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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**Press Release**

December 21, 2006



Dr. Mary Edwards Walker  
Civil War Surgeon

### **Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians January 5-February 16 at the Main Library**

Women physicians—the challenges they have faced to practice medicine and the impact they have had on the profession—are the focus of **Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians**. The traveling exhibition is co-sponsored by the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County and the University of Cincinnati's Academic Health Center Information Technology & Libraries (AIT&L) and University Libraries. It will be on display January 5-February 16, 2007 at the Main Library, 800 Vine Street.

**Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians**, tells the extraordinary stories of American women who wanted to practice medicine and the struggles they often faced to gain

access to medical education and to practice in the specialties they chose. It features five physicians with ties to Cincinnati:

- o **Elizabeth Blackwell**, who at age 11 settled near Cincinnati from England, was the first woman to receive an M.D. from an American medical school in 1849.
- o **Emily Blackwell**, with her sister, Elizabeth, and fellow physician Marie Zakrzewska, founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, the first hospital run by women and the first in the U.S. dedicated to serving women and children.
- o **Marilyn Hughes Gaston**, graduate of U.C.'s College of Medicine, was the first African-American woman to direct a public health service bureau and a pioneer in the study and treatment of sickle-cell disease.
- o **Jane Henney**, Senior Vice President and Provost for Health Affairs at the University of Cincinnati, was the first woman to be named commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- o **Clarice Reid**, graduate of UC's College of Medicine, from 1962 to 1968 was the only African-American pediatrician in private practice in Cincinnati.

Since the mid-1800s when Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn an M.D. from an American medical school, women have made enormous strides in every area of medicine and have achieved great success in work once considered “unsuitable” for women. Women physicians are now found in every branch of medicine. They are researchers on the cutting edge of new medical discoveries, educators, surgeons, family practitioners, specialists, and government officials. “Changing the Face of Medicine” features the life stories of a rich diversity of women physicians from around the nation and highlights the broad range of specialties women are involved in today. The exhibit contains messages of hope, inspiration, and perseverance.

Women physicians today are benefiting from the career paths carved out by a long line of American women beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Some early physicians featured in the exhibition are Matilda Evans, the first African-American physician to be licensed in South Carolina, and Ann Preston, the first woman dean of the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania. Among the many other doctors whose stories appear in the exhibition are Antonia Novello, the first woman Surgeon General of the United States, and Catherine DeAngelis, the first woman to be appointed editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The display was organized by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the American Library Association with support from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health, and the American Medical Women’s Association. It can be viewed online at [www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine).

The Web site contains the inspirational profiles of over 300 women physicians, a section called “Share Your Story” that allows the public to add the names and biographies of women physicians they know, as well as lesson plans for classroom activities and educational and professional resources for anyone considering medicine as a career. In addition, another Web site accompanying the exhibition ([www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends)) features outstanding women physicians from every state.

Two programs will be presented in conjunction with the display:

- o Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 3:00-4:30 p.m.: *Women Physicians Sharing Their Stories: What It Is Like to Study and Practice Medicine* Panel Discussion and Q&A

The Vontz Center for Molecular Studies  
Rieveschl Auditorium  
3235 Eden Avenue  
University of Cincinnati

Women physicians will discuss topics related to their experiences practicing medicine such as their reasons and inspirations for choosing medicine as a career, the challenges they face balancing family and career, how the role of women physicians has changed, and the future of women in medicine. After the discussion, panelists will take questions from the audience.

- o Tuesday, February 6, 2007, 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. (two performances): *A Woman Alone: A One-Woman Play* written by Lynn Eckhert, MD and performed by Linda Gray Kelley

Main Library  
800 Vine Street  
Atrium

Ms. Kelley will give a dramatic performance about the life of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in America to receive a M.D. degree.

Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Melissa Cox Norris at (513) 556-1558 or [melissa.norris@uc.edu](mailto:melissa.norris@uc.edu).

**EXHIBIT HOURS**

Sunday        1-5 p.m.  
Mon-Wed     9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Thurs-Sat    9 a.m-6 p.m.

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**