National Medical Fellowships (NMF) &
The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)

are proud to announce the Inaugural

Dr. James McCune Smith Lecture and Awards Reception in Excellence, Innovation, Diversity, and Health Disparities in Medicine

National Medical Fellowships (NMF) will be awarding the first Dr. James McCune Smith Medical Student Award and The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) will be awarding the first Dr. James McCune Smith Faculty Research Award for excellence, innovation, and health disparities in medicine.

NMF and NYAM, partnered in 2019 to establish these two awards in honor of Dr. James McCune Smith (1813-1865), the first African American to receive a medical degree. Dr. McCune Smith became a highly accomplished physician and a prominent abolitionist, whose NYAM Fellowship was previously withheld in 1847 because of his race.

Dr. McCune Smith was born in New York. However, 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 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. Additionally, he served as a physician at the Colored Orphans Asylum of New York, where he became its Medical Director in 1846. He held that position at the time the asylum was destroyed by a white mob during the Draft Riots of 1863.

Author of the first case report by an African American physician, Dr. McCune Smith was denied membership to 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. McCune Smith, published in the New York Journal of Medicine in 1844, were the first medical scientific papers published by an African American physician in the United States. He also published a number of 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.

For more information visit: www.nmfonline.org/2020-mccune or contact Edwin Madera at emadera@nmfonline.org or 646.395.9475