

Historic Women and Moments in Cardiology



As the American Heart Association enters its next century of funding lifesaving research, we salute the women who have made historic contributions to the field of cardiology and look back on the moments that made it possible to save more women's lives today.

1924

The American Heart Association is founded.

1936

Maude Abbott, M.D. invented an international classification system for congenital heart disease.

1943

Myra Adele Logan, M.D. becomes the first woman to operate on a human heart.

1964

The AHA chooses biochemist Mildred Cohn, Ph.D. as its first female career investigator. Her work contributed to the development of the MRI.

1965

Pediatric cardiologist Helen Taussig, M.D. becomes the first woman president of the American Heart Association.

1985

Margaret Allen, M.D. becomes the first female surgeon in the United States to transplant a heart.

1993

The National Institutes of Health NIH Revitalization Act passed by congress and mandates women must be included in clinical research.

1998

New Act for Women is signed into law to create a program to advance the fight against heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

2001

AHA-funded researcher Christine Moravec, Ph.D. reports that left ventricular assist devices (LVAD) can reverse diminished heart muscle performance in people awaiting a heart transplant.

2004

Go Red for Women begins and raises women's awareness that heart disease is their No. 1 killer and helps them take action to prevent it.

2010

Go Red for Women supports a provision to prohibit insurance companies from charging women higher premiums than men for the same health insurance coverage.

2015

AHA announces plans for the Go Red Strategically Focused Research Network (SFRN), with five centers studying five key women-related issues.

2019

Research Goes Red launches in collaboration with the Institute for Precision Medicine, building a highly engaged women's health research platform.

2022

Christine E. Seidman, M.D. receives the 2022 Research Achievement Award, the Association's highest honor for her groundbreaking discoveries in the genetics of cardiomyopathy.

2024

A gift from Sally Ross Soter will support the Go Red for Women Venture Fund®, which invests in health companies that target cardiovascular, metabolic and neurologic solutions across a woman's lifespan.



American Heart Association.

