Photos courtesy of Thomas Jefferson University Archives

Leah Lowenstein, MD

Nation's first female dean of a co-ed medical school

Though last to admit female students, JMC was the first co-educational medical school to appoint a woman as dean. Leah Lowenstein, MD, came from Boston, where she built a reputation as a gifted teacher, clinician and researcher in renal and metabolic diseases. She arrived at JMC in July 1982 but resigned for health reasons 18 months later. She died from cancer within a year. In 2008, JMC unveiled her portrait, and it hangs in the Office of the Dean today.

1980s

A rumor with no basis in fact begins to circulate that JMC was under a court order to accept female students in 1961. No order was ever issued.

In 1988, the Board of Trustees initiates adding a member from recent alumni; Patricia M. Curtin, class of 1988, becomes the first such trustee.

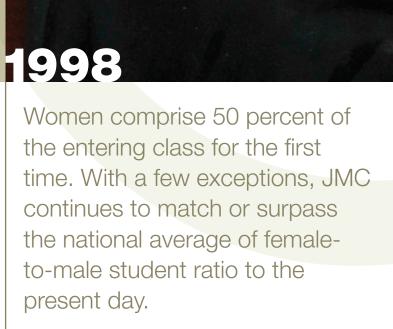
1989



Iefferson

The JMC Alumni Association elects its first female president, Nancy Szwec Czarnecki, MD '65, who was also Jefferson's first female student.

the entering class for the first time. With a few exceptions, JMC continues to match or surpass the national average of femaleto-male student ratio to the





Marion J. Siegman, PhD of physiology becomes JMC's first female chair in basic sciences.



Vijay M. Rao, MD, PG '78 of radiology becomes Jefferson's first female chair in a clinical department.

1824 Jefferson Medical

College is founded.

1847 First woman earns a medical degree in the U.S.

1891 Jefferson creates School of Nursing.

1910 Report urges consolidation of minority medical schools with larger institutions.

1950 First female professorship at JMC.

1961 JMC begins admitting female students.

1970 Percentage of female students at JMC surpasses national average.

2002

1981 JMC appoints the nation's first female dean.

1998 JMC student gender ratio reaches 50/50

2002

TODAY 50 and forward...



