

Celebrating Black History Month at the CAP

Honoring Outstanding Pathologists

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Carter G Woodson

Black History Month is observed each February to honor the achievements of Black Americans in the United States. What began in 1926 through the vision of Carter G. Woodson, the month was officially recognized in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. Today, similar observances take place in Canada, Europe, Asia, and South America.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first observance in the US—a century of shining a light on contributions that have influenced the world.

Black leaders in medicine have advanced medicine profoundly—improving how we diagnose, treat, and understand disease, while pushing the field toward greater health equity and access to care. Prominent Black pathologists, through research, leadership, and innovations, continue to shape medicine and a patient care worldwide.

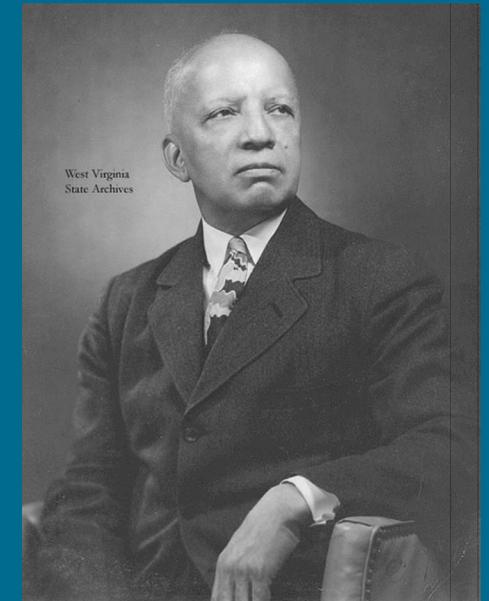


Image source: [Carrying on Carter G. Woodson's Legacy](#), | [University of Chicago News \(uchicago.edu\)](#)

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James E. Bowman, MD

(1923-2011)

Dr. Bowman was the first tenured African American professor in the University of Chicago's Biological Sciences Division and a powerful advocate for minority scholars seeking access to medical careers. His research advanced understanding of blood disorders and genetic disease, while his leadership reshaped conversations about equity in medical education.

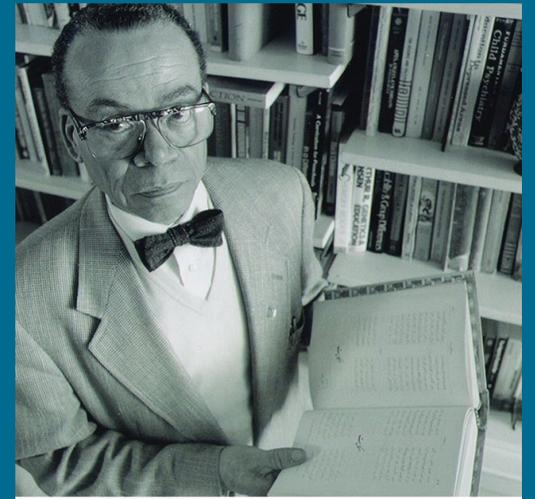


Image source: [James Bowman, MD, A Legacy University of Chicago News \(uchicago.edu\)](#)

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**Bennet Omalu, MD, MBA,
MPH, FCAP**

Dr. Omalu made discovery of CTE in football players and in military veterans. His research provided early scientific evidence linking repetitive head trauma to long term brain degeneration. His work was instrumental in enacting laws to bring about needed changes in the practice of forensic pathology, influencing concussion protocols, youth sport safety guidelines, and global research on brain injury worldwide.



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Juanita J Evans MD, FCAP

Dr. Evans serves as a member of the CAP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee, Chair of the Practice Management Committee and as Chair of the Pathology Department at Henry Ford Providence Southfield/Novi.



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Kalisha A. Hill, MD, MBA, FCAP

Dr. Hill is the President-Elect of the College of American Pathologists. She has served on the CAP Board of Governors and numerous committees. In 2018, she received the CAP Distinguished Patient Care Award in recognition of her contributions to patient care and community health outreach. Dr. Hill is the Regional Chief Medical Officer for Ascension Illinois and Medical Director of Pathology and Laboratory Services at Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee.



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Araba Afenyi-Annan, MD, MPH

Dr. Afenyi-Annan served as the first Black member of the CAP Board of Governors. Served as the chair of the CAP Residents Forum and was a member of the CGPA and CMPD. With expertise in transfusion medicine and immunohematology, she has served on the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.



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Kisha Mitchell Richards, MD, FCAP

Dr. Mitchell Richards is current Chair of the CAP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, member of the House of Delegates, CT State Issues Advisor, member of the Council on Education and member of the Annual Meeting Strategy Execution Steering Committee. She is also a founding member of the Society of Black Pathology.



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Vivian Pinn, MD, FCAP

Dr. Pinn served as the first full-time director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at National Institutes of Health. She was the first black woman to chair an academic pathology department in the US at Howard University. Dr. Pinn also held faculty appointments at Tufts University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School. Receiving more than 300 honors, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in recognition of her scientific achievements and advocacy.



Image source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivian_Pinn

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Valerie Fitzhugh, MD, FCAP

Dr. Fitzhugh is the founding chairperson of the CAP's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility Committee. During the pandemic, she actively raised awareness about testing and the COVID-19 vaccine. In 2021, she received the CAP Outstanding Communicator Award. She is the Chair of Pathology, Immunology & Laboratory Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School & Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Chair & Medical Director of Pathology and Clara Maass Medical Center.



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Terri Dickinson-Creasey, JD

A licensed attorney, Ms. Creasey currently serves as a member of the CAP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee. She was the inaugural Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at the CAP, leading national award winning workforce initiatives. She has presented topics at the CAP Annual Meeting and Leadership forum. She has presented at the CMSS annual meeting on workforce inclusion. She was honored as the PRSA Chicago's 2024 Diversity & Inclusion Champion of the Year.



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**La'Tonzia L. Adams, MD, MS,
FASCP, FCAP**

Honoree of the 2023 CAP Outstanding Communicator Award. Currently serving as a member of the CAP Professional and Community Engagement Committee



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Olaronke Akintola-Ogunremi
MD, FCAP

Dr. Akintola-Ogunremi is currently serving as a member of the CAP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee.

Honoree of the 2023 CAP Pathology Advancement Award.



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George Birdsong, MD, FCAP

Honoree of 2018 CAP Lifetime Achievement Award. Past member of CAP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee, Cytopathology Resource Committee, Chair of PERT Committee, and as liaison to the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR).



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Sally Campbell-Lee, MD, FCAP

Interim Head of the Department of Pathology at University of Illinois Chicago, & Director of Transfusion Medicine. Currently the Secretary & Board of Directors member of the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB).

Recipient of the Chang Ling Lee award from the Illinois Association of Blood Banks and AABB President's Award, Dr. Campbell Lee is actively involved in research on the immune response to transfusion, particularly in sickle cell anemia.



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Charles Richard Drew, MD (1904–1950)

Developed improved techniques for blood storage & large-scale blood banks early in WWII. Director of the first blood bank project in Britain. Protested the practice of racial segregation in the donation of blood.



Image source:
<https://sciencehistory.org/education/scientific-biographies/charles-richard-drew/>

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**Ruth Marguerite Easterling, MD
(1898 – 1943)**

First African American woman admitted to Tufts University School of Medicine, 1917. Worked with noted African American physician Dr. William Hinton to develop Hinton test for syphilis, conducted tuberculosis research with Dr. John B. West.



Image source:
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/riseservelead/collection-detail.html?imgid=116&imgName=092_01-md

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Solomon Carter Fuller, MD
(1872 – 1953)

Discovered the association between Alzheimer's Disease and amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. Key in recruiting & training black psychiatrists when the Veterans Administration opened Tuskegee Veterans Administration Medical Center after WWI.



Source:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/dementia-reimagined/201903/solomon-carter-fuller>

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Jane Hinton, MD (1919 – 2003)

A pioneer in the study of bacterial antibiotic resistance, Dr. Hinton was one of the first two African American women to gain the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Daughter of Dr. William Augustus Hinton.



Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Hinton

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William Augustus Hinton, MD
(1883 – 1959)

American bacteriologist, pathologist and educator. First African American professor in the history of Harvard University. Dr. Hinton developed a test for syphilis used by the United States Public Health Service.



Source:
<https://www.familiesfightingflu.org/william-augustus-hinton/>

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**Nicole R. Jackson, MD, MPH,
FASCP, FCAP**

Founding member and past president of the Society of Black Pathology. An avid Future Pathologist Champion, she has mentored nearly 50 learners interested in pathology, autopsy, and/or forensic pathology.



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Julian Herman Lewis, MD
(1891-1989)

Dr. Lewis became the first African American associate professor at the University of Chicago in 1922. Dr. Lewis was a pioneer in efforts to dispel racially based assumptions in medicine.

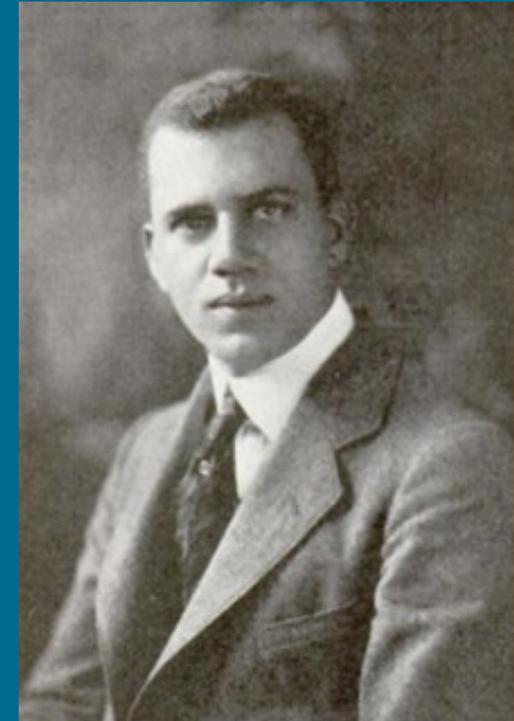


Image source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Herman_Lewis

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Henrietta Maku, MD, PhD, FCAP

Dr. Maku is currently serving as a member of the CAP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee and as a delegate for the CAP Residents Forum.



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**Rebecca C. Obeng, MD, PHD,
MPH, FCAP**

Honoree of the 2016 CAP Foundation Leadership Development Award. Currently serving as the chair of the CAP Biorepository Accreditation Program Committee and as a member of the Council on Accreditation.



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Douglas Posey, MD, FCAP

Dr. Posey is a CAP Emeritus Fellow; in 2021 he published the book *From Mississippi to the Morgue: A Black Doctor's Journey From Rural Mississippi to Forensic Pathology*.



Image source:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglasposey/>

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Timothy B. Walls, MD, FCAP

Recipient of the CAP Foundation
Informatics Award in 2017. Served as
the CAP Liaison for the AMA Resident
and Fellow Section.



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Jane Cooke Wright, MD
(1919 – 2013)

Developed technique of using human tissue culture rather than laboratory mice to test the effects of potential drugs on cancer cells. The only woman founding physician of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.



Source: <https://www.jax.org/news-and-insights/jax-blog/2016/november/women-in-science-jane-wright>



Kisha Mitchell Richards, MD, FCAP



Julie Wilson Lemmon, MD, FCAP



Henrietta Maku, MD, PhD



Olaronke Akintola-Ogunremi, MD, FCAP



Hanae Benchbani, MD, FCAP



Christine Noga Booth, MD, FCAP



Terri Dickinson Creasey, JD, BA



Juanita J Evans, MD, FCAP



Angela G Lapus, MD, MPH, FCAP



Jim Lu, MD, PhD, FCAP



Cristina Magallanes Hoyos, MD, FCAP



Lily Manon, MD, FCAP



Carmen Delia Sarita-Reyes, MD, FCAP



Stacia Semple, MD, FCAP



Stephen Michael Smith, MD, FCAP



James Jay Tiesinga, MD, FCAP

DEIAC Charge: Advance CAP efforts to improve healthcare outcomes for patients and populations by identifying and mitigating bias in pathology and laboratory medicine. Enhance engagement with pathologists and pathologists-in-training, while cultivating a sense of belonging for all members