

Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter:

Celebrating Diversity

Happy Women's History Month!

In 2019, for the first time ever, the majority of medical students were women. It's mind blowing to think that in the history of advanced medical education it has taken us over 100 years (since the landmark Flexner report of 1910) to reach equality between genders in medical education (gender in the context of traditional social construct). Oftentimes we Millennials take for granted the advances of the women's suffrage and civil rights movements. Because of these movements women were able to carve out a space in science and medicine and help shape the trajectory and advancement of the field. During the month of March women were celebrated. Below I have included a few little-known history facts related to women in medicine.

Gertrude Elion (1918-1999) As an American biochemist and pharmacologist, Elion shared the 1988 Nobel Prize for the development of drugs used to treat several major diseases. After retirement, she oversaw the development of azidothymidine (AZT), an AIDS treatment that prevents pregnant mothers from spreading it to their fetuses. Elion was also responsible for the first immunosuppressive drug used for organ transplants, as well as the first antiviral drug to treat viral Herpes infections. <https://healthc2u.com/influential-women-medicine/>

Dr. Eliza Lo Chin (born 1967) A general internist with an interest in women's health, Eliza Lo Chin, M.D., has drawn inspiration from her female colleagues who strive to combine family responsibilities with a career in medicine. She has collected their experiences in her book, *This Side of Doctoring: Reflections from Women in Medicine*, published in 2002. For her continuing work on women's issues in medicine, Dr. Chin was nominated for the New York branch of the American Medical Women's Association's Outstanding Woman Physician Award for the year 2000.

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/riseservelead/collection-detail.html?imgid=86&imgName=060_01-md

Next month we celebrate World Health Day (April 7), National Minority Cancer Awareness Month, and National Autism Awareness Month.

- Nicolette and Leticia

Diversity and Inclusion co-chairs