



E-Newsletter | November 2016

Physicians

As many of us make our health insurance decisions for 2017, we decided to profile women physicians in this Enewsletter, specifically Antonia Novello and Susan Love.

The first female U.S. Surgeon General and the first Hispanic to hold the office, **Antonia Novello** grew up in Puerto Rico with a medical condition that was finally corrected with two surgeries when she was 18 and 20. This experience galvanized her to study medicine; the death of her aunt of kidney disease when she was in medical school, determined her direction of nephrology (the study of kidneys). She was named the first woman Intern of the Year during her years at the University of Michigan.



Antonia Novello

Novello joined the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in 1978 and later served as deputy director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She was named U.S. Surgeon General in 1990 by the first President Bush. While she was the Surgeon General, she was also appointed to the temporary rank of vice admiral in the regular corps which later converted to the permanent rank of two-star general.

As Surgeon General, Novello focused on the health of youth, women and minorities. Her efforts against tobacco usage included fighting the "Joe Camel" advertising campaign that she felt targeted children. Dr. Novello was well respected as the Surgeon General. She was popular and people were drawn to

her message and special campaign to address youth and their health issues. She called the youth "a generation at risk." In addition, she worked to stop the spread of AIDS. During the Gulf War, she worked to expedite vaccines for military personnel. Novello has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Susan Love

One of the most respected health specialists in the U.S., **Susan Love** is a strong advocate of preventive breast cancer research. Considered a "founding mother" of the breast cancer advocacy movement of the early 1990s, her mission is to find the cause of cancer and to eliminate the disease once and for all. Dr. Susan Love's Breast Cancer Book was called "the bible for women with breast cancer" by The New York Times. Its sixth edition was published in 2015; it has also been published in Spanish. Another of Love's books: Dr. Susan Love's Menopause and

Hormone Book was one of the first to question the use of hormones after menopause.

Love is currently the chief visionary officer of the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation which focuses on breast cancer cause and prevention. Earlier, she helped found the National Breast Cancer Coalition and served on the National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Love started the first all-women breast center in Boston. She developed the model for multidisciplinary care at the Revlon/UCLA Breast Center.

Antonia Novello and Susan Love are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Their accomplishments inspire us and remind us as well how important it is to continue to tell women's stories.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America
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