Out of an abundance of caution and in concert with the latest guidelines from federal, state and local authorities, NMF has cancelled the James McCune Smith, MD Award Reception originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2020. This was not an easy decision but one we believe to be in the best interests of both our cherished supporters and the community at large.

On Wednesday, March 4th, 2020, National Medical Fellowships and the Founding Committee members of the James McCune Smith, MD Lecture and Award Reception for Excellence, Innovation, Diversity, and Research in Health Disparities in Medicine, selected **Mr. Marcus Mosley as the first recipient of the James McCune Smith, MD Medical Student Award**.

Marcus Mosley is a second-year medical student at The City University of New York (CUNY) School of Medicine and deeply committed to reducing healthcare disparities. He earned his MS in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University and is trained in qualitative research methods. Currently, Mr. Mosley is conducting research examining the presentation of race in the medical curriculum and how its construction influences students’ beliefs, attitudes and the conceptualization of race.

As a future clinician-scientist, Mr. Mosley is also interested in developing ways in which narrative medicine can be used as a pedagogical tool to promote racial literacy and teach medical students to tackle the societal determinants of health. Under the aegis of Hope for New York, he has volunteered with numerous organizations throughout his professional career and currently facilitates narrative medicine sessions for undergraduate students at The Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program at CUNY. Additionally, Mr. Mosley conducts research at the CUNY School of Medicine Laboratory of Urban Community Health with a focus on developing community-level strategies to reduce HIV and the stigma experienced by black men who have sex with men (MSM).

Please [Click Here](#) to view Mr. Mosley’s acceptance of the 2020 James McCune Smith, MD Medical Student Award and his presentation of his latest research in healthcare disparities in medicine.

Thank You to all who purchased tickets and made donations to this important new initiative. And a very special Thank You to the Founding Committee members for their steadfast support and dedication. Now your support will help NMF continue to recognize talented young people who hold promise as healthcare leaders while we honor the memory of James McCune Smith, MD, the first African American medical doctor in the United States. Please [Click Here](#) to support the James McCune Smith, MD Medical Student Award.

We look sincerely look forward to ‘seeing’ you at the 2021 James McCune Smith, MD Lecture and Award Reception for Excellence, Innovation, Diversity, and Research in Health Disparities in Medicine. Should you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Edwin Madera at 212.483.8880 (x309) emadera@nmfonline.org. Thank you once again!

Wishing you, your family and colleagues good health,

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Dr. Esther R. Dyer  
President & CEO  
National Medical Fellowships  
*On behalf of the James McCune Smith, MD Lecture and Award Reception Committee members*
A Brief History of
James McCune Smith, MD
1813 - 1865

Although born in New York, James McCune Smith was denied admission to New York medical schools. In 1832 he began his studies at the University of Glasgow, 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. He also served as a physician at the Colored Orphans Asylum of New York, where he became Medical Director in 1846. He held that position until the asylum was destroyed during the Draft Riots of 1863.

Author of the first case report by an African American physician, Dr. McCune Smith 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. McCune Smith were ultimately published in the New York Journal of Medicine in 1844 and were the first medical scientific papers published by an African American physician in the United States. McCune Smith also published several papers that used sophisticated statistical analysis to disprove prevailing theories of racial inferiority. An outspoken abolitionist, he regularly contributed articles to the abolitionist press.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, NMF would like to extend a Thank You to all our supporters. And a Very Special Thank You to the founding Committee members: Answorth A. Allen, MD,* Elaine Barfield, MD, Mauvareen Beverley, MD,* Garfield A. Clunie, MD, Jessie A. Fields, MD,* Daniel Laroche, MD,* Glen W. McWilliams, MD,* Wayne Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP.* (*NMF Alumni)

Special Thanks to our Corporate Silver Sponsor, Sight Sciences, Inc. for their valuable support and for their work in the field of glaucoma treatment. Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in the African American community. Early cataract surgery and angle surgery with can help prevent blindness from glaucoma. Sight Sciences, Inc. is a late-stage med-tech company revolutionizing the ophthalmic landscape with the OMNI Surgical system, the only MIGs device able to perform up to 360 degrees of trabeculotomy and/or canaloplasty. To learn more, please visit: https://sightsciences.com

You can still add your contribution to the 2020 James McCune Smith, MD Medical Student Award and to the 2021 Award Fund. Please Click Here to donate. Or send your check to:

National Medical Fellowships
ATTN: James McCune Smith, MD Award Fund
12 East 46th Street, Suite 5E
New York, NY 10017

For additional information please contact Edwin Madera at 212.483.8880 (x309) emadera@nmfonline.org.