

WILL WOMEN CHANGE THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

Mary Jo K. Voelpel, DO, FACOI,
MA



First Female Physicians

The Blackwell sisters journey was met with resistance in the mid 1800's

They were forced to each year of medical school at a different university

Political climates became heated after they would matriculate into a college

That would culminate after a year of struggles that included verbal and physical

Abuse, they would be asked to leave, then find a new medical school to begin

The next year, again, and again

The Doctors Blackwell

J Nimura revealed the history of the sisters from their initial instruction to their journeys through their medical education.

This story reflects

upon some of the concepts that were practiced at the time

And how as women they felt there needed to be something

Different and more humane to treat women. A brief discussion

Of the practice of performing hysterectomies on African-American women

Without anesthesia led to developing more painless ways of performing

Evolving Times

In the

past 200 years
medicine has
evolved on
many levels

Today, women of all colors are being accepted into

Medical schools comprising 50% of incoming classes

There are still barriers with lack of representation in some

Specialties and subspecialties.

Subtle reminders of the work yet to be done include

Lack of parity in salaries-why is a man offered a higher wage

Than a woman of similar training?(average is 53% less)

PREMED?



WHERE DOES THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION BEGIN?

In very subtle ways, throughout our development, we hear and feel impressions of
Who we should strive to be....you are good at math.....be a teacher....you are good in the
biological sciences.....be a nurse....but wait, why not a doctor?...good with your
Hands...be a mechanic.....great at building.....be a carpenter

MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

What steps did you take to get an interview?

Contact your family doctor for a reference? Or pediatrician?

Did you work in a healthcare facility and know physicians who may provide a Reference?

Did you rely upon your MCAT scores? Volunteer experience?

Did you contact the dean of the college for an interview?

I contacted deans of colleges for personal interviews before I was accepted to medical school and requested they consider my application.

After acceptance to medical school I thanked the dean

The response....we had a 5% quota of women for our incoming class...you met the quota.

Personal Reflection

In February 2022, I was offered a salary at a rate that was 40% less than the industry average and the statement that The facility could not "afford" a salary any higher, but they Really wanted me to stay.

Do we, as female physicians, automatically accept devalued assessments?

Do we have support to remind us we are intelligent, hard working women

?Do we have subtle negative feedback....like, it's ok, that is good enough?

? Has society changed in all spheres to accept women as equal to men?

Lower income, middle income, higher income?

Do we encounter educational snobs?...Well what school did you go to?

Are you inhibited about what you wear? Will someone comment about your nails?

Your hair style?

Adult Learners

Do women learn differently than men? Should our training be adjusted to our style?

What are the trends in medical practice today?

In 2020, 42% of physicians over age 55 were salaried, 70% of physicians younger than 40

Why? Student loans? Convenience? Lack of business acumen? Hours?

Is medical education changing?

37% of medical students almost never attend lectures in person, as of 2020.

Wait? Medical education is still pedagogy style not androgogy?

Life long learning with self directed study is desired, but how will we control medical Education? Or is passing the USMLE the way we learn, through flashcards?

Did you know in 1970, one of the human medicine deans informed students that if they passed Part I of the boards, it was ok to not attend lectures throughout medical school.....

So why do we need to pay tuition?

