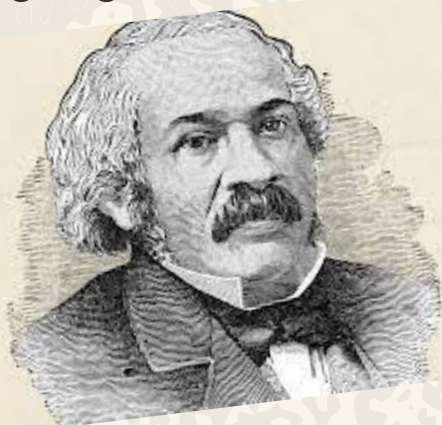


BLACK HISTORY

MONTH IN MEDICINE

Black History Month offers a chance to showcase and highlight the work of Black Medics throughout history.



1813-1865 JAMES MCCUNE SMITH

James McCune Smith was the first Black man to receive a medical degree. Racist policies prohibited him from receiving one in the U.S., so he went to Scotland to study at the University of Glasgow. He also published groundbreaking articles on abolition and women's rights.

1825-189 ALEXANDER THOMAS AUGUSTA

Alexander Thomas Augusta was the first Black man to serve as a US Army physician, a US professor of medicine, a hospital administrator, member of the faculty of Howard University, and faculty of a US medical college.



1856-1931 DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS

Daniel Hale Williams was the first person to operate successfully on the human heart, at the hospital he founded, which was the first hospital and training school for Black nurses and interns in the US.

1866-1953 IDA GRAY NELSON ROLLINGS

Ida Nelson Gray was the first Black female dentist in the US. An orphan, she worked in a dental office part-time, which inspired her to join the profession. She became the first Black person to practice dentistry in Chicago.



1872-1953 SOLOMON FULLER

Solomon Fuller was the first Black psychiatrist to be recognized by the American Psychiatric Association. He pioneered Alzheimer's research during his career and advanced the study of other neurodegenerative diseases.



1845-1926 MARY ELIZA MAHONEY

Mary Eliza Mahoney was the first Black woman to work as a professionally trained nurse in the U.S. She co-founded the National Association of Coloured Graduate Nurses in 1908, which worked to uplift the everyday lives of Black nurses.

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1891-1952 LOUIS T. WRIGHT

Louis T. Wright was an American surgeon, inventor, and civil rights activist. He joined the Army Medical Corps as a lieutenant during WWI, where he introduced the intradermal vaccination technique for smallpox.



1892-1984 RUTH JANETTA TEMPLE

"I thought that women were nurses. When I learned that women were doctors, I said 'Ah, that's what I want to be.'" In 1918, Ruth Janetta Temple opened a clinic for marginalized patients, which became a model for community-based clinics across the country.

1883-1959 WILLIAM AUGUSTUS HINTON

William Augustus Hinton was the first Black professor at Harvard. He developed a test for syphilis that was incredibly accurate and significantly less painful than prior tests, and was adopted for use by the U.S. Public Health Service.



1858-1912 ROBERT F. BOYD

Robert F. Boyd was a co-founder and the first president of the National Medical Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization representing Black physicians and health care professionals.



1908-1997 MYRA ADELE LOGAN

Myra Adele Logan was the first woman to perform open-heart surgery in 1943. She also developed a slower X-ray process that more accurately detected differences in tissue density, an indication of tumors.



1937-2010 JOHNNIE LACY

Johnnie Lacey came a disability activist after she was denied a degree in speech therapy explicitly for being a Black woman with a disability. She led the Independent Living Movement and founded the first Centre for Independent Living



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1917-1983 MAMIE PHIPPS CLARK



Mamie Phipps Clark developed a study utilizing dolls to allow children to verbalize self-identification. This research helped prove that segregation caused psychological harm, and both the study and her results were utilized in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

1904-1950 CHARLES RICHARD DREW

Charles Richard Drew was a prominent researcher of blood transfusions and helped develop large-scale blood banks that were deployed in WWII. He is also known for opposing racial segregation in blood donation, stating that it had no basis in scientific fact.



1942-2019 PATRICIA BATH

Patricia Bath was an ophthalmologist who dedicated her life to addressing preventable blindness in marginalized communities. She was the first Black female doctor to receive a medical patent for her invention of a laser cataract treatment.



1950-PRESENT ALEXA CANADY

Alexa Canady is the first Black female neurosurgeon. She specializes in paediatric surgery, and has a great regard for patient care: "...it is so important that patients are able to talk to you and not regard you as some deity above them."

