



THE VIRGINIA KNEELAND FRANTZ SOCIETY  
FOR WOMEN FACULTY AT CUIMC PRESENTS

# “A CENTURY OF WOMEN AT VP&S: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES”

SPEAKER

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**Anne L. Taylor, MD**

*Senior Vice President for Faculty Affairs and  
Career Development*

*Columbia University Irving Medical Center*

*Vice Dean for Academic Affairs*

*John Lindenbaum Professor of Medicine at CUMC*

*Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons*

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 4 p.m.**

**Alumni Auditorium**

**630 West 168th Street | 1st Floor | New York, NY 10032**



COLUMBIA

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IRVING MEDICAL CENTER

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## Virginia Kneeland Frantz, MD, VP&S Class of 1922



Dr. Frantz, a 1922 graduate of VP&S, was the first woman to pursue a surgery internship at what is now NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and to become president of the American Thyroid Association. She was considered a giant in surgical pathology at VP&S and elsewhere and remained at Columbia despite an offer in the middle of her career to become president of Bryn Mawr College, her undergraduate alma mater. She made several scientific and clinical contributions during her career.

With an interest in the thyroid, she founded a multidisciplinary thyroid clinic at Columbia. She made a series of discoveries related to the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid, breast and pancreatic tumors, and she published an account of pancreatic tumors for the Armed Forces Atlas of Tumor Pathology that soon became the standard text on the subject. She was also one of the first to prove the usefulness of radioactive iodine in the diagnosis and treatment of metastatic thyroid cancer.

She made a mark as a member of the surgical pathology team at Columbia. Dr. Frantz and famed surgeon Allen O. Whipple were the first to describe the insulin-secretion of pancreatic tumors. During World War II, she studied the control of bleeding during surgery with Dr. Raffaele Lattes, leading to the discovery of oxidized cellulose as an aid to wound healing that could be absorbed by the body. For this work, she received the Army-Navy Certificate of Appreciation for Civilian Service. Dr. Frantz retired from VP&S in 1962.

### The Virginia Kneeland Frantz Society

The Virginia Kneeland Frantz Society is open to faculty of all ranks in the health sciences at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. The society is named after Dr. Virginia Kneeland Frantz, a VP&S alumna (Class of 1922), recognized academic surgical pathologist, researcher and educator. Dr. Frantz was the first woman to pursue an internship in surgery at Presbyterian Hospital (now NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital) and the first woman to become president of a major national medical organization, the American Thyroid Society. The Virginia Kneeland Frantz Society aims to serve, support, and celebrate the careers of women in science and medicine at CUIMC. For more information, please visit: [cuimc.columbia.edu/vkfs](http://cuimc.columbia.edu/vkfs).

## Anne L. Taylor, MD



Dr. Anne L. Taylor received her medical degree from the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine and completed her clinical and research training at the University of Chicago, John Hopkins Hospital and the University of Iowa. She has held faculty positions at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, at Case Western Reserve University as Chief of Cardiology at the Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the University of Minnesota Medical School as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Co-director of the

Deborah E. Powell National Center of Excellence in Women's Health. As Senior Vice President for Faculty Affairs and Career Development for CUIMC, Dr. Taylor supports faculty recruitment, appointment and promotion processes, professional development and conflict of interest programs for faculty and trainees at the four health sciences schools at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Taylor's key initiatives include the reorganization of faculty academic tracks, the launch of the Virginia Kneeland Frantz Society for Women Faculty at the Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons, management of Conflict of Interest, appointment/promotion processes and implementation of mentoring programs and launching the CUIMC Office of Professionalism.

Recently the work of Dr. Taylor and her team on gender equity won an NIH Prize for Enhancing Faculty Gender Diversity in Biomedical and Behavioral Science and in 2021, Dr. Taylor was awarded the Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS) Individual Leadership Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges. She is currently the PI of the Columbia University VP&S COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists, an award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and its' partner, the American Heart Association.

Dr. Taylor is the recipient of the inaugural **VKFS Legacy of Excellence in Mentorship Award**, which celebrates senior leaders whose enduring mentorship and sponsorship have shaped generations, leaving a lasting legacy of empowerment and excellence. The VKFS Legacy of Excellence in Mentorship Award will be presented by VKFS Steering Committee members:

- Christine Rohde, MD, MPH  
Herbert and Florence Irving Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (in Surgery) to Honor Dr. Jeffery A. Ascherman at CUMC
- Mimi Shirasu-Hiza, PhD  
Professor of Genetics and Development  
Assistant Dean of Mentoring, VIBRE

## Musical Selections

Selection 1: **String Quartet in G Major, 2nd Movement**

Artist: **Florence Price (1887 – 1953)**

Selection 2: **String Quartet in A minor, 3rd Movement**

Artist: **Florence Price**

## Musicians

### Patricia Ho

MD/PhD Candidate

VP&S Class of 2025

Cello

### Suh Yeon (Sunny) Oh

College of Dental Medicine Class of 2024

Periodontics Resident 2027

Viola

### Stephen Tang

MD/PhD Candidate

VP&S Class of 2027

1st Violin

### Lauren Zhang

VP&S Class of 2028

2nd Violin

*The student quartet is playing instruments made by Virginia Apgar, MD, VP&S Class of 1933, VP&S Faculty Member (1938-1959).*

## About Virginia Apgar, MD, VP&S Class of 1933



Dr. Virginia Apgar (VP&S Class of 1933) was a pioneering clinician, researcher, and educator. After majoring in zoology at Mount Holyoke College, she entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, and graduated 4th in her class of 90. Two years into her surgery residency she was persuaded to switch to anesthesia by the Chair of Surgery, Dr. Alan Whipple – a reflection of the times. After training in anesthesia at the University of Wisconsin and Bellevue Hospital, she returned to Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in 1938 as the first Director of the new

Division of Anesthesia. Dr. Apgar dedicated herself to education and research in anesthesia and in 1949 she was appointed the first woman professor at P&S. She is the inventor of the Apgar Score which is used globally to quickly assess the health of newborn infants. She was also a lifelong violinist and luthier (maker of stringed instruments), famously fashioning a violin back from a piece of maple wood she found in a phone booth at Presbyterian Hospital.

*Image source: The Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections*