

african american doctors in history

African American Doctors in History: A Comprehensive Guide

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Summary: This guide explores the remarkable history of African American doctors, highlighting their significant contributions to medicine despite facing systemic racism and discrimination. It examines the challenges they overcame, their innovative practices, and their enduring legacy, offering valuable insights into the historical context of healthcare in America and the ongoing fight for health equity. The guide also discusses best practices for researching and interpreting this complex history, while cautioning against common pitfalls.

Introduction: A Legacy of Resilience: Exploring the History of African American Doctors

The history of African American doctors is a powerful testament to resilience, determination, and unwavering dedication to healing. This guide offers a comprehensive overview of their journey, from the earliest practitioners to the prominent figures shaping modern medicine. Understanding this history is crucial not only for acknowledging past injustices but also for addressing persistent health disparities within the African American community today. The experiences of African American doctors in history serve as a stark reminder of the profound impact of systemic racism on healthcare access and quality.

H2: Early Pioneers and the Fight for Access (Pre-1900s)

The path to becoming a doctor for African Americans was fraught with obstacles. Formal medical education was largely inaccessible due to racial segregation. Many early African American doctors trained through apprenticeships, facing immense prejudice and limited resources. Despite these challenges, figures like Dr. James McCune Smith, the first African American to earn a medical

degree from a European university (University of Glasgow, 1837), paved the way for future generations. Others like Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first African American woman to earn a medical degree in the United States (1864), defied societal norms and dedicated their lives to serving their communities.

H2: The Rise of Black Medical Institutions and the Impact of Segregation (1900s-1960s)

The Jim Crow era saw the establishment of historically Black medical schools and hospitals, crucial for training and employing Black physicians who were often excluded from mainstream institutions. These institutions, like Meharry Medical College, played a vital role in providing medical education and care to African American communities while simultaneously pushing back against the systemic racism embedded within the broader healthcare system. The segregation era presented profound challenges, limiting access to resources and creating unequal standards of care. Nevertheless, African American doctors persevered, establishing themselves as vital healthcare providers within their communities.

H2: The Civil Rights Movement and Beyond (1960s-Present)

The Civil Rights Movement spurred significant changes in access to medical education and healthcare. While segregation was officially dismantled, the legacy of racism continues to affect healthcare access and outcomes for African Americans. The fight for health equity remains a central theme in the story of African American doctors, who continue to advocate for policy changes and improved access to care for underserved populations. This era also witnessed the rise of prominent African American figures in medicine who made significant contributions to research, clinical practice, and public health.

H2: Best Practices in Researching African American Doctors in History

Prioritize primary sources: Letters, diaries, medical journals, and hospital records offer valuable insights into the lives and experiences of African American doctors.

Consult diverse sources: Utilize both academic scholarship and community archives to gain a well-rounded perspective.

Center the lived experiences of African American doctors: Avoid narratives that erase their agency and contributions.

Acknowledge the limitations of the historical record: The historical record may be incomplete or biased, requiring careful interpretation.

Collaborate with experts: Seek guidance from historians, medical professionals, and community members with relevant expertise.

H2: Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Ignoring systemic racism: Failing to acknowledge the pervasive impact of racism on the lives and careers of African American doctors.

Focusing solely on individual achievements: Overlooking the broader context of systemic oppression and inequality.

Essentializing the experience of African American doctors: Assuming homogeneity among a diverse group of individuals.

Minimizing the ongoing challenges: Failing to recognize that racism continues to significantly impact healthcare in the United States.

Ignoring intersectionality: Failing to consider how other social identities, such as gender and class, intersect with race and shape individual experiences.

Conclusion

The history of African American doctors is a powerful narrative of perseverance, innovation, and a profound commitment to healing in the face of immense adversity. Their contributions have been invaluable, shaping modern medicine and illuminating the persistent need for health equity.

Understanding this history is essential for fostering a more just and equitable healthcare system for all.

FAQs

1. What were the major obstacles faced by African American doctors throughout history? Major obstacles included segregation, discrimination in medical schools, limited access to resources, and pervasive racism within the healthcare system.
2. Who were some of the most influential African American doctors in history? Dr. James McCune Smith, Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, and Dr. Daniel Hale Williams are just a few examples.
3. What role did historically Black medical schools play? They provided crucial training and employment opportunities for African American physicians who were often excluded from mainstream institutions.
4. How did the Civil Rights Movement impact the lives of African American doctors? It led to increased access to education and opportunities, but systemic racism continues to impact healthcare.
5. What are the ongoing challenges faced by African American doctors today? Disparities in healthcare access, treatment, and outcomes persist, highlighting the need for continued advocacy.
6. How can we ensure a more accurate and inclusive representation of African American doctors in history? By prioritizing primary sources, consulting diverse archives, and centering the lived experiences of Black physicians.
7. What are some important resources for researching the history of African American doctors? The National Library of Medicine, university archives, and the National Medical Association archives are valuable resources.
8. What is the significance of studying the history of African American doctors? It allows us to understand the impact of racism on healthcare, learn from past struggles, and work towards health equity.

9. How can I contribute to a more equitable healthcare system? Support organizations working towards health equity, advocate for policy changes, and promote inclusive representation in medicine.

Related Articles:

1. "The Untold Story of Meharry Medical College": Explores the history and impact of this historically Black medical school.
2. "Dr. Charles Richard Drew: A Legacy of Blood and Innovation": Focuses on the life and contributions of the renowned surgeon and medical researcher.
3. "Rebecca Lee Crumpler: Pioneer of Black Women in Medicine": Details the life and achievements of the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the US.
4. "The Fight for Health Equity: African American Physicians and the Civil Rights Movement": Examines the role of Black doctors in the Civil Rights struggle.
5. "Overcoming Barriers: The Experiences of African American Women Physicians": Focuses on the unique challenges faced by Black women in medicine.
6. "The History of African American Medical Journals": Explores the role of these publications in disseminating knowledge and fostering community.
7. "The Tuskegee Syphilis Study: A Dark Chapter in American Medicine and Its Impact on Black Communities": Addresses the unethical study and its long-lasting effects on trust in the medical system.
8. "Modern-Day Challenges: Addressing Healthcare Disparities Faced by African Americans": Discusses contemporary issues and ongoing efforts to promote health equity.
9. "African American Doctors in Rural Communities: A History of Service and Resilience": Explores the contributions of Black physicians in underserved rural areas.

african american doctors in history: African American Doctors of World War I W.

Douglas Fisher, Joann H. Buckley, 2015-12-17 In World War I, 104 African American doctors joined the United States Army to care for the 40,000 men of the 92nd and 93rd Divisions, the Army's only black combat units. The infantry regiments of the 93rd arrived first and were turned over to the French to fill gaps in their decimated lines. The 92nd Division came later and fought alongside other American units. Some of those doctors rose to prominence; others died young or later succumbed to the economic and social challenges of the times. Beginning with their assignment to the Medical Officers Training Camp (Colored)--the only one in U.S. history--this book covers the early years, education and war experiences of these physicians, as well as their careers in the black communities of early 20th century America.

african american doctors in history: Medical Apartheid Harriet A. Washington, 2008-01-08
NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • The first full history of Black America's shocking mistreatment as unwilling and unwitting experimental subjects at the hands of the medical establishment. No one concerned with issues of public health and racial justice can afford not to read this masterful book. [Washington] has unearthed a shocking amount of information and shaped it into a riveting, carefully documented book. —New York Times From the era of slavery to the present day, starting with the earliest encounters between Black Americans and Western medical researchers and the racist pseudoscience that resulted, *Medical Apartheid* details the ways both slaves and freedmen were used in hospitals for experiments conducted without their knowledge—a tradition that continues today within some black populations. It reveals how Blacks have historically been prey to grave-robbing as well as unauthorized autopsies and dissections. Moving into the twentieth century, it shows how the pseudoscience of eugenics and social Darwinism was used to justify experimental exploitation and shoddy medical treatment of Blacks. Shocking new details about the government's notorious Tuskegee experiment are revealed, as are similar, less-well-known medical atrocities conducted by the government, the armed forces, prisons, and private institutions. The product of years of prodigious research into medical journals and experimental reports long undisturbed, *Medical Apartheid* reveals the hidden underbelly of scientific research and makes possible, for the first time, an understanding of the roots of the African American health deficit. At last, it provides the fullest possible context for comprehending the behavioral fallout that has caused Black Americans to view researchers—and indeed the whole medical establishment—with such deep distrust.

african american doctors in history: Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South Thomas J. Ward, 2010-02-01 Drawing on a variety of sources from oral histories to the records of professional organizations, Thomas J. Ward, Jr. examines the development of the African American medical profession in the South. Illuminating the contradictions of race and class, this research provides valuable new insight into class divisions within African American communities in the era of segregation.

african american doctors in history: A Book of Medical Discourses: in Two Parts Rebecca Lee Crumpler, 2023-12-18 Reprint of the original, first published in 1883.

african american doctors in history: An American Health Dilemma W. Michael Byrd, Linda A. Clayton, 2012-10-02 At times mirroring and at times shockingly disparate to the rise of traditional white American medicine, the history of African-American health care is a story of traditional healers; root doctors; granny midwives; underappreciated and overworked African-American physicians; scrupulous and unscrupulous white doctors and scientists; governmental support and neglect; epidemics; and poverty. Virtually every part of this story revolves around race. More than 50 years after the publication of *An American Dilemma*, Gunnar Myrdal's 1944 classic about race relations in the USA, *An American Health Dilemma* presents a comprehensive and groundbreaking history and social analysis of race, race relations and the African-American medical and public health experience. Beginning with the origins of western medicine and science in Egypt, Greece and Rome the authors explore the relationship between race, medicine, and health care from the precursors of American science and medicine through the days of the slave trade with the harrowing middle passage and equally deadly breaking-in period through the Civil War and the gains of reconstruction and the reversals caused by Jim Crow laws. It offers an extensive examination of the history of intellectual and scientific racism that evolved to give sanction to the mistreatment, medical abuse, and neglect of African Americans and other non-white people. Also included are biographical portraits of black medical pioneers like James McCune Smith, the first African American to earn a degree from a European university, and anecdotal vignettes, like the tragic story of the Hottentot Venus, which illustrate larger themes. *An American Health Dilemma* promises to become an irreplaceable and essential look at African-American and medical history and will provide an invaluable baseline for future exploration of race and racism in the American health system.

african american doctors in history: Partners of the Heart Vivien T. Thomas, 1998-01-29

Visitors to the Blalock Building at the Johns Hopkins University Medical Center are greeted by portraits of two great men. One, of renowned heart surgeon Alfred Blalock, speaks for itself. The other, of highschool graduate Vivien Thomas, is testimony to the incredible genius and determination of the first black man to hold a professional position at one of America's premier medical institutions. Thomas's dreams of attending medical school were dashed when the Depression hit. After spending some time as a carpenter's apprentice, Thomas took what he expected to be a temporary job as a technician in Blalock's lab. The two men soon became partners and together invented the field of cardiac surgery. *Partners of the Heart* is Thomas's extraordinary autobiography. Trained in laboratory techniques by Alfred Blalock and Joseph W. Beard, Thomas remained Blalock's principal technician and laboratory chief for the rest of Blalock's distinguished career. Thomas very rapidly learned to perform surgery, to do chemical determinations, and to carry out physiologic studies. He became a phenomenal technician and was able to carry out complicated experimental cardiac operations totally unassisted and to devise new ones. In addition to telling Thomas's life story, *Partners of the Heart* traces the beginnings of modern cardiac surgery, crucial investigations into the nature of shock, and Blalock's methods of training surgeons.

african american doctors in history: *Black Man in a White Coat* Damon Tweedy, M.D., 2015-09-08 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S TOP TEN NONFICTION BOOKS OF THE YEAR A LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK SELECTION • A BOOKLIST EDITORS' CHOICE BOOK SELECTION One doctor's passionate and profound memoir of his experience grappling with race, bias, and the unique health problems of black Americans When Damon Tweedy begins medical school, he envisions a bright future where his segregated, working-class background will become largely irrelevant. Instead, he finds that he has joined a new world where race is front and center. The recipient of a scholarship designed to increase black student enrollment, Tweedy soon meets a professor who bluntly questions whether he belongs in medical school, a moment that crystallizes the challenges he will face throughout his career. Making matters worse, in lecture after lecture the common refrain for numerous diseases resounds, More common in blacks than in whites. *Black Man in a White Coat* examines the complex ways in which both black doctors and patients must navigate the difficult and often contradictory terrain of race and medicine. As Tweedy transforms from student to practicing physician, he discovers how often race influences his encounters with patients. Through their stories, he illustrates the complex social, cultural, and economic factors at the root of many health problems in the black community. These issues take on greater meaning when Tweedy is himself diagnosed with a chronic disease far more common among black people. In this powerful, moving, and deeply empathic book, Tweedy explores the challenges confronting black doctors, and the disproportionate health burdens faced by black patients, ultimately seeking a way forward to better treatment and more compassionate care.

african american doctors in history: *Medical Bondage* Deirdre Cooper Owens, 2017-11-15 The accomplishments of pioneering doctors such as John Peter Mettauer, James Marion Sims, and Nathan Bozeman are well documented. It is also no secret that these nineteenth-century gynecologists performed experimental caesarean sections, ovariectomies, and obstetric fistula repairs primarily on poor and powerless women. *Medical Bondage* breaks new ground by exploring how and why physicians denied these women their full humanity yet valued them as "medical superbodies" highly suited for medical experimentation. In *Medical Bondage*, Cooper Owens examines a wide range of scientific literature and less formal communications in which gynecologists created and disseminated medical fictions about their patients, such as their belief that black enslaved women could withstand pain better than white "ladies." Even as they were advancing medicine, these doctors were legitimizing, for decades to come, groundless theories related to whiteness and blackness, men and women, and the inferiority of other races or nationalities. *Medical Bondage* moves between southern plantations and northern urban centers to reveal how nineteenth-century American ideas about race, health, and status influenced doctor-patient relationships in sites of healing like slave cabins, medical colleges, and hospitals. It also retells the story of black enslaved women and of Irish immigrant women from the perspective of these exploited groups and thus

restores for us a picture of their lives.

african american doctors in history: National Prevention Strategy: America's Plan for Better Health and Wellness Regina M. Benjamin, 2011 The Affordable Care Act, landmark health legislation passed in 2010, called for the development of the National Prevention Strategy to realize the benefits of prevention for all Americans' health. This Strategy builds on the law's efforts to lower health care costs, improve the quality of care, and provide coverage options for the uninsured. Contents: Nat. Leadership; Partners in Prevention; Healthy and Safe Community Environ.; Clinical and Community Preventive Services; Elimination of Health Disparities; Priorities: Tobacco Free Living; Preventing Drug Abuse and Excessive Alcohol Use; Healthy Eating; Active Living; Injury and Violence Free Living; Reproductive and Sexual Health; Mental and Emotional Well-being. Illus. A print on demand report.

african american doctors in history: Black Surgeons and Surgery in America Don K. Nakayama, Peter J. Kernahan, Edward E. Cornwell, 2021-10-22

african american doctors in history: A Black Physician's Story Douglas L. Conner, 1985 The autobiography of a black doctor in white Mississippi during the Jim Crow era and the fierce struggle for civil rights

african american doctors in history: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Rebecca Skloot, 2010-02-02 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "The story of modern medicine and bioethics—and, indeed, race relations—is refracted beautifully, and movingly."—Entertainment Weekly NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE FROM HBO® STARRING OPRAH WINFREY AND ROSE BYRNE • ONE OF THE "MOST INFLUENTIAL" (CNN), "DEFINING" (LITHUB), AND "BEST" (THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER) BOOKS OF THE DECADE • ONE OF ESSENCE'S 50 MOST IMPACTFUL BLACK BOOKS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS • WINNER OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE HEARTLAND PRIZE FOR NONFICTION NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review • Entertainment Weekly • O: The Oprah Magazine • NPR • Financial Times • New York • Independent (U.K.) • Times (U.K.) • Publishers Weekly • Library Journal • Kirkus Reviews • Booklist • Globe and Mail Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, which are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. Henrietta's family did not learn of her "immortality" until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits. As Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly shows, the story of the Lacks family—past and present—is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of. Over the decade it took to uncover this story, Rebecca became enmeshed in the lives of the Lacks family—especially Henrietta's daughter Deborah. Deborah was consumed with questions: Had scientists cloned her mother? Had they killed her to harvest her cells? And if her mother was so important to medicine, why couldn't her children afford health insurance? Intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences.

african american doctors in history: Secret Doctors Bloomsbury Publishing, 1994-08-23 Based on an ethnographic study of the traditional medicine of African Americans in the rural southern United States, this work concentrates on the original Louisiana Territory, with its Native and African American indigenous traditions, and the French migration and Black Haitian freed and

enslaved population influx during the 1700s and 1800s. Fontenot finds strong ties between rural Louisiana practices and Haitian and West African medicine. The ethnographer, a native of the region where she did her research, is respected among local practicing secret doctors and is able to give a unique insider's view. Aside from documenting a rare treasure of our American cultural diversity, this study has a wider purpose in the field of health practices and policy. The high cost of Western medicine, lack of access to quality care, and the patient-doctor ratio are areas of major national concern, and rural residents and people of color are recognized to be the most at-risk populations. The alternative health-care system presented here can strengthen mainstream medicine's understanding of such patient populations while preserving valuable knowledge of healing plants and culturally sensitive therapies.

african american doctors in history: Black and Blue J. Hoberman, 2012-04-03 *Black & Blue* is the first systematic description of how American doctors think about racial differences and how this kind of thinking affects the treatment of their black patients. The standard studies of medical racism examine past medical abuses of black people and do not address the racially motivated thinking and behaviors of physicians practicing medicine today. *Black & Blue* penetrates the physician's private sphere where racial fantasies and misinformation distort diagnoses and treatments. Doctors have always absorbed the racial stereotypes and folkloric beliefs about racial differences that permeate the general population. Within the world of medicine this racial folklore has infiltrated all of the medical sub-disciplines, from cardiology to gynecology to psychiatry. Doctors have thus imposed white or black racial identities upon every organ system of the human body, along with racial interpretations of black children, the black elderly, the black athlete, black musicality, black pain thresholds, and other aspects of black minds and bodies. The American medical establishment does not readily absorb either historical or current information about medical racism. For this reason, racial enlightenment will not reach medical schools until the current race-averse curricula include new historical and sociological perspectives.

african american doctors in history: Beside the Troubled Waters Sonnie W. Hereford, Jack D. Ellis, 2011 A black southern doctor offers a gripping memoir of his childhood in Alabama, his efforts to overcome racism in the white medical community, his participation in the civil rights movement and his problems with the Medicaid program and state medical authorities--Provided by publisher.

african american doctors in history: Notes on the State of Virginia Thomas Jefferson, 1787

african american doctors in history: Unequal Treatment Institute of Medicine, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, 2009-02-06 Racial and ethnic disparities in health care are known to reflect access to care and other issues that arise from differing socioeconomic conditions. There is, however, increasing evidence that even after such differences are accounted for, race and ethnicity remain significant predictors of the quality of health care received. In *Unequal Treatment*, a panel of experts documents this evidence and explores how persons of color experience the health care environment. The book examines how disparities in treatment may arise in health care systems and looks at aspects of the clinical encounter that may contribute to such disparities. Patients' and providers' attitudes, expectations, and behavior are analyzed. How to intervene? *Unequal Treatment* offers recommendations for improvements in medical care financing, allocation of care, availability of language translation, community-based care, and other arenas. The committee highlights the potential of cross-cultural education to improve provider-patient communication and offers a detailed look at how to integrate cross-cultural learning within the health professions. The book concludes with recommendations for data collection and research initiatives. *Unequal Treatment* will be vitally important to health care policymakers, administrators, providers, educators, and students as well as advocates for people of color.

african american doctors in history: The Impacts of Racism and Bias on Black People Pursuing Careers in Science, Engineering, and Medicine National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Policy and Global Affairs, Roundtable on

Black Men and Black Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine, 2020-12-18 Despite the changing demographics of the nation and a growing appreciation for diversity and inclusion as drivers of excellence in science, engineering, and medicine, Black Americans are severely underrepresented in these fields. Racism and bias are significant reasons for this disparity, with detrimental implications on individuals, health care organizations, and the nation as a whole. The Roundtable on Black Men and Black Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine was launched at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in 2019 to identify key levers, drivers, and disruptors in government, industry, health care, and higher education where actions can have the most impact on increasing the participation of Black men and Black women in science, medicine, and engineering. On April 16, 2020, the Roundtable convened a workshop to explore the context for their work; to surface key issues and questions that the Roundtable should address in its initial phase; and to reach key stakeholders and constituents. This proceedings provides a record of the workshop.

african american doctors in history: Segregated Doctoring Leslie J. Pollard Sr., 2019-03-15 Between 1902 and 1952, Augusta, Georgia, attracted thirty-four black physicians. The earliest African American physicians began arriving in Augusta in the mid-1880s, when race relations were still evolving from the Reconstruction era. At that time, they were accorded privileges at the city's black public hospital. By 1902, racial attitudes had solidified, and black physicians were excluded from the African American hospital, a decision that endured for almost half a century. Legalized segregation forged an inextricable link between medical care and racial discrimination and provided the social context for African American exploitation. Not only were black physicians denied access to public hospitals, but they had limited opportunities for continuing education and were excluded from the corridors of power within the medical profession. They faced skeptics on both sides of the color line, albeit for different reasons, while competing with white physicians to provide medical care for the black community. They held the highest status in the black community and played a vital role in the community's response to segregation through racial solidarity and institutional development. *Segregated Doctoring* analyzes the structure of African American medical practice in the context of segregation and its accompanying inequities. It serves as an important corrective to the neglected story of black Augusta physicians and is an important addition to available scholarly literature that explores the city's rich medical history.

african american doctors in history: Medical Education in the United States and Canada Abraham Flexner, 1910 A landmark work which precipitated major reforms in medical education. It recommended closing commercial schools and reducing the overall number of medical schools from 155 to 31, with the aim of raising standards. Includes frank evaluative sketches of each school based on site visits by the author.

african american doctors in history: East African Doctors John Iliffe, 1998-08-27 John Iliffe's 1998 book is a history of the African medical profession in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania from the earliest training of modern medical staff in the 1870s to the present day. Based on extensive research, and dealing exclusively with African doctors, it offers an understanding of professionalisation in the Third World. It describes the recruitment and education of doctors, their understanding and practice of modern medicine, the struggle for international recognition of their qualifications and efforts to develop East African medical systems after independence, and their experiences during a period of political and economic difficulty. The book ends with an account of the significant work of East African doctors in the study and control of AIDS. This is a major contribution to the social history of Africa and to the social history of medicine more broadly.

african american doctors in history: *Pulse of Perseverance* Pierre Johnson, 2017-11 What drove three young black men, each from America's most urban environments, to achieve their dreams of becoming doctors? The answer is in the *Pulse of Perseverance*. In 1998, Max Madhere, Pierre Johnson, and Joe Semien were three young, black, premedical students at Xavier University of Louisiana. Each was struggling with the demands of Xavier's rigorous curriculum, yet each was determined to succeed, even if the statistics, or the stereotypes about black men, said otherwise. By

drawing on each other's determination and individual strengths, they forged a brotherhood and created a bond so strong that it would carry them through college, medical school, and well beyond. Now they've come together in Pulse to share their stories and encourage young people of color to pursue high-level careers. Max grew up in New York City and Washington D.C., Pierre in Chicago, and Joe in New Orleans. Underperforming schools, instability in the home, the trappings of street life, or simply being expected to fail could have derailed their aspirations, yet all three men refused to accept failure as an option. No obstacle was too great, no ambition too high. Today, Dr. Maxime Madhere, Dr. Pierre Johnson, and Dr. Joseph W. Semien Jr. are each board-certified physicians, as well as fathers and community mentors. Their message in Pulse is both simple and complex: no matter where you're from, no matter what society tells you, you can realize your dreams with hard work, determination, and God's guidance.

african american doctors in history: Educated for Freedom Anna Mae Duane, 2020-01-14 The powerful story of two young men who changed the national debate about slavery In the 1820s, few Americans could imagine a viable future for black children. Even abolitionists saw just two options for African American youth: permanent subjection or exile. *Educated for Freedom* tells the story of James McCune Smith and Henry Highland Garnet, two black children who came of age and into freedom as their country struggled to grow from a slave nation into a free country. Smith and Garnet met as schoolboys at the Mulberry Street New York African Free School, an educational experiment created by founding fathers who believed in freedom's power to transform the country. Smith and Garnet's achievements were near-miraculous in a nation that refused to acknowledge black talent or potential. The sons of enslaved mothers, these schoolboy friends would go on to travel the world, meet Revolutionary War heroes, publish in medical journals, address Congress, and speak before cheering crowds of thousands. The lessons they took from their days at the New York African Free School #2 shed light on how antebellum Americans viewed black children as symbols of America's possible future. The story of their lives, their work, and their friendship testifies to the imagination and activism of the free black community that shaped the national journey toward freedom.

african american doctors in history: The Good Doctors John Dittmer, 2017-01-31 In the summer of 1964 medical professionals, mostly white and northern, organized the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR) to provide care and support for civil rights activists organizing black voters in Mississippi. They left their lives and lucrative private practices to march beside and tend the wounds of demonstrators from Freedom Summer, the March on Selma, and the Chicago Democratic Convention of 1968. Galvanized and sometimes radicalized by their firsthand view of disenfranchised communities, the MCHR soon expanded its mission to encompass a range of causes from poverty to the war in Vietnam. They later took on the whole of the United States healthcare system. MCHR doctors soon realized fighting segregation would mean not just caring for white volunteers, but also exposing and correcting shocking inequalities in segregated health care. They pioneered community health plans and brought medical care to underserved or unserved areas. Though education was the most famous battleground for integration, the appalling injustice of segregated health care levelled equally devastating consequences. Award-winning historian John Dittmer, author of the classic civil rights history *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*, has written an insightful and moving account of a group of idealists who put their careers in the service of the motto "Health Care Is a Human Right."

african american doctors in history: African American Healers Clinton Cox, 1999-12-14 Profiles over thirty notable African Americans in the health field, including Civil War nurse Susie King Taylor, Dr. Charles Drew, father of the blood bank, and young pioneering surgeon Ben Carson.

african american doctors in history: My Bondage and My Freedom Frederick Douglass, 2008-08-15 Published in 1855, *My Bondage and My Freedom* is the second autobiography by Frederick Douglass. Douglass reflects on the various aspects of his life, first as a slave and then as a freeman. He depicts the path his early life took, his memories of being owned, and how he managed to achieve his freedom. This is an inspirational account of a man who struggled for respect and

position in life.

african american doctors in history: *The Black Hearts of Men* John Stauffer, 2009-06-30 At a time when slavery was spreading and the country was steeped in racism, two white men and two black men overcame social barriers and mistrust to form a unique alliance that sought nothing less than the end of all evil. Drawing on the largest extant bi-racial correspondence in the Civil War era, John Stauffer braids together these men's struggles to reconcile ideals of justice with the reality of slavery and oppression. Who could imagine that Gerrit Smith, one of the richest men in the country, would give away his wealth to the poor and ally himself with Frederick Douglass, an ex-slave? And why would James McCune Smith, the most educated black man in the country, link arms with John Brown, a bankrupt entrepreneur, along with the others? Distinguished by their interracial bonds, they shared a millennialist vision of a new world where everyone was free and equal. As the nation headed toward armed conflict, these men waged their own war by establishing model interracial communities, forming a new political party, and embracing violence. Their revolutionary ethos bridged the divide between the sacred and the profane, black and white, masculine and feminine, and civilization and savagery that had long girded western culture. In so doing, it embraced a malleable and black-hearted self that was capable of violent revolt against a slaveholding nation, in order to usher in a kingdom of God on earth. In tracing the rise and fall of their prophetic vision and alliance, Stauffer reveals how radical reform helped propel the nation toward war even as it strove to vanquish slavery and preserve the peace.

african american doctors in history: *The Works of James McCune Smith* James McCune Smith, 2006 The first African American to receive a medical degree, this invaluable collection brings together the writings of James McCune Smith, one of the foremost intellectuals in antebellum America. The *Selected Writings of James McCune Smith* is one of the first anthologies featuring the works of this illustrious scholar. Perhaps best known for his introduction to Frederick Douglass's *My Bondage and My Freedom*, his influence is still found in a number of aspects of modern society and social interactions. And he was considered by many to be a prophet of the twenty-first century. One of the earliest advocates of the use of black instead of colored, McCune Smith treated racial identities as social constructions, arguing that American literature, music, and dance would be shaped and defined by blacks. Organized chronologically, the collection covers over 40 years of writing, including speeches, letters, and essays, and begins with McCune Smith's first speech as an 11-year old boy to the Marquis de Lafayette. Providing historical context for McCune Smith's current cultural relevance, this book showcases writings on black education and self-help, citizenship, and the fight against racism.

african american doctors in history: *The Pact* Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, Lisa Frazier Page, 2003-05-06 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A remarkable story about the power of friendship. Chosen by *Essence* to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors. This is a story about joining forces and beating the odds. A story about changing your life, and the lives of those you love most... together.

african american doctors in history: *ROAR* Stacy T. Sims, PhD, Selene Yeager, 2016-07-05 "Dr. Sims realizes that female athletes are different than male athletes and you can't set your race schedule around your monthly cycle. ROAR will help every athlete understand what is happening to her body and what the best nutritional strategy is to perform at her very best."—Evie Stevens, Olympian, professional road cyclist, and current women's UCI Hour record holder Women are not small men. Stop eating and training like one. Because most nutrition products and training plans are designed for men, it's no wonder that so many female athletes struggle to reach their full potential. ROAR is a comprehensive, physiology-based nutrition and training guide specifically designed for active women. This book teaches you everything you need to know to adapt your nutrition,

hydration, and training to your unique physiology so you can work with, rather than against, your female physiology. Exercise physiologist and nutrition scientist Stacy T. Sims, PhD, shows you how to be your own biohacker to achieve optimum athletic performance. Complete with goal-specific meal plans and nutrient-packed recipes to optimize body composition, ROAR contains personalized nutrition advice for all stages of training and recovery. Customizable meal plans and strengthening exercises come together in a comprehensive plan to build a rock-solid fitness foundation as you build lean muscle where you need it most, strengthen bone, and boost power and endurance. Because women's physiology changes over time, entire chapters are devoted to staying strong and active through pregnancy and menopause. No matter what your sport is—running, cycling, field sports, triathlons—this book will empower you with the nutrition and fitness knowledge you need to be in the healthiest, fittest, strongest shape of your life.

african american doctors in history: 120 Years of American Education , 1993

african american doctors in history: Sick from Freedom Jim Downs, 2012-05-01

Bondspeople who fled from slavery during and after the Civil War did not expect that their flight toward freedom would lead to sickness, disease, suffering, and death. But the war produced the largest biological crisis of the nineteenth century, and as historian Jim Downs reveals in this groundbreaking volume, it had deadly consequences for hundreds of thousands of freed people. In *Sick from Freedom*, Downs recovers the untold story of one of the bitterest ironies in American history--that the emancipation of the slaves, seen as one of the great turning points in U.S. history, had devastating consequences for innumerable freed people. Drawing on massive new research into the records of the Medical Division of the Freedmen's Bureau--a nascent national health system that cared for more than one million freed slaves--he shows how the collapse of the plantation economy released a plague of lethal diseases. With emancipation, African Americans seized the chance to move, migrating as never before. But in their journey to freedom, they also encountered yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, dysentery, malnutrition, and exposure. To address this crisis, the Medical Division hired more than 120 physicians, establishing some forty underfinanced and understaffed hospitals scattered throughout the South, largely in response to medical emergencies. Downs shows that the goal of the Medical Division was to promote a healthy workforce, an aim which often excluded a wide range of freedpeople, including women, the elderly, the physically disabled, and children. Downs concludes by tracing how the Reconstruction policy was then implemented in the American West, where it was disastrously applied to Native Americans. The widespread medical calamity sparked by emancipation is an overlooked episode of the Civil War and its aftermath, poignantly revealed in *Sick from Freedom*.

african american doctors in history: The New York Journal of Medicine , 1843

african american doctors in history: The Hidden History of American Healthcare Thom

Hartmann, 2021-09-07 Popular progressive radio host and New York Times bestselling author Thom Hartmann reveals how and why attempts to implement affordable universal healthcare in the United States have been thwarted and what we can do to finally make it a reality. For-profit health insurance is the largest con job ever perpetrated on the American people—one that has cost trillions of dollars and millions of lives since the 1940s,” says Thom Hartmann. Other countries have shown us that affordable universal healthcare is not only possible but also effective and efficient. Taiwan's single-payer system saved the country a fortune as well as saving lives during the coronavirus pandemic, enabling the country to implement a nationwide coronavirus test-and-contact-trace program without shutting down the economy. This resulted in just ten deaths, while more than 500,000 people have died in the United States. Hartmann offers a deep dive into the shameful history of American healthcare, showing how greed, racism, and oligarchic corruption led to the current “sickness for profit” system. Modern attempts to create versions of government healthcare have been hobbled at every turn, including Obamacare. There is a simple solution: Medicare for all. Hartmann outlines the extraordinary benefits this system would provide the American people and economy and the steps we need to take to make it a reality. It's time for America to join every industrialized country in the world and make health a right, not a privilege.

african american doctors in history: Making a Place for Ourselves Vanessa Northington Gamble, 1995-03-23 Making a Place for Ourselves examines an important but not widely chronicled event at the intersection of African-American history and American medical history--the black hospital movement. A practical response to the racial realities of American life, the movement was a self-help endeavor--immediate improvement of separate medical institutions insured the advancement and health of African Americans until the slow process of integration could occur. Recognizing that their careers depended on access to hospitals, black physicians associated with the two leading black medical societies, the National Medical Association (NMA) and the National Hospital Association (NHA), initiated the movement in the 1920s in order to upgrade the medical and education programs at black hospitals. Vanessa Northington Gamble examines the activities of these physicians and those of black community organizations, local and federal governments, and major health care organizations. She focuses on three case studies (Cleveland, Chicago, and Tuskegee) to demonstrate how the black hospital movement reflected the goals, needs, and divisions within the African-American community--and the state of American race relations. Examining ideological tensions within the black community over the existence of black hospitals, Gamble shows that black hospitals were essential for the professional lives of black physicians before the emergence of the civil rights movement. More broadly, Making a Place for Ourselves clearly and powerfully documents how issues of race and racism have affected the development of the American hospital system.

african american doctors in history: The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania Clara Marshall, 1897

african american doctors in history: A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time Paula Tarnapol Whitacre, 2017-09 In the fall of 1862 Julia Wilbur left her family's farm near Rochester, New York, and boarded a train to Washington, DC. As an ardent abolitionist, the forty-seven-year-old Wilbur left a sad but stable life, headed toward the chaos of the Civil War, and spent the next several years in Alexandria, Virginia, devising ways to aid recently escaped slaves and hospitalized Union soldiers. A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time shapes Wilbur's diaries and other primary sources into a historical narrative of a woman who was alternately brave, self-pitying, foresighted, and myopic. Paula Tarnapol Whitacre describes Wilbur's experiences against the backdrop of Alexandria, a southern town held by the Union from 1861 to 1865; of Washington, DC, where Wilbur became active in the women's suffrage movement; and of Rochester, New York, where she began a lifelong association with Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. Harriet Jacobs, author of *Incidents of a Slave Girl*, became Wilbur's friend and ally. Together, the two women, black and white, fought social convention to improve the lives of African Americans escaping slavery by coming across Union lines. In doing so, they faced the challenge to achieve racial and gender equality that continues today. A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time is the captivating story of a woman who remade herself at midlife during a period of massive social upheaval.

african american doctors in history: *Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts 1742-1998* Franklin A. Dorman, 2010-05 Until recently, the popular perception of genealogy applied almost exclusively to tracing the family histories of the wealthy and the powerful. Today, it more realistically recounts the struggles of Americans of all stations, all ethnicities, and all races.

african american doctors in history: Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Committee on Pain Management and Regulatory Strategies to Address Prescription Opioid Abuse, 2017-09-28 Drug overdose, driven largely by overdose related to the use of opioids, is now the leading cause of unintentional injury death in the United States. The ongoing opioid crisis lies at the intersection of two public health challenges: reducing the burden of suffering from pain and containing the rising toll of the harms that can arise from the use of opioid medications. Chronic pain and opioid use disorder both represent complex human conditions affecting millions of Americans and causing untold disability and loss of function. In the context of the growing opioid problem, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) launched an Opioids

Action Plan in early 2016. As part of this plan, the FDA asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to convene a committee to update the state of the science on pain research, care, and education and to identify actions the FDA and others can take to respond to the opioid epidemic, with a particular focus on informing FDA's development of a formal method for incorporating individual and societal considerations into its risk-benefit framework for opioid approval and monitoring.

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