

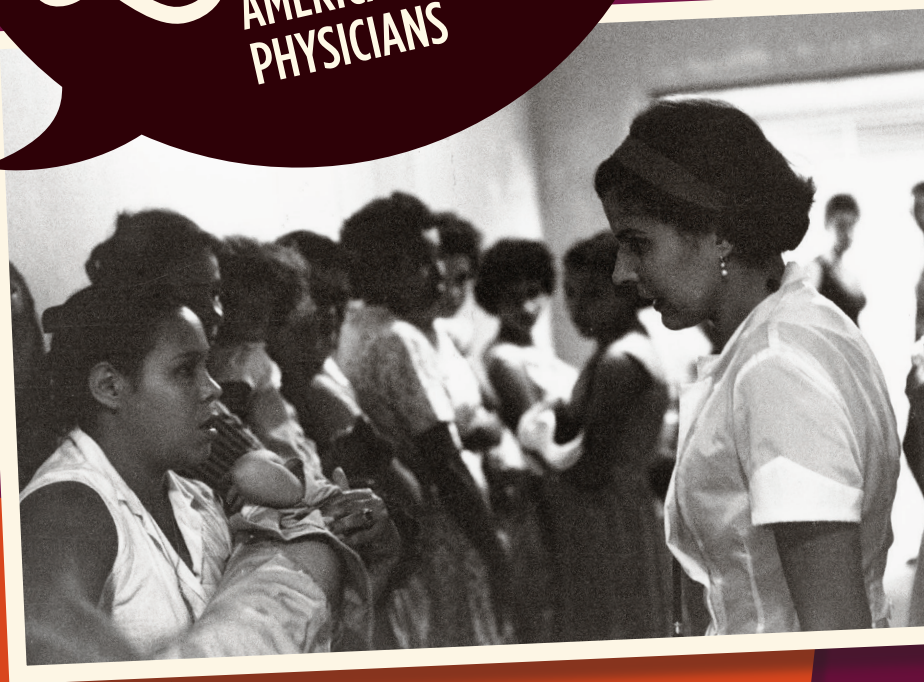
DELIVERING RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Dr. Dorothy Ferebee (1898–1980), center, served as the medical director for the Mississippi Health Project in the 1930s, which brought state and federal resources to poor African Americans in the rural South.

Courtesy Dorothy Ferebee Collection, Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University



*Rise,
I serve,
Lead!*
AMERICA'S WOMEN
PHYSICIANS



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The National Library of Medicine
produced this exhibition.
Guest curator: Ashley Bowen, PhD
Designer: HealyKohler Design

www.nlm.nih.gov/RiseServeLead

Dr. Rodríguez-Trías speaking to new mothers, ca. 1963

Courtesy Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division,
Look Magazine Photograph Collection, photograph by Jim Hansen

WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HEALERS.

To join the ranks of professional physicians, women had to overcome obstacles and fight for the opportunity to practice medicine.



Courtesy U.S. National Library of Medicine



THE FIRST OF MANY

In 1849, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell (1821–1910) became the first woman to earn an MD degree from an American medical school.

Courtesy U.S. National Library of Medicine



PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Dr. Helen Rodríguez-Trías (1929–2001) expanded the range of public health services in the continental United States, her native Puerto Rico, and around the world.

Courtesy JoEllen Brainin-Rodriguez M.D., photograph by Rafael Pesquera



INSPIRED TO SERVE

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte (1865–1915), a member of the Omaha Nation, was the first American Indian woman to earn an MD. She returned to the reservation to provide care to members of her tribe following her training.

Portrait of Dr. Picotte, ca. 1900

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society Photograph Collections

TODAY, WOMEN WORK AS PHYSICIANS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF EVERYONE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

They win Nobel Prizes and occupy the highest ranks of the profession while also serving as mentors to the next generation of doctors.

SERVICE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

President George H. W. Bush swearing in Surgeon General Antonia Novello (b. 1944), the first woman and first Latina to lead the U.S. Public Health Service, March 9, 1990

Courtesy Antonia C. Novello, MD, MPH, DrPH



NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING RESEARCH

Dr. Gerty Cori (1896–1957) became the first woman in America to win a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, in 1947.

Dr. Cori and her husband, 1947

Courtesy Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine