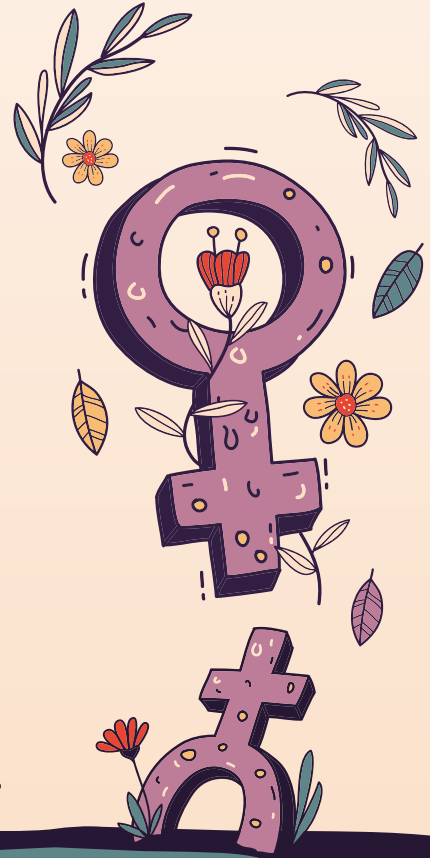


# The Mistreatment of Black Women in Healthcare

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Presented by: Heavenly Davis



# Project Objectives

## Objective 1:

Educate people about the effect of racism and misogyny on black women in healthcare.

## Objective 2:

Provide examples of black women who were mistreated in the healthcare system.

## Objective 3:

Provide solutions to combat this issue.





# Introduction

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This section will cover background information on the inequalities black women face in healthcare and why these inequalities exist.

# So where did it start?

- Black women historically have been stereotyped to have a higher pain tolerance than other races of women.
- This idea was justified by many people, including a physician, named James Marion Sims (Holland,2018).
- He was named “The Father of Gynecology” (Holland,2018).
- This was because he invented the vaginal speculum and a surgical technique to repair vesicovaginal fistula (Holland,2018).
- Not many people talk about how Sims used black slave women to experiment his treatments on.



# So where did it start?

- Sims research was conducted on black women without any anesthesia or consent (Alhadi,2020).
- He mainly experimented on three black women, named Lucy, Anarcha, and Betsey (Holland,2018).
- Most of the women Sims experimented on were not provided any relief after years of abuse (Alhadi,2020).
- It even took 30 surgical operations on Anarcha for him to “perfect his method” to repair vesciovaginal fistula (Holland, 2018).
- Despite this, Sims has several statues across the nation to honor him as a physician (Holland, 2018).
- Through years of activism, only two statues of him were taken down (Holland, 2018).

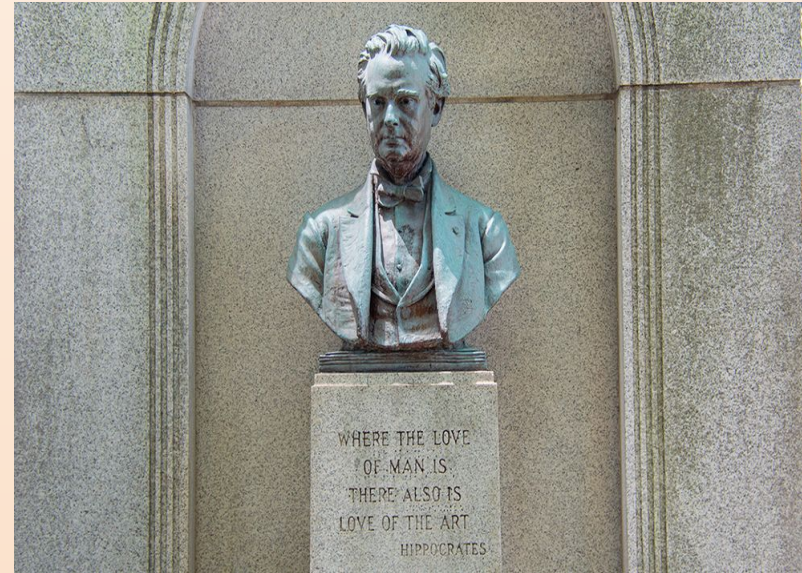


Photo Credit: <https://www.historiccolumbia.org/tour-locations/monument-dr-j-marion-sims>



# Interview

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This section will cover an interview of my mom who has suffered from several autoimmune diseases without proper treatment from doctors the majority of her life.

# Question 1: Who is Shawna?

- ➔ This is Shawna Shew-A-Tjon, she's a service coordinator for early intervention.
- ➔ Shawna is a Native New Yorker.
- ➔ She is a mother of 4 children and 2 dogs.
- ➔ She loves to write poetry for fun.



## Question 2: Was there ever a time that you felt ignored by a healthcare professional?

- She has felt ignored ever since she was 13 years old up until she turned 45.
- Doctors kept telling her that the discomfort she was experiencing was only high blood pressure, diabetes, and constant migraines.
- These are all symptoms that stem from an autoimmune disease, called Ankylosing spondylitis (AS).
- She was officially diagnosed with AS in June 2021 when her current rheumatologist heard her story.



*Photo Credit: <https://dranoofsrheumacare.com/ankylosing-spondylitis.php>*



### Question 3: How do you feel knowing that your children may have to face similar challenges when seeing healthcare professionals?

- “In this regard knowledge is power”, Shawna says.
- She passes this down to her children because if they know more, they can do more.
- Her mission is to address all health concerns regarding her black children with a great deal of advocacy.



*Photo Credit: <https://justinsjournal101.blogspot.com/2018/12/25-awesome-what-tools-do-doctors-use.html>*

## Question 4: What is something that you wish you could change about the way black women are treated in healthcare?

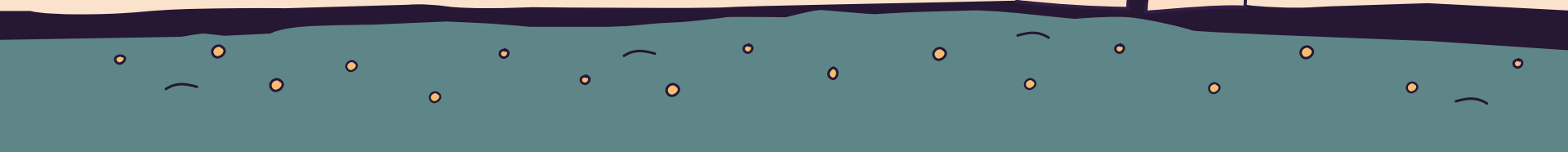
- She says that she would change the way that healthcare professionals, including administrative staff, disregard black women and women of color.
- She wants to change how women of color are undermined for the physical pain that they are experiencing.
- Compared to white women, healthcare professionals do not address the health problems and pain black women experience as quickly.



*Photo Credit: <https://sagmind.wordpress.com/2017/10/04/saturn-in-sagittarius-finding-meaning-in-pain-reality/>*

# My Experience

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# Solutions

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This section will include solutions to combat this issue that black women face in healthcare.



# Solutions

- All healthcare professionals that treat women should be required to have a training apart of their licensing program which teach bias and anti-racism curriculum (Beim,2020).
- Hospitals and birthing centers should be required to publicly disclose health outcomes for labor and delivery for different demographic groups (Beim, 2020).
- Stakeholders who are generating genomic datasets for research should pledge to have more black women in the datasets (Beim, 2020).
- More funding should be generated for medical conditions that impact the lives of black women (Beim,2020)
- Advocacy and educating others!.



Photo Credit: <https://www.nwcphp.org/about/news/next-hot-topics-webinar-becoming-anti-racist-health-department>

# Mothers of Gynecology Statues

- ➔ This is a set of statues of Anarcha, Betsey, and Lucy.
- ➔ The statues stand almost 15 feet tall (Pillion, 2021).
- ➔ They were welded together by activist and artist, Michelle Browder (Pillion,2021).
- ➔ The statues were unveiled in September of 2021 (Pillion,2021).
- ➔ The monument is the first phase of the More Up Campus, developed by Browder to teach more about the history of Montgomery (Pillion,2021).
- ➔ Plans are for the More Up Campus to include a travel center accommodate travelers or activists and a museum highlighting the stories of Anarcha, Lucy, Betsey and others from Montgomery (Pillion,2021)..



Photo Credit: <https://www.al.com/news/2021/09/monument-to-mothers-of-gynecology-unveiled-in-montgomery.html>

# Sources

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Thank you!

