

# UNUSUAL HEROES OF *Medicine*

## 1. Dr Anandabai Joshee 1865 - 1887

She was one of the 1st female doctors in India trained in Western medicine. She was inspired to train in America after losing her baby in childbirth due to lack of medical care. She urged that there was a need for female doctors in India, as female doctors could best serve other females. She died of TB one year after qualifying.

## 2. Dr Kei Okami 1859 - 1941

Japanese physician specialising in gynaecology and tuberculosis who was one of the first Japanese women to obtain a degree in western medicine after studying in America. She was one of the first women to open her own medical practice after the Emperor refused her care because she was a woman.

## 3. Dr Tabat M Islambouly 1867 - 1941

Born to a Kurdish-Jewish family she was one of the first Kurdish female physicians from Syria. She studied at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in the United States of America. After graduating she is believed to have gone back to Damascus and then to Cairo in 1919.

## 4. 'Doctor Socrates' 1954 - 2011

He earned his medical degree from the University of São Paulo whilst concurrently playing professional football and practised medicine after retiring. He supported the wider movement for democratisation in Brazil, by wearing football shirts with the words 'Democracia' and spoke in support of Diretas Já (Free Elections Now) and denounced the military dictatorship.

## 5. Dr James Barry 1789 - 1865

A military surgeon in the British Army originally from Cork and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Dr Barry rose to Inspector General in Charge of Military Hospitals.

Dr Barry was a trans-man who not only improved conditions for wounded soldiers and indigenous people and performed the first recorded caesarean section by a European in Africa in which both the mother and child survived.



"Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity."  
— Hippocrates



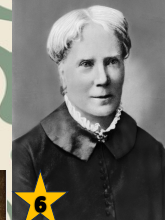
Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists via AP



Sundance Institute



Wikimedia.



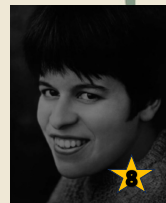
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MedWorld



Oneworld Publications



American Physiological Society.



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## 6. Dr Elizabeth Blackwell 1821-1910

She was first woman to earn an M.D. from an accredited medical school. Dr. Blackwell opened The New York Infirmary for Women and Children in 1857 which cared for paediatric and obstetrical and gynaecological patients, while also running a medical school for women. Dr. Blackwell was the first woman to be entered in the British Medical Register.

## 7. Dr Sarah Loguen Fraser 1850-1933

Born in Syracuse, NY she graduated from the Syracuse University College of Medicine in 1876 she was the fourth African American woman in the United States to earn a formal medical degree. Dr. Lougen Fraser moved to the Dominican Republic and became the country's first woman doctor, and was able to establish a free clinic there with help from her husband's business.

## 8. Dr Linda Laubenstein 1947-1992

Laubenstein was raised in Rhode Island where childhood polio left her paraplegic and using a wheelchair for the rest of her life. After receiving her medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. She was among the first doctors in the United States to recognise the AIDS epidemic and co-authored the first article linking AIDS with Kaposi's sarcoma. She was an outspoken AIDS activist.

## 9. Dr Kristen Ries + Maggie Synder RN, PA-C

Dr Ries and her partner and physician assistant, Maggie Synder were the only medical professionals willing to treat AID patients in Utah during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Both Dr Ries and Maggie worked with nuns at Holy Cross, to set up an end-of-life care network because nursing homes refused to take dying patients. Ries fearlessly provided loving, compassionate care at a time when the disease was highly stigmatised.

## 10. Dr Alan L. Hart 1980- 1962

Dr Hart was the first person to propose using X-Rays to detect early signs of TB and set up screening clinics in Idaho. He was the first transgender man in the USA to transition through surgery. His career as a Dr was difficult after being outed this resulted in his medical practice in Oregon being forced to close nevertheless he was also a successful novelist writing about queer characters in medicine.

## 11. Dr John Ercel Fryer 1937-2003

Dr Fryer was the 1st gay American psychiatrist to speak publicly about his sexuality. His anonymous speech at the 1972 APA annual conference has been cited as a key factor in the decision to de-list homosexuality as a mental illness from the DSM.