

National Medical Fellowships is proud to announce the inaugural

## James McCune Smith, MD Lecture and Award Reception for Excellence, Innovation, Diversity and Research in Health Disparities in Medicine

National Medical Fellowships (NMF) will be awarding the **first James McCune Smith, MD Medical Student Award for Excellence, Innovation, Diversity, and Research in Health Disparities in Medicine**. NMF established this award in **2019 in honor of James McCune Smith, MD (1813-1865)**, the first African American to receive a medical degree in the United States. **Dr. McCune Smith became a highly accomplished physician and a prominent abolitionist. His New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) Fellowship was withheld in 1847 because of his race.**



**Fig. 1 New Portrait of James McCune Smith, MD**  
Donated by NYAM Fellow  
Daniel Laroche, MD Nov. 1, 2018

Dr. McCune Smith was born in New York. Yet, he could not gain admission to a medical school in New York. Therefore, he left for the **University of Glasgow in 1832**, earning a **BA in 1835**, an **MA in 1836**, and his **MD in 1837**. He then returned to New York, where he became the **first university-trained practicing African American physician in the United States**.

Dr. McCune Smith maintained a general medical and surgical practice in Lower Manhattan, treating both **black and white patients**. He also served as a

physician at the **Colored Orphans Asylum of New York**, where he became its **Medical Director in 1846**. He held that position until the asylum was destroyed during the **Draft Riots of 1863**.

Dr. McCune Smith authored the **first** case report by an African American physician. Nevertheless, he was denied membership in, and the opportunity to present his work before, the New York Medical and Surgical Society in **1840** because of his race. A second series of case reports by Dr. Smith published in the *New York Journal of Medicine* in **1844**, was the first medical scientific papers published by an African American physician in the United States. He also published several papers that demonstrated a sophisticated use of statistical analysis to disprove prevailing theories of racial inferiority. An **outspoken abolitionist**, he regularly contributed articles to the abolitionist press.



**Fig 2 Award of Academy of fellowship granted to James McCune Smith, MD.**  
*Photo taken, a November*

**For information on the James McCune Smith, MD National Medical Fellowships Medical Student Award or application requirements, please click the link below:**

<https://nmfonline.org/about-our-scholarships-and-awards/general-scholarships-awards/>

**For general information on the James McCune Smith, MD Lecture and Award Reception or to purchase tickets for the reception please click the link below:**

[www.nmfonline.org/2020-mccune](http://www.nmfonline.org/2020-mccune)

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