

Women in medical education: female students in the first years of operation of the Faculty of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

E. Giannakou, O. Kalogeridou, N. Papavramidou

Museum of Medical History, School of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Women in medical education worldwide

1849: Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first woman graduating from a Medical School (Geneva Medical College, NY) after 30 applications!!



1850: College of Pennsylvania, USA. First school for training women in medicine



Women in medical education in Greece

1897: Aggeliki & Maria Kalapothaki: the first women graduating from a Greek Medical School



Aggeliki moves to Alexandria → 1902: awarded with the Medal of the Order of Nile by the Egyptian government, as the first woman studying tropical diseases.



1908: Proclaimed don in the laboratory of Hygiene, National University of Athens

The establishment of the Faculty of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

1942: establishment of the Faculty of Medicine, A.U.Th.
----- Under German occupation!! -----

1st year medical students carrying building material for constructing the Anatomy lab



1942: total admitted students = 351 ← 101 women
1942-49: total admitted students = 1550 ← 380 women

1942-49:

- Only 164/380 women graduated
- 45/380 women were refugees
- 30% of women requested exemption from fees due to financial difficulties
- Most women graduated after 7 or 8 years of studies (range= from 6 to 26 years)
- Female students were not discriminated in any level from the male ones
- Many went abroad to specialize

-Political and economic situation governed the decision for higher medical education of women

-Despite the lack of infrastructures, books, or even professors, the students considered the new school as their own, helped and run around the city to attend classes

-Most women came from an educated environment

-6% of women came from a medical environment

-Soon after the establishment of the School, women also participated in the Faculty or simply in the teaching process