

September 2019 – UHA Women in Medicine, Week 3

September is Women in Medicine Month and we are featuring some of our exemplary providers and clinicians of today, as well as some amazing historical figures. Today, we spotlight:

[Rachel Roberts, MD](#) - Collaborative Primary Care (nominated by PSR, Ashley Katena)

[Susan Tran, DO](#) - Collaborative Primary Care (nominated by PSR, Ashley Katena)

Our historical figure this week is Rebecca Lee Crumpler, MD, an American Physician.

RACHEL ROBERTS, MD



“Dr. Rachel Roberts is the Physician Site Lead at Collaborative Primary Care. Dr. Roberts is committed to giving her patients excellent care and her reputation precedes her. She is the absolute queen of turning a frown upside down. Over the past two years I’ve had the pleasure of working with her and witnessed her amazing ability to make even the most distraught patients feel at ease and in good hands. Even if the patient comes in upset or anxious they always leave with a smile. Dr. Roberts not only makes sure that her patients are taken care of, but the staff as well. She frequently checks in on everyone to make sure that everyone is ok and able to handle their work load. Even with her busy schedule she still manages to think of others. Dr. Roberts is the epitome of leadership, understanding and compassion. Stanford Health Care is fortunate to have her and she is more than deserving of this recognition.” – Ashley Katena

SUSAN TRAN, MD, DO



“I also nominate Dr. Susan Tran. Dr. Tran is extremely compassionate. She truly cares about her patients and goes above and beyond to keep them comfortable. Dr. Tran provides the best care for not only her own patients but also steps in and helps with other physicians’ patients when they are unavailable, sometimes double or even triple booking patients to make sure they are seen on the same day if needed. Dr. Tran has an amazing personal touch in her care. On several occasions, I’ve seen Dr. Tran come out to the front lobby after a patient’s visit just to greet and check in with their family members. Recently, I went through a very traumatic experience and Dr. Tran made a sacrifice of her personal time to come and visit me in the hospital and even brought me food and something to drink. She is knowledgeable, kind, considerate and an amazing humanitarian/doctor. Her recognition is much deserved!” – Ashley Katena

Rebecca Lee Crumpler, MD – USA - 1831-1895



From the very beginning, caring for others was a part of Dr. Crumpler's life. She was raised in Pennsylvania by her aunt, who provided health care services to the people in her neighborhood. This passion for helping her community became her life's mission.

She attended a private school in Massachusetts and went on to work as a nurse for eight years. In 1860, she applied to an all-white medical school, the New England Female Medical College, a bold and risky move, but she was accepted. Dr. Crumpler graduated in 1864, becoming the first African-American woman physician in the country. Out of more than fifty thousand physicians in the United States at the time, only about three hundred were women, and Dr. Crumpler was the only black woman.

She began her practice in Boston, specializing in the care of women and children. But when the Civil War came to an end, she moved to Richmond, Virginia, to work with the Freedmen's Bureau. The fallen Confederate South was extremely hostile to the newly freed African-Americans, so Dr. Crumpler worked with the bureau to provide health care to them. Dr. Crumpler had been born free in Delaware – the state with the highest number of free Black people before the war. She was new to the adversity and racism of the South, but she endured it for the sake of helping the poor and needy.

Throughout her career, Dr. Crumpler had a particular passion for helping women and children. In 1883, she published a two-part text titled *A Book of Medical Discourses*. The first part focuses on care for infants and the second part on women's health. It is possibly the first medical article published by a Black woman.

Harrison, Vashti. (2018) **Little Leaders: Visionary Women Around the World**. London, United Kingdom: Penguin Books Ltd