in 1940. In 1944 the Strang Cancer Clinic hired her to conduct research, and she remained there for the next twenty-nine years. The Society of Surgical Oncology invited Dr. Chinn to become a member, and in 1975 she established a society to promote African American women's attendance in medical school. Dr. Chinn maintained her private practice until the age of eighty-one.







# MYRA ADELE LOGAN

1908 – 1977

Myra Adele Logan was born in 1908 in Tuskegee, Alabama, the eighth child of Warren and Adella Hunt Logan. She enjoyed a relatively privileged upbringing: her father was a trustee and treasurer of the prestigious Tuskegee Institute, and her mother was a noted activist in health care and the suffrage movement. Myra attended Atlanta University in Georgia, graduating with a BA in 1927 as her class's valedictorian. She went north for graduate studies, earning an MS in psychology from Columbia University in New York. Miss Logan won the first Walter Gray Crump \$10,000 four-year scholarship to New York Medical College. She graduated from medical school in 1933 and interned as well as served her residency at Harlem Hospital in New York.

Remaining at Harlem Hospital, Dr. Logan became an associate surgeon there and was also a visiting surgeon at Sydenham Hospital. In 1943 she became the first woman to perform open-heart surgery, in the ninth operation of its kind anywhere in the world. She also became interested in what were then new antibiotic drugs, researching aureomycin and other drugs and publishing her results in *Archives of Surgery and Journal of American Medical Surgery*.

In the 1960s Dr. Logan began to work on breast cancer, developing a slower X-ray process that could more accurately

detect differences in the density of tissue, thus helping discover tumors in earlier stages. In addition to maintaining a private practice, she was a charter member of one of the nation's first group practices, the Upper Manhattan Medical Group of the Health Insurance Plan. This concept houses physicians of various specialties under one roof and is the norm today.

Dr. Logan found time in her busy schedule to stay committed to social issues. Early in her career she was a member of the New York State Committee on Discrimination. She was also active in Planned Parenthood as well as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). After her retirement in 1970 Dr. Logan served on the New York State Workmen's Compensation Board. Her myriad medical and civic achievements led to her election to the American College of Surgeons; she was its first African American female member.

Dr. Logan married the well-known painter Charles Alston in 1943. The couple had no children, instead devoting their lives to professional pursuits. Dr. Logan died in 1977 of lung cancer at the age of sixty-eight, and her husband died a few months later.



# MURIEL PETIONI

1914 – 2011

From the beginning Muriel Petioni was destined to become a doctor. Born on January 1, 1914, into a family with a formidable medical tradition — nine of her family members are doctors — she spent her early childhood years in Trinidad and Tobago before moving with her family to Harlem, New York, where her father set up a private practice. Miss Petioni graduated with a BS from Howard University in 1934 and graduated from Howard University Medical School three years later.

In 1950 Dr. Petioni returned not only to her profession but also to Harlem and set up a private practice in the very same office her father had used for his practice. She would continue this practice for forty years, tirelessly serving the Harlem community. A medical doctor, educator, and community activist, Dr. Petioni worked diligently to ensure that underserved communities received proper medical attention and equitable access to health care.

Dr. Petioni also served in various schools as a school physician in Harlem. She was founder of the Friends of Harlem Hospital Center, organized in 1987 to raise funds and provide support for the 114-year-old hospital.

Hollywood had the “Rat Pack,” but Harlem had the “Gang of Four” — Basil Paterson, former mayor David Dinkins, Percy Sutton, and Congressman Charlie Rangel. Dr. Petioni was their den mother, doctor, confidant, strategic consultant, and friend. She was considered one of the most powerful women in Harlem, and she used that power to make the world a better place for others.

The advancement of women in medicine was also important to Dr. Petioni. In 1974 she cofounded the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society for Women, a professional association for Black women physicians. Dr. Petioni was instrumental in providing institutional and personal support for women in the medical profession in the greater New York area and throughout the country. She cofounded the National Medical Association Women’s Luncheon and NMA’s Council for Women’s Concerns.

Dr. Petioni was the recipient of numerous awards, honors, and recognitions, too numerous to list. She loved and supported the program Mentoring in Medicine. At the age of ninety-seven, her remarkable energy, passion, and dedication remained undiminished. She encouraged Crystal R. Emery to “Go with the flow and ride with the tide,” complete the film, and create a book titled *Against All Odds*.

In her last days, Dr. Petioni summoned to her bedside many of the colleagues, protégés, and political allies she had amassed during a lifetime as a Harlem physician and community activist. She gave each a set of marching orders: “Make sure the new geriatric center at the hospital has the homey atmosphere we agreed on. ... Have you recruited new volunteers for the Harlem elders program as we discussed? ... The new clinic on 146th Street — let’s make sure it has the equipment it needs.”

Dr. Petioni passed away on December 6, 2011.





# BLANCHE LOUISE SELLERS LAVIZZO

1925 –

Blanche Louise Sellers Lavizzo, a graduate of Spellman College, Meharry Medical College, and University of Washington School of Public Health, was the first Black pediatrician in Seattle, Washington. She arrived in Seattle in 1956, with her husband, Dr. Philip Lavizzo, a general surgeon. They had left medical practices in New Orleans, Louisiana, to pursue a better future in the Pacific Northwest. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 11, 1925, Dr. Lavizzo was a friend and schoolmate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her father was the owner of one of Atlanta's Black funeral homes. She graduated from Spelman College in 1946 and from Meharry Medical College in 1950. In 1975 she received a master's in public health from the University of Washington.

Throughout Dr. Lavizzo's career as a solo practitioner she cared for children in her office and made house calls to them at night. Her presence was always a source of comfort to concerned parents.

In 1970 Dr. Lavizzo became the founding medical director of the Odessa Brown Children's clinic and was a tireless advocate for "quality care with dignity" for low-income children. As one of the early leaders in the community health center movement, she was ahead of most in recognizing the

critical role social factors play in the health and well-being of children and ensuring that patients at the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic had access to a multidisciplinary team of professionals onsite. Known for her caring nature and classy demeanor, "Dr. Blanche" was a pillar in the health care community and beloved by patients, parents, staff, and the community.

A role model and mentor to generations, Dr. Lavizzo exemplified civic and community engagement. She was the president of the Seattle chapter of Links, a member of the board of directors of the Puget Sound Girls Club, and contributed her time to many organizations, including the Seattle Urban League and the United Way. Her commitment to the health and well-being of children, especially Black and low-income children, has been celebrated in many ways, but one of the most enduring is the Dr. Blanche S. Lavizzo Park, featuring a water play area and located close to the clinic she helped establish.

"My mother was my first and best mentor," reflected Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA. "When I was a little girl, she took the time to coach me on what to expect from every situation so that I always felt prepared for whatever the day or life threw at me."



A close-up photograph of a silver stethoscope resting on a light-colored wooden surface. The image is heavily tinted with a blue color. The stethoscope's chest piece is in sharp focus in the foreground, while the tubing and ear pieces are blurred in the background. A black horizontal band is superimposed across the middle of the image, containing the text 'THE CONTEMPORARIES' in white, uppercase, sans-serif font.

THE CONTEMPORARIES





# THE CONTEMPORARIES

Moving beyond the mid-twentieth century, we see the character and complexion of a male-dominated medical profession change. In 1950 only 133 of US medical graduates were Black, or 2.4 percent of all graduates; most were men trained at the historically Black medical schools of Meharry and Howard. But significant changes followed as the Civil Rights Movement broadened to challenge race, gender, and class barriers across US society. In the 1970s many US medical schools committed themselves to affirmative action policies, which opened new doors to students of color. By the 1980s an average of a thousand Black students were entering medical school each year. In the past half-century the percentage of practicing Black physicians increased from 2 percent to an estimated 5 percent of all physicians in 2015. In 1989, for the first time, the number of Black women surpassed enrollment of Black men. Today two out of three Black graduates of US medical schools are women.

With this changing face of medicine, I felt it important to highlight the diversity of women's choices among medical specialties. The majority of earlier Black women physicians pursued careers in primary care, obstetrics, and gynecology. Today, although a tradition of service in primary care continues, Black women have also found success in

specialized medical disciplines, including neurosurgery, orthopedics, and cardiac surgery.

Despite these changes, serious problems remain. The overall number of physicians of color entering medicine is not keeping pace with the dramatic demographic shifts of the US population. For Black women, historic obstacles are being compounded with the current challenges of escalating costs for a medical school education and substantial student and personal debt. They then enter the profession and encounter issues of salary inequity, career-family balance, and the pressures of supporting their extended families.

Even so, I remain optimistic. A new and strong generation of Black women physicians, MDs, and DOs now carries the mantle of leadership and service to our communities. They will endure; they will prevail, for they stand on the shoulders of their foremothers in medicine, who laid the groundwork and cleared the path.

*Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, left, is assisted by her aunt Leanna Alphonse during her swearing-in ceremony in Washington, DC, Monday, January 11, 2010. We have come a long way — and we have a long way to go.*



*I hope I make a  
difference one  
person at a time.  
I also hope that  
I am making a  
difference in my  
community by  
providing a clinic  
where patients  
can come and  
receive health  
care with dignity.*





# REGINA BENJAMIN

In 2009 President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Regina Benjamin eighteenth Surgeon General of the United States. But her journey in public service started long before that.

Growing up in rural Alabama, she learned about community service and personal responsibility from her grandmother, who would leave food outside her house for weary and hungry transients. Lessons passed on by her mother further informed Dr. Benjamin's own life and path in medicine.

At Xavier University she majored in chemistry and joined the pre-med club with her friends. The club decided they would compete to see who could get the most medical school acceptances — Regina Benjamin won. She was to become a member of the second class at Morehouse School of Medicine, receiving her MD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and an MBA from Tulane University in New Orleans. Along the way she never forgot where she came from or the health care issues poor people faced. While studying at Tulane, Dr. Benjamin continued her family tradition of service, founding a rural medical clinic in the small town of Bayou La Batre, Alabama, which she still runs today.

Regarding her inspiration to pursue medicine, Dr. Benjamin explains, “The reason was mainly divine intervention. It

wasn't something I planned, nothing I ever thought about. I had never seen a Black doctor till I went to college, and so it wasn't in my thought process. I just knew I wanted to go to college and I wanted do something — I didn't know what.”

After medical school she went wherever the need took her — to help patients in Honduras, to administer to those in nursing homes throughout Alabama, and always to people at the Bayou La Batre clinic. Soon her achievements were well known.

In 1995 Dr. Benjamin became the first medical doctor under the age of forty — as well as the first Black female physician — to be elected to the American Medical Association's Board of Trustees. In 2002 she again broke new ground when elected president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, thus making her the first Black woman in the country to head a state medical association.

Of that fateful call she received in 2009 from the office of the President of the United States, Dr. Benjamin notes, “[W]hen the President asks you to do something, you do it, and you serve your country. But it also gave me the opportunity to not only treat one patient, but to gain 300 million Americans as my new patients. It was an opportunity to make a difference.”

*When I would want to be selfish or self-absorbed, God takes me to another level and says, “You are not supposed to be about that.*

*It’s not about you. It’s about how you have impacted someone else’s life.”*



# ALICE TOLBERT COOMBS

Compton, California, produces more than entertainers and athletes, including Dr. Alice Tolbert Coombs, a critical-care specialist and anesthesiologist.

Her parents, Roosevelt and Elba Tolbert, made sacrifices to provide their children with faith in God and a good education. Her father worked three jobs while her mother was at home, specializing in perfecting the “holding environment” for her children. Yes, violence, drugs, and gangs were pervasive in the neighborhood, but, more importantly, there were passionate teachers, family members, and friends whose commitment to excellence compelled Dr. Coombs to do the same. She credits her success to these factors.

Dr. Coombs received her medical degree from the UCLA School of Medicine and became a diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners and a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians. In 2010 she became the first Black person to become the president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, publisher of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

She is a member of the American Medical Association’s Commission to Eliminate Healthcare Disparities. She is

former vice chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine’s Patient Care Assessment Committee, a former member of the Massachusetts State Commission to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Healthcare Disparities, and a past chair of the Massachusetts Medical Society’s Committee on Ethnic Diversity. She was also a member of the Massachusetts Special Commission on the Health Care Payment System, established to evaluate the health care payment system and recommend reforms to provide incentives for cost-effective and patient-centered care.

One of her major public health activities for several years has been her annual antismoking program for South Shore youth, “Smoking — Don’t Go There,” an adaptation of a program produced by the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Coombs developed the program in 1999.

She is also a driving force behind the American Medical Association’s Doctors Back to School Program, which brings physicians into elementary, middle, and high schools across the country to encourage young men and women, particularly in minority communities, to pursue health care careers.



*They could  
not stop me.*



# DEBORAH DYETT DESIR

Deborah Dyett Desir was raised in Westchester, New York. She is a graduate of Harvard University and of the Yale University School of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency at Yale–New Haven Hospital and a rheumatology fellowship at the Yale University School of Medicine.

An entrepreneur, Dr. Desir founded the Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, PC, in 1982, with offices now located in Hamden, Branford, and Milford, Connecticut. Its pledge is to bring patients “the highest quality of health care in a warm and caring atmosphere.” She also holds a voluntary appointment, assistant clinical professor of medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine.

When asked whether it was racism or sexism that posed a greater obstacle in her medical career, she replied, “Sometimes it’s difficult to sort this out. For instance, as a medical student during my rotation in cardiothoracic surgery, with the patient’s chest open and everybody scrubbed in, the attending surgeon said to me, ‘I don’t know why you’re here anyway; you should be at home making some man happy.’

“Clearly, this was a sexist comment, and perhaps my being African American emboldened him. But I didn’t spend much time trying to figure this out. Instead, I tend to view this as their problem, not mine, and focused on doing well. It paid off, and they could not stop me from graduating at the top of my class in 1980.”

Dr. Desir is active in several professional and community organizations. She is a member of the board of directors of the American College of Rheumatology and of the New Haven County Medical Association. She is a member of the Ethics and Judicial Affairs Committee of the New Haven County Medical Association, the Theta Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the New Haven Chapter of the Links, the Woodbridge Police Commission, and the New Haven Garden Club.

She is a wife, mother of four, and proud grandmother of one. Although quite busy with her other commitments, Dr. Desir is also a prize-winning gardener and an expert African violet grower.



*I was once told  
by a professor  
(at Vassar)  
that a paper I  
had struggled  
with must  
have been  
plagiarized  
because, “It  
didn’t sound  
like a Negro’s  
writing.”*



# BEATRIX HAMBURG

When New York City resident Beatrix Ann McCleary entered Vassar in 1940, nearly eighty years after the college's founding, she became the first openly acknowledged African American student. Four years later she joined forty-nine other aspiring physicians at the Yale University School of Medicine. What her Yale classmates didn't know, however, was that she was the first African American woman ever to enroll in that program and, ultimately, would become the first of her race to earn a medical degree there in nearly a half-century.

After caring for tuberculosis patients during the pre-antibiotic era, a chest X-ray indicated that she too had contracted the disease. She was isolated in a hospital and told she would never resume her medical studies. But Beatrix Hamburg saw her diagnosis as just another obstacle to overcome. She continued her studies by asking fellow students to sneak in her readings and assignments. She even somehow arranged to take her medical boards from inside the sanatorium.

Eventually she obtained her original X-rays and discovered that what had been diagnosed as a tuberculosis lesion was, in fact, an atypical blood vessel. She eventually was discharged, graduated from Yale in 1948, and went on to enjoy a successful medical career.

Dr. Hamburg spent two years in internship and residency at New Haven Hospital and the Yale Psychiatric Institute, followed by professorships at Stanford, Harvard, and Mount Sinai. Her research and clinical practice in psychiatry focused on adolescent behavioral and psychiatric developmental issues and established scientific underpinnings for innovative, peer-based intervention strategies for youngsters.

After a successful academic career, with leadership roles at Harvard and Mount Sinai child psychiatric institutes, in 1992 Dr. Hamburg was named president of the William T. Grant Foundation, where she guided funding of a large portfolio devoted to promoting "research to improve the lives of young people."

The recipient of numerous professional honors and awards, Dr. Hamburg is currently the DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Scholar at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine and is a fellow of the National Academy of Science. She and her husband, Dr. David Hamburg, former president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, continue their lifelong partnership.

She instilled in their daughter, Dr. Margaret "Peggy" Hamburg, a distinguished physician, the drive to think big, to dream, and to make a difference.



*Let chance  
favor your  
prepared mind,  
and make  
sure that you  
translate your  
ideas and  
opportunities  
into real-world  
action ... even  
when the path  
is hard.*





# MARGARET A. HAMBURG

As the daughter of two brilliant physicians, medicine was part of Margaret A. (Peggy) Hamburg’s DNA. Her mother, Beatrix Hamburg, a graduate of Vassar College, was the first Black woman to earn a degree from the Yale University School of Medicine. Her father, David Hamburg, was president of Carnegie Corporation of New York and had a distinguished career in academic medicine, psychiatric research, public policy, and philanthropy.

Dr. Hamburg earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed her residency at what is now New York Presbyterian Hospital–Weill Cornell Medical Center. She conducted neuroscience research at Rockefeller University in New York and at the National Institute of Mental Health, later focusing on AIDS research as assistant director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

After just a year in the New York City Department of Health, Dr. Hamburg was named its commissioner in 1991. During her six-year tenure there she implemented rigorous public health initiatives to tackle the city’s most pressing crises head-on, improving services for women and children, establishing a needle-exchange program to combat HIV transmission, and instituting the nation’s first public health bioterrorism defense program.

She was appointed the twenty-first commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration in 2009 — the second woman

ever to rise to that position — where she was committed to the fundamental mission of protecting and promoting public health.

When Dr. Hamburg reflects on medical school, she remembers learning many important lessons that go well beyond diagnosing diseases and treating patients. She has found, however, that some of the most important lessons came from the richness and depth of her family history. Her father and mother taught her to value education and family and to fight for social justice.

“Inspired by the example of my grandfather, who attended Meharry Medical College, not being ‘turned around’ is what I’ve tried to do my entire career. That allows you to enthusiastically seize new opportunities, wherever and however you find them. Let chance favor your prepared mind, and make sure that you translate your ideas and opportunities into real-world action ... even when the path is hard.”

Dr. Hamburg is married to Peter Fitzhugh Brown, an artificial intelligence expert, and the couple have two children. Interestingly, she was the first New York City health commissioner to give birth while in office, so her children’s birth certificates bear her name in two places: as their mother and as health commissioner.

*I recognize myself to be part of the larger struggle and I'm trying to make the way easier for other people to come where I am. Those people who have the advantage need to take the advantage.*



# CAMARA P. JONES

When Camara Phyllis Jones’s mother was young, she aspired to be a doctor but was told that “women are not doctors.” Later she — along with her husband, a surgeon — made sure that message was different for her own three daughters by instilling in them the concept that not only was it possible for them to be doctors; it was also important. “We have to surround our children with that same sense of possibility and mission,” she explains.

Dr. Jones received her bachelor’s degree in molecular biology from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and her medical degree from the Stanford University School of Medicine in Stanford, California. An early experience working with a rural community development team in the Philippines directed her toward public health, and she went on to acquire both a master’s in public health and a PhD in epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. She completed residency training in both general preventive medicine and family practice, but her overall focus has been to bring attention to the impact of racism and poverty on the nation’s health and well-being.

Doctor Jones is a medical, social scientist who explores the “forest of racism and disparities” and offers insights into how

they affect us and how we can begin to “heal our psyches” from their effects. And although she was fortunate to come from an advantaged background, with a doctor and an educator as parents as well as educated grandparents, she considers herself more “advantaged” by the Black power struggle.

“To ‘set things right in the garden,’ society must fully address institutionalized racism, even as we also focus on personally mediated and internalized racism,” she notes. “If we at least address institutionalized racism, the other levels of racism may take care of themselves.”

Being a doctor is not just about writing prescriptions or talking to people, she explains. “Something as simple as tenant organizing can be a legitimate medical intervention.” She also believes children are our future, stating, “Those who mentor our children shouldn’t just process these young people; they must care about them and invest in their success.”

In 2010 Dr. Jones was appointed research director on social determinants of health and equity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She also has held teaching positions at Harvard University, Morehouse College, and Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health.



*I actually care.  
I want to have  
a legacy,  
something that  
can continue to  
grow and be  
sustainable.*



# CAMILLE JONES

Camille Jones is a physician/epidemiologist strongly committed to improving Cincinnati citizens' health by increasing opportunities for healthy eating and active living; decreasing the effects of chronic disease, particularly high blood pressure and diabetes; and decreasing exposure to environmental health hazards. Dr. Jones is currently the Cincinnati Health Department's assistant health commissioner for Community Health and Environmental Health Services.

Young Camille began her journey of service early in life alongside her twin sister, Clara, and her older sister, Camara, who are also now doctors. The girls are so close in age and appearance that most people have always assumed they were triplets. Dr. Jones holds her undergraduate degree from Harvard University, an MD from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and a master's in public health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. Her broad range of work experience includes stints with the National Institutes of Health, the Harvard Program for Population Genetics, and the Arkansas Minority Health Commission. She sees the field of public health as a chance to have an impact, to develop something, to build something that wasn't there before.

"We need to find new ways to look at public and environmental health," she explains, citing initiatives like Healthy Home Assessments, which the Cincinnati Health Department offers as a free service to help make homes safer, to provide

information on preventing health and safety hazards, and to address childhood illnesses, injuries, and housing-related hazards. "When we go into homes," Dr. Jones says, "not only do we evaluate concerns raised by the homeowner or tenant; we also look for other hazards that may be present." In doing these assessments the department often finds that for every potentially hazardous health concern it is called to investigate, there is likely at least one additional serious "citable" home hazard about which the homeowner or tenant was unaware or unconcerned.

Dr. Jones is also passionate about the department program Health Impact Assessment (HIA), which evaluates and assesses the predicted impact of pending projects, policies, and programs on the community and its citizens. For example, how might a new transportation initiative, like a road or a highway, affect air quality, noise levels, traffic patterns, and the number of accidents in a neighborhood? How can we mitigate the effect of demolishing a lead-painted bridge on levels of airborne contaminants and chronic diseases like asthma? The HIA process allows vulnerable community members to have a voice and to evaluate new projects, even if they don't have the resources to find answers on their own.

"Being able to identify those potential health concerns and to suggest ways to decrease potential harmful health effects is very exciting and rewarding," Dr. Jones notes.



*Each person  
is a unique  
person who  
has the  
opportunity to  
make changes  
and to make  
differences in  
their life.*





# CLARA Y. JONES

Clara Y. Jones comes from a medical family and felt drawn to medicine at an early age. Her father is a surgeon, her sister Camara and her twin, Camille, are physicians. Direct patient care is critical to her, and in all of her positions she is careful to maintain that responsibility and privilege.

Dr. Jones graduated cum laude from Harvard University, receiving her AB in biology in 1977 and her MD four years later.

She has practiced in a number of different arenas in New York: as faculty for a primary care residency training program, at the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, in a substance abuse residential therapeutic community, and in several neighborhood health centers. Dr. Jones has taught physical diagnosis techniques to medical students and has been a clinical preceptor, or teacher/supervisor, for medical residents. She returned to Boston in 2000 to pursue a master's in public health from the Harvard University School of Public Health and then joined the Tufts School of Medicine as a physician researcher. Most recently she has worked as the medical director for a residential detox program, a lead physician for a Suboxone treatment program operating within a community health center, and as an urgent care physician.

Dr. Jones explained, “The patient interaction skills that I was taught during my training are becoming increasingly rare in modern medical education. In particular, the importance of attentive history taking and physical examination is being de-emphasized, and this has worsened with the shift to electronic medical records. While the electronic medical record has a lot of benefits, it requires sustained focus at the computer screen, with occasional glances at the patient.”

This lack of emphasis on physical exam was highlighted for her during the recent hospitalization of a close family member. An insulin-dependent diabetic, he was being monitored in the ICU after suffering a significant heart attack. While in the ICU he developed a very high fever. Dr. Jones alerted the nurse to the fever, and the nurse contacted the provider covering the ICU that evening.

“Four hours after the fever had first been noted, no one had yet come to examine him,” she continued. “I was pacing in the room, fuming, because I know that the first and possibly most important step in a fever workup is the physical exam. A five-minute physical screening exam and history could potentially point you to the cause of a fever hours before the lab work returns or an X-ray is read. Sometimes that time difference can be life-saving.”

*When it comes  
to people's  
health, I  
believe that  
policy is one  
of the most  
effective ways  
to influence our  
behavior.*



# ALETHA MAYBANK

Aletha Maybank is as much a social activist and public servant as she is a doctor. As a pediatrician board certified in preventive medicine/public health, Dr. Maybank spends most of her time not in a hospital or clinic, but in government at the New York City Health Department. Knowing that all New Yorkers do not have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal health, her work focuses on investing in deprived neighborhoods and making injustice in health visible.

Dr. Maybank holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, an MD from Temple University School of Medicine, and an MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. But during her pediatric residency she realized something was missing. “I felt being in a medical office was going to be the same thing, day in and day out,” she says. “I also didn’t feel that the clinical setting allowed me to have conversations about all that affects a person’s health outside what happens in a doctor’s office, like where somebody lives, where they go to school, how much money they make, what job they have. All of that has way more impact on somebody’s health. And I wanted to have that conversation.” So Dr. Maybank completed another residency in preventive medicine and public health and moved into the government end of health care.

Her influence is far reaching and has included founding the Center of Health Equity in New York City and the Office of Minority Health in Long Island, NY; teaching about public health as an assistant professor at Long Island University’s Brooklyn Campus; and serving on the boards of medical societies such as the Empire State Medical Society, NMA affiliate. She founded Love + Politics, an annual movement that promotes HIV awareness and testing among young New York City professionals, and cofounded the We Are Doc McStuffins campaign, which features mini-profiles of Black female physicians alongside Disney Jr’s Doc McStuffins character, and exposes preschool and elementary school children to younger, browner, female faces of medicine.

In addition to her work in the United States, Dr. Maybank served on two medical mission trips to Haiti in 2010 to assist in the post-earthquake relief efforts. She supplied health care, conducted a public health assessment, and provided recommendations on how to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions in a tent camp containing twenty thousand people. She has also been interviewed and profiled on various television and radio programs, has advised on three health-related film projects, and has been recognized for her work by local organizations, publications, and foundations.



*My passion  
is to educate  
the African-  
American  
community and  
empower  
dialysis patients  
so they can  
have a better  
life through  
the gift of  
transplantation.*



# VELMA P. SCANTLEBURY-WHITE

Velma P. Scantlebury-White's hands, once deemed "too small for a surgeon," have cut and stitched their way through more than two hundred living-donor kidney transplants, four times as many cadaver-donor transplants, and many complicated organ transplants. "Small hands can be better in surgery, especially when you're working on kids," explains the nation's first African American female transplant surgeon, who is now the associate director of the Kidney Transplant Service at Christiana Care Health System in Wilmington, Delaware.

Dr. Scantlebury-White earned her MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed her internship and residency in general surgery at Harlem Hospital Center, both in New York City. She was a clinical fellow in multi-organ transplant surgery at the University of Pittsburgh before becoming an assistant professor and then associate professor there.

Her research interests include outcomes of organ donations and transplants in African American patients, and she received the National Kidney Foundation's Gift of Life Award for her work in transplantation among minorities. With the leading causes of kidney disease in the US African American population being high blood pressure and diabetes, Dr. Scantlebury-White continues to educate the multicultural community regarding healthy lifestyles and regular check-ups. She also promotes the critical need for organ donation in the African American community.

A fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Scantlebury-White is also a member of the American Society of Transplant

Surgeons, the Association of Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation, and the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including Donate Life America and the National Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program.

She takes every opportunity to mentor and speak to students. "Not many women took the challenge of going beyond general surgery into a subspecialty," Dr. Scantlebury-White says, "so when you look at subspecialties in surgery, there are very few women, and there are also very few African American women because that in itself is a challenge — trying to get through the glass ceiling beyond those careers that are viewed as male-dominated fields; certainly subspecialties in surgery are male dominated."

"Don't let the negative perceptions of others become your own perception of who you are," she urges them. And she then tells their parents, "Encourage your youngsters' dreams and aspirations."

Although Dr. Scantlebury-White would like to slow down and spend more time with her husband, Dr. Harvey White, and their two daughters, Akela and Aisha White, "I always said I wouldn't retire until there were at least ten other African American women in transplantation." She is aware of one currently practicing in Houston, Texas, and two medical students currently following in her footsteps. She remains hopeful that many others will choose a rewarding career in transplantation.



*When I learned  
that I was the  
first African  
American female  
orthopedic  
surgeon, I said,  
“well, I will not  
be the last.”*





# CLAUDIA L. THOMAS

Claudia Lynn Thomas has had all the makings of a trailblazer from an early age. Her parents had high expectations of her and her sister. When, in the fourth grade, Claudia proudly brought home a math exam graded 99 percent, her father wanted to know why she hadn't scored 100 percent. From that point forward, she took it upon herself to never disappoint him with lower grades. When open enrollment began in New York City, a pre-teen Claudia took a bus and two trains to attend a school with more resources than her zoned school.

In 1967, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Claudia was accepted to Vassar College and was one of only six Black students in her freshman class. In her sophomore year, as president of the Students' Afro-American Society, she helped lead an unprecedented takeover of Main Building on campus in protest over the administration's lack of support for a Black studies program. The three-day takeover made national news, and ultimately the thirty-four students were victorious. Claudia graduated from Vassar with honors in May 1971.

Admitted to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine immediately following her graduation, Claudia dedicated herself to her studies. She was confident in picking a specialty.

"I went to medical school at Johns Hopkins, and I knew because of my artistic skills that I wanted to be a surgeon.

I had been sewing since I can remember. My mother was a seamstress, and she taught me to sew very well, so I knew I could stitch up a body better than some man who learned it last week. The question was: What type of surgeon? Then I happened to go into an orthopedic lecture as part of my curriculum, and there it was: broken bones, malformed bones, disfigured people — the ability to reshape the human body. And there were my carpentry skills that my father had taught me being put to use and the solid geometry in which I had excelled at school. Here was the art, the God-given talents, and I loved it. This was orthopedic surgery. Once I found out what it was, I decided this was it — this is what I have been looking for."

Upon completing her orthopedic surgery residency at Yale University School of Medicine, Claudia became the nation's first Black female orthopedic surgeon. She entered a field dominated by mostly White, male physicians. She continues her commitment to ensuring that there are more orthopedic surgeons of color, especially women.

Dr. Thomas is a partner in a medical group that has a very proactive program serving Central Florida. Many orthopedic surgeons attribute their success to the drive and support that Dr. Thomas has shown them over the years.





# NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION





*“Is solace  
anywhere more  
comforting than  
in the arms of  
a sister.”*

*Alice Walker*



# NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The National Medical Association (NMA) is the largest and oldest national organization serving Black physicians in the United States. Even with a current membership of fifty thousand physicians, in its early years there was a noticeable lack of female representation among the organization's leadership. That began to shift in the late sixties and seventies. To speed up the process, in 1976 Dr. Muriel Petioni organized a local group of Black women physicians from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

“We did not have a way of communicating to women professionally in an organized way,” Dr. Petioni explained. She began receiving letters from people near and far who were seeking Black woman physicians for job opportunities. So Dr. Petioni and her women's group met with other Black women at the National Medical Association Conference to spread the word. In just a few days the group of Black women swelled from fifty to a hundred participants from across the country. The women were delighted, and they expressed their joy in being able to meet and get to know one another.

The following year Dr. Petioni and Dr. Edith Irby Jones (who would later become the first woman president of the NMA) decided to organize an annual lunch meeting for the group during the NMA Conference, and within three years the meeting was large enough to be listed as an official event at the NMA Conference. The Women's Luncheon was born. After a few years the group petitioned the NMA leadership to recognize this group as a formal component of the NMA. Then, soon to follow, was the Council for Women's Concerns.

Although Black women doctors still face an uphill climb in the workplace, representation and advocacy exist today because of the efforts of women like Dr. Muriel Petioni and her Women's Luncheon. The photos featured in this section were taken in 2011 at the Annual Conference for the National Medical Association in Washington, DC.

*Photo features Dr. Karen Jolynn Streeter, MD, MPH, EMBA, and her mother, Dr. Betti Jo Warren, MD; enthusiastic members of the NMA.*































O U R F U T U R E



*“I can’t  
doesn’t  
live here.”*

*Crystal R. Emery*

**Yazmine James,  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade**





# OUR FUTURE

## **I believe the children are our future.**

But the question is: What will the future be for our children without adequate role models? Historically the mainstream media has depicted Black women as anything other than who the doctors in this book are — successful, intelligent, community-minded professionals. When children see professionals who are like them on television and/or in their communities, they realize that they too can become a doctor, scientist, lawyer, or engineer. Children need to value themselves and see themselves as worthy. In an age of ever-rising and highly visible inequities, we must equip our youth with models of accomplishment so as to break the systemic poverty affecting Black Americans and ensure that our children possess the internal and external resources required to pursue higher education.

Currently approximately one in four persons living in the United States is Black or Latino. By contrast,

Black Americans represent only 4 percent and Latinos 5.5 percent of the physician workforce under the age of forty. By 2050 current population projections forecast a society dominated by people of color, yet projections also expect that only one in ten physicians will represent those communities. Failure to cultivate minority physicians has and will continue to have predictable and measurable consequences for our young people — lack of self-esteem and self-confidence as well as the resulting lack of motivation to seek higher education.

Everyone needs to know that someone in their life believes in them. Everyone needs to know that they are worth believing in. The women in this book are inspiring examples of the possibilities our children can achieve when they have the support of their parents, teachers, peers, and community and, most importantly, when they believe in themselves. The African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” is brilliantly illustrated through the striking images and mesmerizing stories in this book.



*“We make a  
living by what  
we get; but we  
make a life by  
what we give.”*

*Sir Winston Churchill*

**Arianna Dunlap, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**





*“Do little  
things in  
big ways.”*

*Mother Theresa*

**Angel Lajoy Coe Miller,  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade**



*“It is easier to  
build strong  
children than  
to repair  
broken men.”*

*Frederick Douglass*

**Kierra Guest, 4 years old  
Yazmine James, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Coletta Morton, 5 years old  
Kaylah Guest, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**







*“Tragedy doesn’t  
lie in not reaching  
your goal; it lies  
in having no goal  
to reach.”*

*Benjamin E. Mays*

**Makieya Randall, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



*“People don’t  
care how much  
you know, until  
they know how  
much you care.”*

*John C. Maxwell*

**Kierra Guest, 4 years old  
Yazmine James, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Coletta Morton, 5 years old  
Kaylah Guest, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Kaliyah Tucker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**







*“To know that  
even one life has  
breathed easier  
because you have  
lived, is to know  
success.”*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**Makieya Randall, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Kyana Kelly, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**



*“You may not be  
there yet, but  
you are closer  
than you were  
yesterday.”*

*Anonymous*

**Yazmine James, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**





*“An ounce of  
action is worth  
a ton of theory.”*

*Friedrich Engels*

**Deyaneh Greene, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**



*“Put your heart,  
mind, intellect  
and soul even to  
your smallest acts.  
This is the secret  
of success.”*

*Swami Sivananda*

**Coletta Morton, 5 years old**







*“You will face many defeats in your life,  
but never let yourself be defeated.”*

*Maya Angelou*

From left to right:

Yazmine James, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Kierra Guest, 4 years old  
Coletta Morton, 5 years old  
Kaylah Guest, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Kaliyah Tucker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Arianna Dunlap, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Kyana Kelly, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Crystal R. Emery  
Angel Lajoy Coe Miller, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Makieya Randall, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Deyaneh Greene, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



*The importance  
of Black Women  
in Medicine is  
beyond measure.*



# DARLENE CLARK HINE, PhD

## HONORING A TRAILBLAZER

Darlene Clark Hine is a leading historian of the Black experience who not only helped found the field of Black women's history but also has been one of its most prolific scholars. In 2013 Dr. Hine was presented with the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama for her work on understanding the Black historical experience.

After graduating from Chicago's Roosevelt University in 1968, Hine went on to earn her PhD in history from Kent State University in 1975. Following the Kent State massacre of May 1970, Hine found peace in the library and the archive, an affinity that fostered her groundbreaking work in chronicling the contributions of groups and communities that laid the foundation of a Black professional class of nurses, physicians, and lawyers.

Hine has taught at South Carolina State University (1972-1974), Purdue University (1974-1987), and was the John A. Hannah Professor of History at Michigan State University (1987-2004). She has been the Board of Trustees Professor of African American Studies and Professor of History at Northwestern University since 2004. Her first book, *Black Victory: The Rise and Fall of the Texas White Primary* (1979, rev. 2005, University of Missouri Press), focused on Black lawyers and the NAACP's struggle to win the right for Black citizens to vote in Texas's all-White primary elections. During her time at Purdue University, Hine became captivated with the history of Black women in America, thanks, in part, to encouragement from the Indianapolis Chapter of the National

Council of Negro Women. Subsequently her research shifted to the history of Black women. Her second book, *Black Women in White: Racial Conflict and Cooperation in the Nursing Profession, 1890-1950*, was honored by the American Nursing Association.

Hine coauthored *A Shining Thread of Hope: A History of Black Women in America* and the college textbook *The African American Odyssey*, the seventh edition of which will include a robust analysis of the history and contributions of Black women health care professionals. She is co-editor of *Black Europe and the African Diaspora* (2009) and of *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* (2 vols. 1994), which received the American Library Association's Dartmouth Medal.

Hine is past president of the Organization of American Historians and of the Southern Historical Association. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2006) and has held fellowships at the National Humanities Center, the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, at the Radcliffe Institute, and the W.E.B. DuBois Center at Harvard University.

Hine's current historical project concentrates on the lives and careers of two early twentieth-century Black women health care providers in segregated South Carolina, Dr. Matilda A. Evans and nurse-midwife Maude Callen, who believed health care was a right of citizenship as fundamental as education.



*It doesn't matter  
what someone  
else did or  
didn't do, you  
can only be  
responsible for  
what you do.*



# CRYSTAL RENÉE EMERY

Filmmaker/Producer/Director/Writer/Activist

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Crystal Renée Emery is founder and executive director of URU, The Right to Be, Inc., a non-profit media production organization working to promote cultural competency and collaboration among diverse racial, social and economic groups.

Ms. Emery earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut, and was handpicked to be included in a small group of young directors who were given the opportunity to work directly with theater director icon Lloyd Richards (Piano Lesson). She also polished her craft under the tutelage of film industry giant Bill Duke (A Rage in Harlem). She recently received her Master of Arts in Media Studies from the New School for Public Engagement.

Ms. Emery is a passionate producer, writer, director, filmmaker and activist known for award-winning documentary work and far-reaching educational initiatives developed to inspire social impact. Her first feature length documentary, ‘The Deadliest Disease in America,’ addresses racism in healthcare practices and earned Ms. Emery the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust Award in Journalism. Ms. Emery’s upcoming films include ‘Changing the Face of Medicine,’ a celebration of African American female doctors, and ‘Open Season,’ a critical exploration of recent race-based murders of Black men.

Ms. Emery is also a published author, playwright and columnist. She has published two children’s books, *Little Man’s Fourth*

*Grade Journey* and *Little Man Loses His Tooth*, and writes regularly for her column, Crystal Clear, published by the *New Haven Independent*. She is currently completing a new novel, a love story entitled *Without a Trace*.

Other notable works include: ‘This Is Where I Live, Don’t Dump On Me,’ a miniseries designed to inspire environmental responsibility and cultivate problem-solving skills among inner city children; Sankofa Cultural Art Festival, which brought together nationally renowned Native American, Latino and African-American artists from across the United States, and Woman to Woman: Helping Ourselves, a highly successful nationwide series of conferences focused on breast health education targeting under-served women in urban communities. Ms. Emery also works as a Public Engagement and Media Specialist, providing strategic planning for various institutions and community organizations.

When Ms. Emery is not busy in her many and various media roles, she enjoys cooking, spending time with her family and engaging with young people in meaningful conversation about the triumph of the human spirit. She remains undaunted by the many challenges of living with muscular dystrophy, continuing to shape a successful personal and professional life. Ms. Emery attributes her success to continuously searching for truth within and listening to God’s voice.



## ANCESTORS

**Ruth Temple Class**, Loma Linda University, Class of 1918. Photograph courtesy of Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loma Linda University

**Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler**. Photograph courtesy of Crystal R. Emery

**Dr. Susan McKinney Steward**. Photograph courtesy of Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

**Dr. Emma A. Reynolds**. Owner of photograph unknown

**Dr. Georgia E.L. Patton Washington**. Photograph courtesy of Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

**Ida Gray Nelson Rollins, D.D.S.** Photograph courtesy of Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

**Matilda Evans Young**. Photograph courtesy of From A True Likeness, The Black South of Richard Samuel Roberts: 1920-1936. Copyright© The Estate of Richard Samuel Roberts, by permission of Brucoli Clark Layman, Inc.

**Dr. Georgia Rooks Dwell**. Photograph courtesy of Women's Research and Resource Center Spelman College

**Dr. Annie Elizabeth Delaney**. Photograph courtesy of The Prezell R. Robinson Library Archives located on the historic campus of

Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The picture is from the Delany Family collection.

**Dr. Ruth Temple**. Photograph courtesy of Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loma Linda University

**Dr. May Edward Chinn**. Photograph courtesy of Dr. May Chinn Collection/George Davis Archives

**Dr. Geraldine Burton Branch**. Photograph courtesy of New York Medical College Archives

**Dr. Myra Adele Logan**. Photograph courtesy of New York Medical College Archives

**Dr. Muriel Petioni**. Owner of photograph unknown

**Dr. Dorothy Lavinia Brown**. Photograph courtesy of Meharry Medical College Library Archives

**Jane Cooke Wright**. Photograph courtesy of the National Library of Medicine

**Dr. Blanche Sellers Lavizzo**. Photograph courtesy of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey

## THE CONTEMPORARIES

**Dr. Jay-Sheree Allen**, photographed by Emanuel O. Roland II

**Dr. Regina Benjamin**, photographed by AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

**Dr. Alexa Canady**, photographed by J. D. Hayward, J.D. Hayward Photography

**Dr. Kristel Carrington**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

**Dr. Deborah Dyett Desir**, photographed by Patrick Short

**Dr. Icilma Fergus**, photographed by Nina Lubarda Stropnik–Nina Lubarda Model Management.

**Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

**Dr. Melanie Rose Gordon**, photographed by S. A. Gaffney

**Dr. Lynne Holden**, photographed by Michael Benson Photography, www.michaelbensonphotography.com

**Dr. Linda Holifield-Kennedy**, photographed by Picture People, Bowie Town Center, Bowie, MD

**Dr. Camara Jones**, photographed by Michael Benson Photography, www.michaelbensonphotography.com

**Dr. Camille Jones**, photographed by Michael Benson Photography, www.michaelbensonphotography.com

**Dr. Clara Y. Jones**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

**Dr. Edith Irby Jones**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

**Dr. Sharon Marable**, photographed by Leonard Weather Jr., M.D

**Dr. Aletha Maybank**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

**Dr. Donna Mendes**, photographed by Ronald La Motte

**Dr. Kisha Mitchell-Richards**, photographed by Patrick Short

**Dr. Nancy Oriol**, photographed by Heather E. Clark, Harvard Medical School

**Dr. Angela Perry**, photographed by William Bonner

**Dr. Vivian Pinn**, photographed by Lloyd D. Jeremiah

**Dr. Ayanna Poindexter**. Photograph © 2015 Sabrina Thompson, Kuuproductions.com

**Dr. Natalee Sansone**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

**Dr. Claudia Thomas**, photographed by Michael Benson Photography, www.michaelbensonphotography.com

**Dr. Rashele Yarborough**, photographed by Brooke Dianna Jones

## NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

All photographs provided by Brooke Dianna Jones

## OUR FUTURE

All photographs provided by Michael Benson Photography, www.michaelbensonphotography.com

Every effort has been made to secure the proper source and credit for every photograph included in this book.

# SOURCES

## Rebecca Crumpler

Crumpler, Rebecca. *A Book of Medical Discourses*. Boston: Cashman, Keating, 1883. "Rebecca Lee Crumpler." Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rebecca\\_Lee\\_Crumpler&oldid=660531796](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rebecca_Lee_Crumpler&oldid=660531796).

## Susan McKinney Steward

"Susan McKinney Steward." Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Susan\\_McKinney\\_Steward&oldid=663075674](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Susan_McKinney_Steward&oldid=663075674). "Susan M. Steward, Pioneer in Science. African American Registry. [www.aaregistry.org/historic\\_events/view/susan-m-steward-pioneer-medicine](http://www.aaregistry.org/historic_events/view/susan-m-steward-pioneer-medicine). "Steward, Susan Smith McKinney (1847–1918)." BlackPast. [www.blackpast.org/aah/steward-susan-smith-mckinney-1847-1918](http://www.blackpast.org/aah/steward-susan-smith-mckinney-1847-1918). "Steward, Susan McKinney." Encyclopedia.com. [www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3435000182.html](http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3435000182.html).

## Emma Ann Reynolds

"History — Emma Reynolds." The Provident Foundation. [www.providentfoundation.org/index.php/history/history-emma-reynolds](http://www.providentfoundation.org/index.php/history/history-emma-reynolds). "Emma A. Reynolds." Ohio History Connection. [www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Emma\\_A.\\_Reynolds](http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Emma_A._Reynolds). "Emma Ann Reynolds." Congressional Record. Vol. 147, Pt. 3, March 8, 2001–March 26,

2001. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. [https://books.google.com/books?id=fJ9DhiRRtloC&pg=PA4438&lpg=PA4438&dq=Emma+Ann+Reynolds&source=bl&ots=rX5BFaEW\\_y&sig=89fPPR0bJ8xmr6hlq5ThYSzeTxo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=qy8QVfK007SUsQSMhoCACQ&ved=0CEMQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=Emma%20Ann%20Reynolds&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=fJ9DhiRRtloC&pg=PA4438&lpg=PA4438&dq=Emma+Ann+Reynolds&source=bl&ots=rX5BFaEW_y&sig=89fPPR0bJ8xmr6hlq5ThYSzeTxo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=qy8QVfK007SUsQSMhoCACQ&ved=0CEMQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=Emma%20Ann%20Reynolds&f=false). "African American Medical and Dental Pioneers — Part 3." *Northwestern Medicine Magazine*. <http://magazine.nm.org/2015/02/african-american-medical-and-dental-pioneers-part-3>.

## Georgia E. Lee Patton Washington

Rast, Ellen. "Who's Who in Zion: Georgia Patton Washington." *Examiner*. March 21, 2010. [www.examiner.com/article/who-s-who-zion-georgia-patton-washington](http://www.examiner.com/article/who-s-who-zion-georgia-patton-washington). Gillem, Tom. "Black College Fund Continues Work of Freedmen's Aid Society." *Higher Education and Ministry*. [www.gbhem.org/article/black-college-fund-continues-work-freedmen%E2%80%99s-aid-society](http://www.gbhem.org/article/black-college-fund-continues-work-freedmen%E2%80%99s-aid-society).

## Ida Gray Nelson Rollins

"Gray (Nelson Rollins), Ida, 1867–1953." Encyclopedia.com. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-2874300038.html>.

## Matilda A. Evans

"Evans, Matilda A. (1872–1934)." BlackPast. [www.blackpast.org/aah/evans-matilda-1872-1935](http://www.blackpast.org/aah/evans-matilda-1872-1935). "Matilda Evans." Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Matilda\\_Evans&oldid=620135381](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Matilda_Evans&oldid=620135381).

## Georgia Rooks Dwelle

"Dr. Georgia Rooks Dwelle." Changing the Face of Medicine. [www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography\\_91.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_91.html).

## A. Elizabeth Delany

Henneberger, Melinda. "Secrets of Long Life From 2 Who Ought to Know; In Their Book, Westchester Sisters Share Lessons From More Than a Century of Living." *New York Times*. September 23, 1993. [www.nytimes.com/1993/09/23/nyregion/secrets-long-life-2-who-ought-know-their-book-westchester-sisters-share-lessons.html](http://www.nytimes.com/1993/09/23/nyregion/secrets-long-life-2-who-ought-know-their-book-westchester-sisters-share-lessons.html). "Annie Elizabeth Delany." Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie\\_Elizabeth\\_Delany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Elizabeth_Delany).

## Ruth Janetta Temple

Darlene Clark Hine, Elsa Barkley Brown, Rosalyn Terborg-Penn. "Ruth Janetta Temple." In *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, vol. 2, 1156–1157. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

## May Edward Chinn

"May Edward Chinn." tumblr.com. <https://www.tumblr.com/search/may%20edward%20chinn>. "May Edward Chinn." Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May\\_Edward\\_Chinn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_Edward_Chinn).

## Geraldine Burton Branch

"Geraldine Burton Branch, M.D." '36." Alumni & Development. New York Medical College. [www.nymc.edu/AlumniAndDevelopment/AlumniRelations/AlumniProfiles/GeraldineBBranch.html](http://www.nymc.edu/AlumniAndDevelopment/AlumniRelations/AlumniProfiles/GeraldineBBranch.html).

## Myra Adele Logan

"Myra Adele Logan." OMH. <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/content.aspx?ID=4033>. Vivian Sheldon Epstein. *History of Women in Science for Young People*. Denver, CO: VSE Publisher, 1994.

## Muriel Petioni

"Muriel Petioni, 97, Prominent Harlem Physician, Dies." *New York Times*, n.d. Web. "Dr. Muriel Petioni." The History Makers, n.d. Web.

## Dorothy Lavinia Brown

"Surgical Pioneer, Dorothy L. Brown." African American Registry. [http://www.aaregistry.org/historic\\_events/view/surgical-pioneer-dorothy-l-brown](http://www.aaregistry.org/historic_events/view/surgical-pioneer-dorothy-l-brown)

"Dorothy Lavinia Brown." Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy\\_Lavinia\\_Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Lavinia_Brown).

## Jane Cooke Wright

"Changing the Face of Medicine | Dr. Jane Cooke Wright." *U.S. National Library of Medicine*. U.S. National Library of Medicine, n.d. Web. 20 Aug. 2015. "About Jane Cooke Wright." *Scientific Achievement Awards and Lecturships*. American Association for Cancer Research, n.d. Web. 20 Aug. 2015. "ASCO Cofounder Jane Cooke Wright, MD, Defied Racial/Gender Barriers and Helped Usher in the Modern Age of Chemotherapy." The ASCO Post, n.d. Web. 20 Aug. 2015

## Blanche Sellers Lavizzo

"Lavizzo, Dr. Blanche Sellers (1925–1984)." HistoryLink. [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=5651](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=5651).

## Doris L. Wethers

Smith, Jessie Carney, ed. "Doris L. Wethers." In *Notable Black American Women*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1992.



# WOMEN OF THE NMA

These photos were taken in Washington, DC, at the NMA Annual Conference, July 2011. We have tried, to the best of our abilities, to locate each woman in the photos on pages 238–243 in order to acquire their names. We apologize for any oversight.

(let to right)

## **Page 238**

Deborah L. Bernal  
Trudy Hall  
Claudia L. Thomas  
Janice Hull  
Natalie Lee  
Ann Stavern  
Joan Coker  
Willarda Edwards  
Marilyn Hughes  
Ana Lizama-Clark

## **Page 239**

Tasmia Heney  
Aimee Schikendanz Browne  
Traci Burgess  
Khadijah Lang  
JoAnna Matory  
Kimberly Wright  
Robin Corbett  
Sharon L. Marable  
Brenda Aiken  
Lashondra Washington Gadson  
Melonie Brown

## **Page 240**

Elizabeth Patterson  
Na Notchka Chumley  
Carolyn King  
June Coleman  
Deborah Griffith  
Michelle Alexander  
Loretta Easton  
Edith Cheek  
Wendi El-Amin  
M. Kathryn Garrett

## **Page 241**

Helen Davis  
Millicent Collins  
Michael Young  
Lloyda Broomes  
Pamela Merritt

## **Page 242**

Nisha Botchweir  
Bonita Coe  
Eleanor Walker  
Carole Brown

## **Page 243**

Jaqueline H. Williams

# FUNDERS

This book of biographical photo-essays could not have been possible without the heartfelt support and generous contributions of the following doctors:

Joycelyn Elders  
Jennifer Ellis  
Camille Jones  
Barbara Ross-Lee  
Velma Scantlebury-White  
Jessie L. Sherrod  
Claudia Thomas  
Eleanor Walker

And a wonderful Boston-area doctor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

URU Board President, Allen Scott