

EMORY UROLOGY

HONORS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"The achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well" - Jimmy Carter



Throughout Women's History Month, we honor the contributions of women from the past and present. It started as Women's Day, which was celebrated on Feb. 28, 1909, by a group of Manhattan socialists and suffragists in honor of the one-year anniversary of the garment strike led by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. In March 1910, German activist Clara Zetkin suggested that International Women's Day be recognized as an international holiday at the International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen — and all 17 countries in attendance agreed.

So, on March 18, 1911, Europeans finally followed suit in recognizing International Women's Day, while Americans continued to rally for Women's Day on the last Sunday in February until the 1970s.

President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation in 1980 declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. The weekly observance continued until 1987 when Congress designated March as Women's History Month.

In March, we recognize the efforts and bravery of past generations who have paved the way for women today. Below, the Emory Urology Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee highlights the advances and contributions of women in the field of Urology.

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AKANKSHA MEHTA, MD, MS

Dr. Akanksha Mehta is an Associate Professor of Urology at Emory University School of Medicine and is the first woman to achieve this status within the Department. She serves as Director of Male Reproductive Health and Residency Program Director at Emory Urology. Her clinical expertise includes andrology, male reproductive and sexual medicine and microsurgery. Dr. Mehta graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. She attended Brown University Medical School where she also did her internship and Urology residency. She completed a fellowship in Male Infertility and Microsurgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center before joining Emory Urology in 2013. Dr. Mehta's research focuses on improving access to care for male reproductive health, and on promoting the recovery of sexual function amongst male cancer survivors. She has been the recipient of research grants from the American Urological Association, the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, and the Movember Foundation.



REBECCA S. ARNOLD, PHD, MS



Dr. Rebecca S. Arnold earned her PhD in Chemistry/Biochemistry from Indiana University at Bloomington. She completed postdoctoral studies at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. In 2001, she joined the Emory Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and came to Emory Urology in 2006. Dr. Arnold's research interests include investigations of reactive oxygen in cancer, mitochondrial DNA mutations in prostate cancer and their relationship to bone metastasis, and racial disparities in prostate cancer. She is also working with other Emory Urology researchers to develop a diagnostic test for screening and detecting kidney cancer. Dr. Arnold is an active educator who teaches and mentors junior researchers, medical students, urology residents, and post-graduate fellows. She is the recipient of the Henry R. Mahler Memorial Award from Indiana University and multiple National Research Service Awards from the National Institute of Health (NIH).

JINDAN YU, MD, PHD

Dr. Jindan Yu joins Emory as the Fray Marshall Chair in Biomedical Urological Research, Vice Chair for Research in Urology, and Scientific Director of the Prostate and GU Cancer Program at Winship Cancer Institute, with an initial appointment as Acting Professor in the Departments of Urology and Human Genetics. She received her Medical Degree at the Beijing Medical University (now Peking University Health Science Center) in 1998 and a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. Her postdoctoral training was with Dr. Arul M. Chinnaiyan, an HHMI investigator and a pioneer and leader in prostate cancer genomics. Dr. Yu is a nationally renowned scientist in prostate cancer biology, and her discoveries have led to publications in high impact journals such as *Cancer Cell* and are highlighted by her discovery of HDAC3-mediated epigenetic reprogramming published in *Nature*. Currently, her research focuses on genomic and epigenomic analysis of the molecular mechanisms underlying prostate cancer progression to the lethal stage of castration resistance and/or neuroendocrine phenotype. Dr. Yu is a dedicated educator and received the Outstanding Teacher award from Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine in 2017.



PEGGY PEARLE, MD, PHD, FACS



Dr. Margaret "Peggy" Pearle is the first woman to receive the prestigious, AUA Gold Cystoscope Award. She is a Professor with joint appointments in UT Southwestern Medical Center's Department of Urology and the Mineral Metabolism Center, and is holder of the Ralph C. Smith Distinguished Chair in Urologic Education. Dr. Pearle received her medical degree from the University of Chicago and completed her residency at Northwestern University Medical Center. She attended Washington University School of Medicine for her fellowship. Her research interests include evaluation of dietary and medical therapies for kidney stone prevention, assessment of outcomes for minimally invasive surgical treatments, and development and assessment of resident teaching tools. She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Trustee of the American Board of Urology, a member of the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons and the American Urological Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Endourological Society.

SHEVANEES WRIGHT, RN, MSN

Shevanees Wright is the Sr. Nurse Manager for the St. Joseph and John's Creek Urology Clinics. Shevanees has been with Emory Healthcare for 19 years. Her clinical expertise includes Oncology, Home Health, Medical Surgical telemetry, and Urology. Her passion for nursing started at the age of 7. She became a Nursing Assistant at age 16 and started her nursing career shortly after. Shevanees graduated from Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York with her Associate's degree. She attended the University of Phoenix where she earned her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree specializing in Healthcare Management and Informatics. Shevanees joined Emory healthcare in 2004 and Urology in 2019.

As a nursing leader, Shevanees has held several leadership positions within Emory Healthcare, including the most recent Sr. Nurse Manager of Urology for the last four years. She takes pride in her team and supports their professional growth by seeking promotion, advancement and certification opportunities. Shevanees believes that leaders should be a model for others, and works hard to lead the team and organization to success. She is most proud to work at the 1st Magnet designated Ambulatory Clinic where evidence - based practice is used to provide quality care in a safer environment to the community. The ability to lead her team and get Magnet-ready has been the highlight of her career at Emory where she saw the highest level of RN engagement and commitment to excellence. The lessons learned along the way will allow her to continue building leadership skills to support the core values of the Emory healthcare organization to which she has devoted her entire career.

