On the WEB
www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine

The exhibitions Web site features biographies of more than 300 women physicians who have practiced medicine in the last 150 years. Visitors can browse through hundreds of photographs, search the physician databases, watch a series of short films, and review resources for placing a career in medicine. Visitors are invited to add their own stories about inspiring women physicians at www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/theayescorridor.

Local Legends WEB SITE
www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends

Across America, women physicians demonstrate commitment and creativity in their chosen specialties. To recognize them, members of the United States Congress have nominated outstanding physicians from their home states or districts. These Local Legends have made exceptional contributions to the profession and the public in one or more categories: public health and/or military service, health policy making, research and education, and patient care.

The Traveling EXHIBITION

Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians was developed by the Exhibitions Program of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition is based upon a major exhibition displayed at the National Library of Medicine in 2005-2009.

This traveling exhibition has been made possible by the National Library of Medicine, dedicated to making the most accurate and up-to-date health information freely available to all and the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health, dedicated to promoting, stimulating, and supporting efforts to improve the health of women. The American Medical Women’s Association provided additional support.
Women have always been healers, yet when medicine became established as a formal profession in Europe and America, women were shut out. They waged a long battle to gain access to medical education and hospital training. Since then, women have overcome prejudices and discrimination to succeed in every area of the profession.

**Changing the Face of Medicine**

Introduces some of the many extraordinary women who have studied and practiced medicine. We invite you to celebrate them all.

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**Confronting Prejudice**

The first women of color to gain access to medical schools faced financial hardship, discrimination against women, and racism. For generations, their families had been enslaved or oppressed. They had been denied both the means of making a living and access to decent medical care. Once they became doctors, women of color often played an important role in bringing better standards of care to their own communities. They served as role models for all women.

**Achieving Breakthroughs**

Trying to build successful careers in a sometimes-hostile climate, women physicians created their own opportunities by founding new specialties and by building expertise in understudied areas. At the first to address some of these needs, women often led the way in developing new public health strategies and improving health care for the poor and the underserved. In medical practice and scientific research, they have made breakthrough discoveries that have benefited patients and communities in America and around the world.

**Leading Change**

Bringing fresh perspectives to the profession, women are changing the way medicine is taught and practiced. They are developing innovative educational programs to attract students from many different backgrounds to all medical specialties. As role models and mentors, women physicians are helping young students build successful and rewarding careers. As advocates, they are transforming the lives of doctors and patients.

**Inspiring Others**

In recent decades, women physicians have risen to the top ranks of the institutions that lead scientific research and define standards of medical practice. Serving in influential and high-profile positions, they direct and fund patient studies, develop public health policies, and draft legislation to meet emerging medical challenges. Working at home and abroad, these women are improving health care provision to extend the benefits worldwide.

**Transforming Our World**

Whether they are working in rural practices or at the highest levels of government, women physicians are introducing new ways to promote health and wellness, balance family life and other interests with a career in medicine, and improve the way that medicine is taught and practiced. Their influence reaches across the profession and out into our lives, helping to redefine women’s roles and society’s responsibilities. By changing the face of medicine, women physicians are changing our world.

Health care professionals treat individual patients, communities, and whole populations. They solve medical problems and look for new answers that benefit us all. Can you see yourself in such a role?