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African American Graduates of Jefferson Medical College: The First Hundred Years

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African American Graduates of JMC: The First Hundred Years

Beginnings

The story of early African American physicians began in 1847 when the Medical College of the City of Philadelphia was founded. Medical education was initially a privilege reserved for whites only, and African Americans were denied the opportunity to attend medical school. However, in 1847, when the Medical College of the City of Philadelphia awarded David J. Peck his degree, the door was opened for African Americans to pursue medical education.

Jefferson Medical College

Jefferson Medical College was the first medical school in the U.S. to admit African American students. It was founded in 1844 and initially did not admit African Americans. However, in 1847, when Dr. David J. Peck graduated from Jefferson Medical College, he opened the door for other African Americans to pursue medical education.

The First African American Graduate

The first African American graduate from Jefferson Medical College was James Hume Miller, who graduated in 1866. Miller was a significant figure in the history of African American medicine and served as the head of the Department of Bacteriology, Public Health, and Hygiene at Howard University.

The History of African American Graduates at JMC

Over the years, several African American graduates have made significant contributions to medicine. Some of these graduates include:

- Algernon Brashear Jackson, Class of 1901
- Paul James Taylor, Class of 1906
- Henry McKee Minton, Class of 1906
- John Hume Miller, Class of 1903
- Frederick Miller Hopkins, Class of 1909
- Cora LeEshol Christian, Class of 1971
- Thomas Spottas Burwell, Class of 1907
- Mercy Hospital and School of Nurses

The Legacy of African American Graduates

The legacy of African American graduates at Jefferson Medical College is one of inspiration and achievement. These graduates have broken barriers and made significant contributions to medicine, both in the United States and around the world.