

INFORMATION for STUDENTS

Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians

Essay Contest for grades 6-9 and 10-12

Dear Students,

In honor of its hosting the traveling exhibit, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians", the Lamar Soutter Library, the University of Massachusetts Medical School students and the Worcester Women's History Project invite middle-school and high school students from Central Massachusetts to participate in an essay contest exploring the history and future of medicine in their lives.

Contest

Students are asked to examine what it means to be a doctor today and specifically, what women bring to the field of medicine.

**How is medical care better when it includes men *and* women,
and people of all different backgrounds?**

We encourage students to be creative in their search for an answer to this question. Find a woman doctor in your community and ask her about her experiences in medical school and in her medical practice. Read about some of the women doctors highlighted on the Changing the Face of Medicine website (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/index.html>). Think about your personal experience with different doctors. Then, in your own words, tell the story about how women have made medical care different – and better – today than it was when only men were allowed to be doctors.

Criteria

- Essays need to answer the question asked and do so in a clear, convincing way.
- Essays must be well-written, including an introduction, body and conclusion.
- Essays should demonstrate that the author put some time, effort and research into finding an answer to the question. In other words, the judges are looking for more than just your opinion.
- Spelling counts! Punctuation, grammar and the proper citation of any outside sources used does as well.

Guidelines and Rules

- The contest is open to middle and high school students (from grades 6 through 12) in Worcester County.
- Limit your essay to between 500 and 750 words.

- Essays are to be typed, double-spaced, with at least a one-inch margin around all sides. There are no rules as to the font you use, but please choose something easy to read (may we suggest Arial or Times New Roman, 10-12-point).
- All essays must be accompanied by an official entry form. Put your name on the entry form only, **not on the essay**.
- Entry forms must have the signature of **both** the author and his/her teacher. Your signature is a guarantee that the essay is your original work.
- Complete the form and staple it as the top page of your essay.

Judging and Awards

Your school will set its own essay submission deadline and set up its own judging group. They will choose the top three essays from the entire school from each grade group (6-9 and/or 10-12). Then the top three essays from your school will be mailed by the judging group to the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Current students at the Medical School and members of the Worcester Women's History Project will serve as judges for the contest. Winners will be notified by April 20, 2006 through the teacher listed on their Official Entry Form.

First, second and third prizes will be awarded in the two grade categories (grades 6-9 and grades 10-12) from all the Central Massachusetts entries.

1 st	\$100 and a day with a medical student
2 nd	\$25 Gift Certificate and a UMass Medical School Sweatshirt
3 rd	\$25 Gift Certificate

The six winners will be recognized at the opening ceremony of the exhibit at the Lamar Soutter Library on May 5, 2006.

Additional Information about the Exhibit

Before the mid-1800's, women were not allowed to enter medical school. Since then, many talented and courageous pioneers worked hard to open doors for women as doctors, surgeons, medical researchers, even Nobel Prize winners in medicine. Today, women physicians are leaders in making the medical profession diverse, a career open to people of all backgrounds.

To celebrate these women and educate everyone about their accomplishments, the National Library of Medicine, in collaboration with the American Library Association, is sponsoring the traveling exhibition, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians". It highlights the progress of women in the medical field over the past 150 years. The exhibit will be open to the public in the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School from May 5, 2006 – June 15, 2006.