Presented to
Dr. Patricia A. Robertson ’72

DR. PATRICIA A. ROBERTSON, class of 1972, we honor you today with the Alumnae Achievement Award. It is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

You are a pioneer in and advocate for women’s healthcare, ensuring that all women—including lesbians—receive respectful, effective medical treatment.

One of only twelve women in your medical school class, you focused on obstetrics and gynecology in part because of your experience working in a free clinic, where you saw teenagers die from botched back-alley abortions.

You have worked for decades to improve healthcare for women. As a professor at the University of California–San Francisco, you have changed the way obstetrics and gynecology are taught to medical students, focusing on sensitivity to women’s needs and learning from evidence-based research.

You became a specialist in high-risk obstetrics, and wrote the first comprehensive book addressing preterm labor and related issues facing women and their families. This was followed in 2010 by Lesbian Health 101: A Clinician’s Guide, the first textbook addressing areas in which lesbians’ health differs significantly from straight women’s health.

Indeed, you have been a leader in improving healthcare for lesbians, from cofounding a clinic for gay women in 1979 to cofounding in 1999 and codirecting the Lesbian Health and Research Center at the University of California–San Francisco.

Patty, your work on behalf of women’s health reflects the highest values of the College, and the Alumnae Association is honored to present you, on your fortieth reunion, with the Achievement Award.

Cynthia L. Reed
President
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

Jane E. Zachary
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College