

## September 2019 – Women in Medicine, Week 2

September is Women in Medicine Month, and we are featuring some of our exemplary providers and clinicians of today as well as some amazing historical figures. This week, we spotlight:

- Sally Greenwald, MD – Menlo Medical Group (nominated by Camilla Dollahite, BSN, RN)
- Joceliza Chaudhary, MD – Family Medicine Samaritan Los Gatos (nominated by Rachel Roberts, MD)
- Anupama Velpuri, MD – Bay Valley Medical Group (nominated by Shamsi Vatannia)

Our historical figure is Alice Ball, an American chemist and medical researcher. Read more about the amazing work these women have and are contributing to medicine.

### Sally Greenwald, MD



Dr. Sally Greenwald is inspiring. She took extra time out of her day to formally teach the staff about the symptoms, expectations and treatment for women with pregnancy of unknown location. We loved learning more about the research and science that guides the treatment of our patients. Dr. Greenwald is constantly educating both her patients and the staff in less formal situations as well. She will often jot down a picture to help patients or staff understand what's happening behind the symptoms. She is also very approachable. It's a common occurrence for her patients to tell us how much they love her. Dr. Greenwald has a talent for celebrating people. She enthusiastically commemorates milestones with both her patients and staff. Dr. Greenwald is a dedicated mother and physician. She inspires us!



### Joceliza Chaudhary, MD

I would like to nominate Dr. Joceliza Chaudhary. She provides compassionate care for her patients as a doctor but also for her colleagues, as a site lead. She showed focus and strong leadership in FY2019, helping the South Bay UMP region achieve their quality goals when it looked like they may not. She is also an outdoor enthusiast and avid skier, sharing her passion with her husband and adorable sons. I am thankful to have Dr. Chaudhary as a friend, colleague, and leader.



### **Anupama Velpuri, MD**

I nominate Dr. Anupama Velpuri who is full time mother, full-time physician and an exceptional leader. When I think of Dr. Velpuri, the words that come to mine are flexible, hard-working and great leader. She always finds great solutions to our problems.

Dr. Velpuri's patients describe her as a rare gem and say she's intelligent, observant, compassionate and entirely available. She doesn't make you feel rushed, but rather invited to address all issues. She is a WHOLE PERSON professional!

**Alice Ball**  
**Chemist, Medical Researcher**  
**USA**  
**1892-1916**



Both Alice's mother and grandfather were photographers, and as a child she developed an interest in the chemicals used in photography. She went to college in her hometown of Seattle and earned not one but two degrees, in pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacy. At the time, Alice defied expectations and her circumstances by seeking an education and career in science.

In 1915, Alice became the first woman and first African American to graduate with a master's degree from the University of Hawaii. While working on her thesis, she developed what would become the leading treatment for leprosy. She found a way for oil from the seed of the chaulmoogra tree to be absorbed in the bloodstream. This treatment became the primary method that would be used until the 1940s, but for a long time no one knew Alice was the inventor. Less than two years after this discovery, Alice died, and the director of her program took credit for her findings. Alice's method became known as the Dean Method.

It wasn't until the 1970s that historians unearthed the truth and worked to ensure that Alice got credit for her important discovery. On February 29, 2000, the University of Hawaii recognized her for her work and dedicated a plaque to her on the only chaulmoogra tree on the school's campus. That day, the lieutenant governor of Hawaii declared February 29 Alice Ball Day.

Harrison, Vashti. (2018) **Little Leaders: Visionary Women Around the World**. London, United Kingdom: Penguin Books Ltd