

For Immediate Release

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Kansas City to host "Changing the Face of Medicine" traveling exhibition

Editor: Please do not delete sponsorship credits in paragraph six.

Kansas City, KS – Women doctors are the focus of a national traveling exhibition opening at the Dykes Library of the University of Kansas Medical Center on October 3 to November 11, 2009. "*Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*" tells the extraordinary story of how women in America have struggled over the past two centuries to gain access to medical education and to work in the medical specialty of their choice.

Since Elizabeth Blackwell received a medical degree in 1849, many women have contributed to medical care, education and research, and have achieved success in work once considered "unsuitable" for women. Today, women physicians 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 their medical specialties.

Kansas City is one of only sixty-one (61) sites across the United States chosen to host this traveling exhibit. It is a unique collaboration of libraries of the three medical schools in the metropolitan area. Dykes Library and the Clendening History of Medicine Library --both of the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Health Sciences Library, and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences Library all were involved in obtaining the exhibit and planning events.

Dr. Marjorie Sirridge, who served as mentor and role model for many local women physicians, will be the keynote speaker on October 3. Dr. Sirridge, hematologist, humanist, and former dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is featured in the exhibit. Guests at this opening event will be welcomed with music by the Kansas City Women's Chorus, and following the lecture all are invited to an elegant reception sponsored by Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Dr. U. Diane Buckingham, a psychiatrist from Overland Park who is featured in the exhibit, will present a lecture on October 20th. Contributions of other Kansas City women physicians are explored at a website sponsored by the Metropolitan Medical Society to help young people learn what it takes to become a doctor. These short vignettes are hosted at <http://www.metromedkc.org/> During the time of the exhibit there are speaker presentations each week, and related events are being offered throughout the city. Events are free and open to the public.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association, Chicago, IL, organized the traveling exhibition 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. The traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibition that was displayed at the NLM from 2003–2005. The local exhibit received additional support through grants from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and the Health Sciences Library Network of Kansas City.

Two interactive kiosks traveling with the exhibition offer access to the NLM's "Local Legends" web site (www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends), which features outstanding women physicians from every state, and to a web site created for the larger exhibition at the NLM (www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine). There also are a series of two hour experiential classes for middle and high school youth, and classes for Girl Scouts. These workshops will offer five to six different stations where students will have a chance to take vital signs, extract DNA from fruit or wheat germ, create slides of bacteria, and explore electronic medical resources.

"We are delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said Karen Cole, Director of Dykes Library. "Although *'Changing the Face of Medicine'* focuses on women in medicine, its lessons about persistence, dedication, and courage in one's life choices speak to everyone—men and women and young adults—and to people in all lines of work."

Contact Lynn George at (913) 588-0100 or lgeorge@kumc.edu for more information, or visit the exhibit's web site at <http://library.kumc.edu/womeninmedicine>
