



## *The Medical* **Bulletin**

# Women Health Care

### *"Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"*

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, just slipped by, the international women's day, with a theme on gender equality. We are still talking globally about it definitely means it does exist.

Medicine is no exception to this male dominance rule. But we have fought our way, right from finding our way out from mother's womb to finding a seat in medical college. It has not been an easy journey, but it was worth the rebel.

#### **Historical women's medical schools**

When women were routinely forbidden from medical school, they sought to form their own medical schools.

- New England Female Medical College, Boston, founded in 1848.
- Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (founded 1850 as Female Medical College of Pennsylvania)
- London School of Medicine for Women (founded 1874 by Sophia Jex-Blake)
- Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women (founded 1886 by Sophia Jex-Blake)
- First Pavlov State Medical University of St. Petersburg (founded 1897 as Female Medical University)
- Tokyo Women's Medical University (founded 1900 by Yoshioka Yayoi)
- Hackett Medical College for Women, Guangzhou, China, founded in 1902 by Pres

#### **Indian Women In Medicine**

India's first women doctors pushed back against social ills and took the lonely road to fight for the right to work as individuals in their chosen fields. On that note, we would like to celebrate the inspiring journeys of some of our country's finest female doctors, whose relentless contributions to the field have saved more than a hundred lives.

#### **ANANDIBAI JOSHI**

A crater on Venus is named after India's first woman doctor, Anandibai Joshi. As luck would have it, we lost her to ill health before she could practise medicine.



**KADAMBANI GANGULY**

First Indian woman to have a career as a doctor.

**SIVARAMAKRISHNA IYER PADMAVATI**

First female Cardiologist of India.

**DR INDIRA HINDUJA**

Delivered the country's first test-tube baby, all the way back in 1986.

**KAMINI RAO**

Credited with the birth of India's First SIFT Baby. Along with this, she also set up South India's first Semen Bank and also engineered its first babies born through ICSI (Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection) and Laser Assisted Hatching. For all her contributions to Indian medicine, particularly in introducing new and innovative fertility measures, she was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014.

The efforts of resilient female doctors, undaunted by patriarchy and male preference, is what helped Indian medicine become the mostly gender-neutral industry it is today.

*Dr. Minal Mohit*