



Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, November 21, 1947– January 21, 2024

Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, who grew up in Brownsville, Tennessee, was inspired to become a doctor at the age of three after witnessing a physician care for her great grandfather. She promised him she would become a doctor to ensure good medical care for people like him. Dr. Mitchell kept her promise and rose to become a clinical professor of medical oncology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College and held several significant roles at Jefferson Health's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center.

Professional Achievements

- Dr. Mitchell's career was dedicated to addressing cancer disparities, particularly in underserved communities. She focused on gastrointestinal and breast cancers, advocating for lifestyle changes to improve cancer care.
- She served as a brigadier general in the US Air Force, the first woman physician to achieve this rank, highlighting her extraordinary military and medical careers.

Contributions and Leadership

- Dr. Mitchell held numerous leadership roles, including the presidency of the National Medical Association and serving on various national panels and committees dedicated to cancer research and disparities.
- She authored over 150 publications and was involved in groundbreaking research on cancer treatment and precision medicine.

Community Impact

- Dr. Mitchell was passionate about community service and improving healthcare access for underserved populations. She worked to foster educational opportunities for Black and underrepresented minorities in the medical field.
- Her commitment to justice and equity in healthcare was evident in her efforts to address implicit bias and advocate for minority participation in clinical trials.

Personal Qualities

- Dr. Mitchell was known for her humility and dedication. She treated everyone with respect and care, regardless of their background, and was a source of guidance and inspiration for many.

Dr. Mitchell's legacy is one of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to justice in healthcare. Her life's work continues to inspire and impact the medical community and beyond.