

Dr. W.W. Keen, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Amphitheater, 1906
Photos courtesy of Thomas Jefferson University Archives

Flexner Report

Medical schools are evaluated

1910

Jefferson receives an A- rating in Abraham Flexner's landmark study of U.S. medical education, funded by the Carnegie Institute. The Report concludes that fewer, better-educated graduates are needed. This leads to the establishment of uniform scientific standards, governmental oversight, more stringent entrance requirements and regular testing during a four-year curriculum.

Dozens of medical schools deemed "inadequate" close, including many that serve women and minorities. Remaining schools are encouraged to merge but are not required to go co-ed, thus reducing the opportunities for women applicants to a handful.



1918

Based on the 1910 Flexner Report, Jefferson's Executive Faculty Committee passes a resolution to approve admission of women and makes a merger overture to Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP) the following year. Although most of its sister schools are being forced to close, WMCP declines.

1946



After women have made significant professional advances during World War II, a second merger attempt between Jefferson and WMCP fails in the face of intense opposition from WMCP alumnae.

1948

Jefferson Medical College is the last medical school to bar female applicants when Dartmouth Medical School and St. Louis University School of Medicine move to admit women. The other holdouts: Hahnemann Medical College, Georgetown University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical College had revised their discriminatory admission policies by 1945.

1950



Microbiologist Lolita Pannell, PhD, becomes the first woman to acquire a professorship at Jefferson when she is hired as assistant professor. That same year, Sonia Schorr earns the first degree given to a woman by Jefferson College of Graduate Studies.

1952

Jefferson Medical College Hospital welcomes its first female resident, Elizabeth M. Bogardus, MD, radiology. She is a 1949 graduate of Long Island College of Medicine. The following year will see two additional female residents, this time in pediatrics: Vera (Easling) Dettweiler, MD, a 1951 graduate of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania; and Evelyn D. Schmidt, MD, a 1951 graduate of Duke University Medical School.

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.	1981 JMC appoints the nation's first female dean.	1998 JMC student gender ratio reaches 50/50.	TODAY 50 and forward...
--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	--	-----------------------------------