Today, more than half of students in the U-M Medical School are women. But in 1870, when Amanda Sanford traveled from a small town in New York to begin her medical studies in Ann Arbor, she was the first female student ever enrolled which propelled Sanford to strive for excellence. When she graduated in 1871, there was no fanfare but her success as a student here and her subsequent career as a stellar and respected physician, paved the way for generations of other Michigan-trained women physicians.

Rita Redberg, MS, MD, is a Professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and editor of JAMA Internal Medicine - a journal of the American Medical Association. She has spearheaded JAMA’s new focus on health care reform and less-is-more medicine, a movement to reduce unnecessary interventions. Dr. Redberg’s research focuses on how the assessment of medical technology for safety and effectiveness influences — and is influenced by — public health policy. In particular, she studies high-risk medical devices and women’s inclusion in clinical trials for such devices. We celebrate and honor Dr. Amanda Hickey’s legacy with this new annual grand rounds series.