



American Medical **Women's** Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

History of the International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame

The International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame was conceived by Omega C. Logan Silva, MD, president of the American Medical Women's Association (2000-2002). The **Annual Gala** event occurred 2001-2004. The Hall of Fame was revived in 2010 as part of the president's banquet and awards ceremony. The International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame was initially planned as an annual fund raiser for AMWA and as a venue to honor **women** who had made outstanding contributions to the health of their country or the world. The inductee could be a first in an important area of health education or in a area of clinical work, research or academic achievement in medicine. The induction could be contemporary (candidate must be present) or posthumous.

Dr. Silva was assisted by a very able committee consisting of the following physician members at various times for the four **Galas**: Drs. Doris Bartuska, Constance Battle, Marjorie Braude, Elinor Christiansen, Roselyn Payne Epps, Clarita Herrera, Edel Hondl, Anita Johnson, Debra Judelson, Roberta Rubin, Susan Sklar, and Joan Treuer.

The posthumous inductees for the first year were the AMWA founders, all MD's: Eliza M. Mosher, honorary president, Bertha Van Hoosen, president, Marion Craig Potter, first vice president, Mary Bates, second vice president, Mary McLean, third vice president, Martha Welpton, recording secretary/treasurer.

The contemporary inductees were: Patricia Bath, MD, a trailblazer and an advocate for the blind who was the first woman ophthalmologist on the faculty of UCLA and was the first to propose, prove and demonstrate fiber-optic laser cataract surgery known as LaserPhaco (which is patented) and Jane Hodgson, MD, who was the lead plaintiff in the 1990 Supreme Court case in the struggle for legal abortion and was a leader in reproductive health in the USA and abroad.

The Gala was held in McLean Virginia at the Hilton McLean, Tysons Corner with about 300 attendees on Friday, May 4, 2001 during the AMWA Interim Meeting.

In 2002, the **Second Annual Gala** was held Friday June 21, also during the AMWA Interim Meeting with the first women graduates of an American medical school as the posthumous inductees: Elizabeth Blackwell, 1849, Geneva College, New York, the first American woman physician; Rebecca Lee Crumpler, 1864, New England Female Medical College, Boston, the first African American woman physician; Susan Lafleche Picotte, 1889, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first Native American woman physician; Anandibai Joshi,

1886, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first Asian Indian woman physician. Thirty descendants of Dr. Picotte from Oklahoma and Nebraska were present and Elmer Blackbird, great nephew accepted the award. Madhura Ranade, great grand niece of Anandibai Joshi accepted her award.

The contemporary inductees were the first women Surgeon Generals of the USA, Antonia C. Novello, MD, and M. Jocelyn Elders, MD.

In 2003 for the **Third Annual Gala** the posthumous inductees were the selected first women physicians certified in the specialties: Psychiatry- Elizabeth Ingram Adamson, 1935; Pediatrics-Martha Mae Eliot, 1934; Pathology-Louise Larimore, 1936; Surgery- Alma Dea Morani, 1947; Surgery- Barbara Stimson , 1940. Dr. Tenley Albright, a student of Dr. Stimson, a member of the National Library of Medicine's (NLM-NIH) Committee on **Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians**, a former Olympic ice skating medalist, and surgeon, wrote a personal letter about Dr. Stimson which was read.

The contemporary inductees were also selected first women physicians certified in the subspecialties: Endocrinology-Doris Bartuska, 1972 (the first year offered); Hematology-Jane Desforages, 1972 (first year offered).

The **Gala** was held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC on Friday, June 27, 2003 during the AMWA Interim Meeting. In addition to honoring the Hall of Fame celebrants, the National Library of Medicine's (NLM-NIH) director, Dr. Donald Lindberg introduced the exhibit, **Changing the Face of Medicine; Celebrating America's Women Physicians**. A video trailer was shown to great applause.

The **Fourth Annual Gala** was held at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC on Friday, June 25, 2004 during the AMWA Interim Meeting. The posthumous inductee was a Canadian woman physician, Leonora Howard King who was the first Canadian doctor to work in China and the first western woman to receive the Chinese order of the Double Dragon and the title *Manderin*. Her award was accepted by her great, great, great niece, Ms. Nancy Hobson.

The contemporary inductees were: Risa Lavizzo-Mourey- The first woman president and first African American CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Patricia J. Numann- first woman chair of the American Board of Surgery and founder of the Association of Women Surgeons.

Also as part of the program the National Library of Medicine's national exhibit on women physicians, **Changing the Face of Medicine** presented its *2004 Local Legends*, a group of women physicians not in the national exhibit nominated by their Congressional Representatives as local examples of exemplary physicians. The director of the NLM-NIH, Dr. Donald Lindberg was present. The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, Delegate to Congress from the Virgin Islands, the first

woman physician in Congress who was featured in the NLM exhibit and who led the NLM Local Legends outreach in Congress, gave remarks. Those physicians in attendance in the national exhibit were asked to stand: Drs. Doris Bartuska, Clair Callan, Eliza Lo Chin, Leah Dickstein, Roselyn Payne Epps, Jean Fourcroy, Mary Guinan, Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, Vivian Pinn, and Omega Logan Silva.

The attendance including many VIP's increased at each succeeding gala and the black-tie event was becoming a Washington, DC happening for the AMWA interim meeting which had been held in DC in its last ten years. Corporate support was sustained. However, with the financial situation at AMWA at a crucial stage the International Hall of Fame Gala was discontinued after four years. In March 27, 2010, the 95th anniversary of AMWA's founding, two inductions into the International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame will be done in Arlington, Virginia at the Crystal Marriott during the president's banquet and awards' ceremony at the annual meeting: Dr. Linda Randolph, a public health physician and Institute of Medicine Fellow and Dr. Diana Zuckerman, a health advocate and safety expert, the first non-physician, a PhD in psychology with post doctorate training in epidemiology. This will be the **Fifth International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame.**