Establishment of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

As the nation’s oldest medical society, The College of Physicians was founded in 1787 by a group of physicians including Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of our nation’s Declaration of Independence. Its purpose was to create better physicians to better serve the public. The College was a place to gather scientific and medical knowledge from America and abroad, and use this information to educate the public and encourage high standards of professional practice.

More than 200 years later, The College of Physicians, continues to honor its legacy as a non-profit educational and cultural institution. The current mission is advancing the cause of health while upholding the ideals and heritage of medicine.

The College supports this mission through

- **The Fellowship program**, comprised of over 1,500 established leaders in the fields of medicine, law and business.

- **The Mütter Museum**, America’s finest medical museum and home to over 20,000 objects including medical instruments, specimens, medical illustrations and memorabilia of outstanding physicians and scientists.

- **PhillyHealthInfo.org**, an online healthcare resource containing information on clinics, social services, support groups and health related organizations in the Greater Philadelphia five-county region.

- **Historical Medical Library and Wood Institute**, one of the world’s premier collections of rare books and independent research libraries devoted to the history of medicine.

- **Benjamin Rush Medical Plant Garden**, a vibrant collection of over 50 kinds of herbs and plants, many of which are valued in contemporary medical therapy.

- **College Lectures and The Sections**, covering a wide range of current topics and issues for the benefit of both health professionals and the general public.

- **Karabots Junior Fellows Program**, inspires under-resourced students in Philadelphia to follow career paths in the medical sciences. Supported by a generous grant from the Karabots Foundation.

- **Virtual Museum of Vaccines** explores the heritage, development and use of vaccines throughout history in a dynamic, internet-based format. Its advisory board is composed of historians and scientists involved in the development of modern vaccines.