

“Changing the Face of Medicine” Exhibit Summary

“Changing the Face of Medicine” features stories from a rich diversity of women physicians from around the nation and highlights the broad range of medicine that women have practiced. Women physicians are found in every branch of medicine. They are family practitioners, researchers on the cutting edge of new medical discoveries, educators, surgeons, medical school directors and government officials.

Women physicians of today are benefiting from the career paths carved out since the mid-19th century by a long line of American women doctors. Early women physicians featured in the exhibition include Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to earn an M.D. degree in America, and Matilda Evans, who was the first African American physician to be licensed in South Carolina.

Two interactive kiosks traveling with the exhibition offer access to the National Library of Medicine’s “Local Legends” web site (www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends), which spotlights outstanding women physicians from every state, and to the web site created for the larger exhibition at the NLM (www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine). The exhibition web site offers access to educational and professional resources for those considering medicine as a career, as well as lesson plans for classroom activities. A section of the web site called “Share Your Story,” allows the public to add stories about women physicians they know.

“Changing the Face of Medicine” was developed by the Exhibition 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 made possible by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health. The American Medical Women’s Association provided additional support.