The Department of Medicine Inclusion Council honors and celebrates the accomplishments of Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston, M.D. (born January 31, 1939). Dr. Gaston has dedicated her career to the goal of making quality health care accessible to all individuals regardless of income, race, or other factors. Dr. Gaston is internationally recognized for her leadership in combating sickle cell disease and changes in management of children with this illness that have significantly decreased suffering and mortality in the world. Gaston graduated from Miami University in 1960 and entered the University of Cincinnati Medical School, where she earned her medical degree in 1964.

In 1990, Dr. Gaston became director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care in the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the first African American woman to direct a public health service bureau, where she focused on improving health care services for poor and underserved families.