



Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown

September 28, 1954 - November 17, 2021

Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, a family physician from Charlotte and trailblazer for women of color in medicine, passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, after a battle with cancer. She was 67.

Dr. Garmon-Brown, a long-time NCMS member, was a tireless advocate for her patients, her commitment to serving the poor and underserved, and for her advocacy and leadership both within organized medicine and her local community. Dr. Garmon-Brown also served as a member of the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation Board of Trustees.

Dr. Garmon-Brown was born in Detroit, Michigan but spent her teen years in rural Bertie County, North Carolina. She began her higher education at North Carolina Central University, completed her medical degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed her residency in family medicine at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. Dr. Garmon-Brown was the first female African-American graduate of the residency program.

Dr. Garmon-Brown co-founded the Charlotte Community Health Clinic—Mecklenburg County’s first free clinic to earn distinction as a federally qualified health clinic. She was the first African-American elected president of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society, served as the medical director for the Salvation Army’s Women’s and Children’s Shelter’s health clinic, as well as a volunteer at the Charlotte Pregnancy Care Center. Additionally, she co-chaired the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force, which the city and county established to address disparities regarding upward economic mobility.

Dr. Garmon-Brown leaves behind a remarkable legacy.

[Read more about her life and legacy in a tribute by the Mecklenburg County Medical Society in their *Mecklenburg Medicine* magazine.](#)

Watch as Novant Health pays homage to Dr. Garmon-Brown in a touching video: [Remembering Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown.](#)

