



UCSF Fresno
Medical Education
Program
155 N. Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93701
Tel: 559-499-64

Corinna Kaarlela, UCSF News Director
Source: Brandy Nikaido, Director of Media Relations, UCSF Fresno
Phone: 559-241-7512 Cell: 559-313-6539
E-mail: bnikaido@fresno.ucsf.edu
Web: www.fresno.ucsf.edu, www.ucsf.edu

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UCSF Fresno to host "Changing the Face of Medicine" traveling exhibition

Fresno is only city in California to display the exhibit, which features two UCSF Fresno faculty members

FRESNO – Women doctors are the focus of a new traveling exhibition opening at the **UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research** on **Dec. 8, 2008**. The exhibit, which features UCSF Fresno faculty members Katherine A. Flores, MD, and Adriana Padilla, MD, will be on public display in the Dr. Edward and Ann Hildebrand Medical Library at the UCSF Fresno Center, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 30, 2009, excluding holidays.

"Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians" tells the extraordinary story of how American women who wanted to practice medicine have struggled over the past two centuries to gain access to medical education and to work in the medical specialty of their choice.

Since the mid-1800s, when Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn an MD degree in the United States, women have made enormous strides in every area of medicine and have achieved success in work once considered "unsuitable" for women. Women physicians are now found in every branch of medicine. They are researchers on the cutting edge of new medical discoveries, educators, surgeons, family practitioners, specialists, and government officials. "Changing the Face of Medicine" features the life stories of a rich diversity of women physicians from around the nation and highlights the broad range of medical specialties women are involved in today.

Flores, who practices family medicine, was selected to be a part of the exhibit for her work in creating the Doctors Academy and Junior Doctors Academy, two programs that provide students from educationally-disadvantaged backgrounds with the encouragement and academic preparation needed to pursue careers in health and medicine.

Padilla also practices family medicine and was selected for her work with medical students and family practice residents at UCSF Fresno.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association, Chicago, Ill., organized the exhibition with support from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health, and the American Medical Women's Association. The traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibition that was displayed at the NLM from 2003–2005.

"Women have brought fresh perspectives to the medical profession," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, director of the National Library of Medicine. "They have turned the spotlight on issues that had previously received little attention, such as the social and economic costs of illnesses and the low numbers of women and minorities entering medical school and practice."

(More)

Women physicians in the 21st century are benefiting from the career paths carved out since the mid-19th century by a long line of American women. Some early physicians featured in the exhibition are Matilda Evans, the first African American physician to be licensed in South Carolina, and Florence Sabin, one of the earliest woman physicians to work as a research scientist. Among the many other doctors whose stories appear in the exhibition are Antonia Novello, the first woman Surgeon General of the United States, and Catherine DeAngelis, the first woman to be appointed editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Two interactive kiosks traveling with the exhibition offer access to the NLM's "Local Legends" Web site at www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends, which features outstanding women physicians from every state, and to www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine, a Web site created for the larger exhibition at the NLM. The exhibition Web site offers access to educational and professional resources for people considering medicine as a career, as well as lesson plans for classroom activities. A section of the site called "Share Your Story," allows the public to add the names and biographies of women physicians they know.

"We are honored to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said Joan Voris, MD, associate dean at UCSF Fresno. "We are particularly proud that two of our very own are profiled as part of this unique exhibit. The persistence and fortitude demonstrated by all of the women featured serves as inspiration for men and women, young and the not so young and to people in all lines of work."

UCSF Fresno is sponsoring free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. For more information, please call (559) 499-6400, email csparks@fresno.ucsf.edu or visit: <http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/womeninmedicine/index.htm>

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UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program plays a substantial role in providing healthcare services to residents of California's San Joaquin Valley and training medical professionals in the region. The medical education program has trained approximately one-third of Central San Joaquin Valley physicians currently practicing in one of the seven specialties in which it provides training. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, UCSF Fresno has graduated more than 2,000 resident physicians. UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents care for the overwhelming majority of the area's underserved populations. On an annual basis, the program currently trains about 200 medical residents, nearly 200 medical students and a number of fellows in cardiology, critical care, hospitalist, infectious disease, minimal invasive surgery, pulmonary medicine and wilderness medicine. UCSF Fresno also provides academic preparation programs for middle- and high school students interested in the health professions through the Doctor's Academy and Junior Doctor's Academy. UCSF Fresno is a key partner in the proposed UC Merced School of Medicine and will play a significant role in the training of medical students at the planned school.