

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

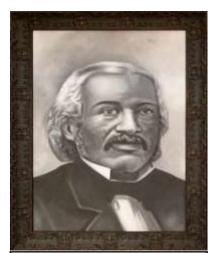


Fig. 1 New Portrait of James McCune Smith, MD Donated by NYAM Fellow Daniel Laroche, MD Nov. 1, 2018

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.

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

For information and questions contact: