

Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D.

Chicago, Illinois

For Dr. Miriam Mobley Smith, questions left unresolved in childhood inspired her to seek out answers and take action. It was difficult for her to see her brother suffer from severe asthma and near respiratory collapse. It was even harder for her to understand why her brother did not respond as quickly as she did to the medication they each received to treat pneumonia.

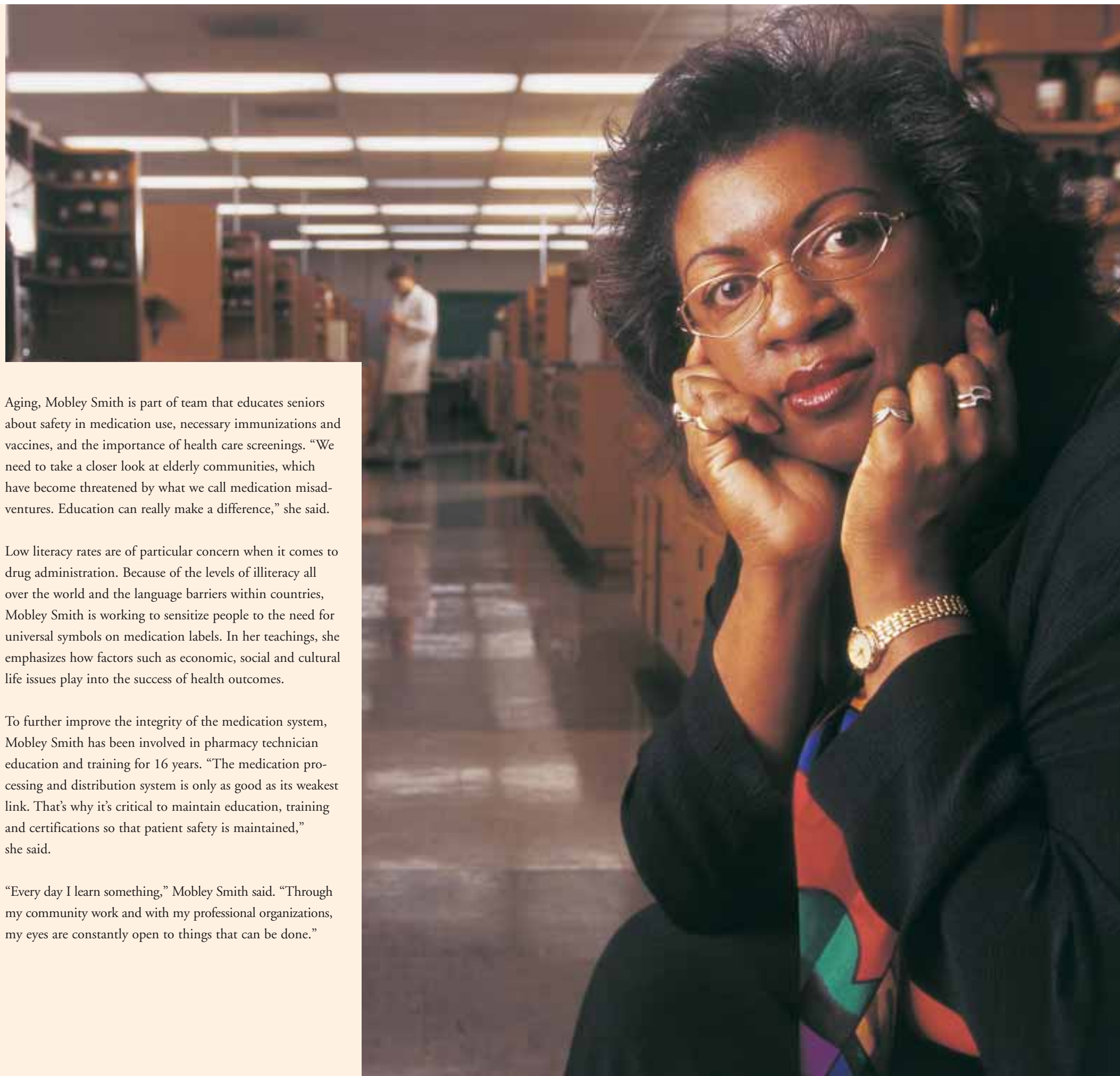
"I felt then that there was a calling for me to work with medicine so that I could understand it," she said. "I wanted to be part of a profession that makes a difference in health and well-being."

Throughout her career, Mobley Smith has used her personal life to inspire action. After graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy, she set her sights on making a positive impact in community health. She also continued to polish her hobby as a singer, performing on many stages throughout her life, including the famed Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Today, Mobley Smith is a clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Academic Programs in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at UIC. She focuses on experiential education, community outreach and the improvement of the medication use system.

Through involvement with the Healthcare Professionals Education Roundtable, she is actively working to strengthen multidisciplinary approaches to health care delivery. "This is particularly important when dealing with illnesses such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease. There's the diagnosis, treatments, lifestyle and dietary issues that need to be addressed to improve the long-term patient outcome," she said.

Senior citizen health care also is a personal crusade since the death of her great-aunt due to an excess dosage of ibuprofen prescribed by two doctors. Funded by the Area Agency on



Aging, Mobley Smith is part of team that educates seniors about safety in medication use, necessary immunizations and vaccines, and the importance of health care screenings. "We need to take a closer look at elderly communities, which have become threatened by what we call medication misadventures. Education can really make a difference," she said.

Low literacy rates are of particular concern when it comes to drug administration. Because of the levels of illiteracy all over the world and the language barriers within countries, Mobley Smith is working to sensitize people to the need for universal symbols on medication labels. In her teachings, she emphasizes how factors such as economic, social and cultural life issues play into the success of health outcomes.

To further improve the integrity of the medication system, Mobley Smith has been involved in pharmacy technician education and training for 16 years. "The medication processing and distribution system is only as good as its weakest link. That's why it's critical to maintain education, training and certifications so that patient safety is maintained," she said.

"Every day I learn something," Mobley Smith said. "Through my community work and with my professional organizations, my eyes are constantly open to things that can be done."



ONE GOAL: *To Impact*

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 1879: Mary Eliza Mahoney graduates from New England Hospital for Women and Children, becoming the first black professional nurse in America.	2 1924: James Baldwin, author of <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> , <i>The Fire Next Time</i> and <i>Another Country</i> , born.	3 1800: Gabriel Prosser leads slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia.	4 1810: Abolitionist Robert Purvis born.	5 1962: Nelson Mandela, South African freedom fighter, imprisoned. He was not released until 1990.	6 1965: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Voting Rights Act, outlawing literacy test for voting eligibility in the South.
7 1907: Ralph Bunche, first African American Nobel prize winner, born. 1989: Congressman Mickey Leland dies in plane crash during a humanitarian mission to Ethiopia.	8 1865: Polar explorer Matthew Henson born.	9 1936: Jesse Owens wins fourth gold medal at Summer Olympics in Berlin.	10 1989: Gen. Colin Powell is nominated Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first African American to hold this post.	11 1872: Solomon Carter Fuller, acknowledged as first black psychiatrist, born. 1921: Alex Haley, author of <i>Roots</i> , born.	12 1977: Steven Biko, leader of Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, arrested.	13 1981: Reagan administration undertakes its review of 30 federal regulations, including rules on civil rights to prevent job discrimination.
14 1989: First National Black Theater Festival held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.	15 1888: Granville T. Woods patents electromechanical brake.	16 1922: Author Louis E. Lomax born.	17 1849: Lawyer-activist Archibald Henry Grimké, who challenged segregationist policies of President Woodrow Wilson, born.	18 1859: Harriet Wilson's <i>Our Nig</i> is first novel published by a black writer.	19 1954: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche named undersecretary of United Nations.	20 1993: Dr. David Satcher named director of the Centers for Disease Control.
21 1904: Bandleader and composer William "Count" Basie born.	22 1843: Henry Highland Garnett calls for a general strike by slaves.	23 1926: Carter Woodson, historian, author, inaugurates Negro History Week.	24 1950: Judge Edith Sampson named first black delegate to United Nations.	25 1925: A. Phillip Randolph founds Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.	26 1946: Composer, singer and producer Valerie Simpson Ashford born.	27 1935: Mary McLeod Bethune founds National Council of Negro Women. 1963: W.E.B. DuBois, scholar, civil rights activist and founding father of the NAACP, dies.
28 1963: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers "I Have A Dream" speech during March on Washington, D.C.	29 1920: Saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker born.	30 1983: Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr. becomes the first African American astronaut in space.	31 1836: Henry Blair patents cotton planter.			

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