A History of Black Scientists

1864 - Rebecca Lee Crumpler becomes the first black woman to graduate from medical school in the U.S.

1867 - George Washington Carver, botanist and inventor, publishes the first of 44 practical bulletins for farmers, describing how to grow and use peanuts, soybeans and other crops.

1876 - Percy Lavon Julian, a biochemist and inventor, publishes the first of 44 practical bulletins for farmers, describing how to grow and use peanuts, soybeans and other crops.

1889 - Daniel Hale Williams, a surgeon, demonstrates that insects can hear.

1893 - Charles H. Turner becomes the first black person to receive a doctorate in chemistry.

1897 - Henry Hill becomes the first black person to become a member of the American Chemical Society.

1901 - Kenneth B. Clark becomes the first black person to receive a doctorate in mathematics and statistics.

1907 - Patricia E. Bath receives a patent for the phacoemulsification technique for cataract surgery.

1914 - Charles H. Turner becomes the first black person to be admitted to the chemical honor society Phi Lambda Upsilon.

1916 - Saint Elmo Brady becomes the first black person to receive a doctorate in physics from Yale University.

1925 - Lloyd Augustus Hall develops a preservation process known as flash-drying, which is still used to preserve food and medical supplies today.

1932 - Ruth Ella Moore becomes the first black woman in the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. in bacteriology.

1935 - Percy Lavon Julian completes the synthesis of physostigmine, a drug now used both as a treatment for glaucoma and as an antidote to the effects of the drug methamphetamine.

1937 - David Harold Blackwell becomes the first black person to receive both an M.D. and a Ph.D., which he earns in bacteriology at Columbia University in 1937.

1941 - The first blood bank in the U.S., and one of the first in the world, opens in the basement of the American Red Cross.

1942 - Hilldrus Augustus Poindexter becomes the first black person to receive both an M.D. and a Ph.D., which he earns in bacteriology at Columbia University in 1942.

1947 - Marie Maynard Daly becomes the first black woman to earn a doctorate in chemistry.

1951 - Roland B. Scott is the first to demonstrate that insects can hear.

1957 - Patricia D. Boardman becomes the first black woman to receive a doctorate in mathematics.

1965 - David Harold Blackwell becomes the first black person to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his work on protein synthesis.

1972 - The National Institutes of Health establish the National Institute of Minority Health and Disease Prevention, becoming the first black scientific director and director of the Institute of Minority Health.

1977 - Jane C. Wright becomes the first black woman to head an institute of the National Institutes of Health.

1981 - Alexia Irene Canady becomes the first black female neurosurgeon.

1987 - Patricia E. Bath becomes the first black woman to receive a patent for the phacoemulsification technique for cataract surgery.

1991 - LaSalle B. Leatherman, Jr., becomes the first black woman in space. She later starts a medical device company based on space technology.

2004 - Stephen L. Mayo is elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his work on protein engineering.

2012 - Gary A. Gibbons is appointed director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Gibbons, a clinical scientist, made significant contributions to the fields of vascular biology and genomic medicine.

2013 - Joseph Francis is elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his work on atmospheric chemistry.
A HISTORY OF black scientists

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology celebrates important contributions and achievements in science and technology made by black scientists.

ASBMB diversity initiatives:

- **Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship** supports students who demonstrate an interest in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology and who are committed to enhancing diversity in science.
- **Annual grant-writing workshop and mentorship program** helps assistant professors and postdoctoral scholars write successful research proposals.
- **MSI-Student Chapters partnerships** mentor and support new ASBMB Student Chapters that form at minority serving institutions.
- **Research Spotlight** features interviews with scientists from diverse backgrounds who are pursuing a variety of career paths.
- **Partnership for Diversity** is an e-newsletter for minority scientists and those interested in promoting diversity in science.
- **Ruth Kirschstein Diversity in Science Award** honors outstanding scientists who have shown a strong commitment to the encouragement of underrepresented minorities to enter the scientific enterprise and/or to the effective mentorship of those within it.
- **Hands-on Opportunities to Promote Engagement in Science (HOPES)** provides seed grants to incentivize and support the development of outreach partnerships between researchers and K-12 educators.

For more information on ASBMB initiatives and member benefits, visit [www.asbmb.org](http://www.asbmb.org).