

The Tradition Continues



Dr. Carla Pugh of University of Wisconsin holds a patent for an innovative teaching technique.

Today academic surgeons pave the way for a new generation of physicians and surgeons.



Transplant surgeon, Dr. Velma Scantlebury (left) with medical students at the University of South Alabama.

Dr. Kenneth Davis (right) of the University of Cincinnati practices suturing with a student.



Trauma surgeon, Dr. Edward E. Cornwell of Howard University with surgical residents at the University of Southern California.

Images courtesy Carla M. Pugh, M.D.; Kenneth Davis, M.D.; Velma Scantlebury, M.D.; Edward C. Cornwell III, M.D.

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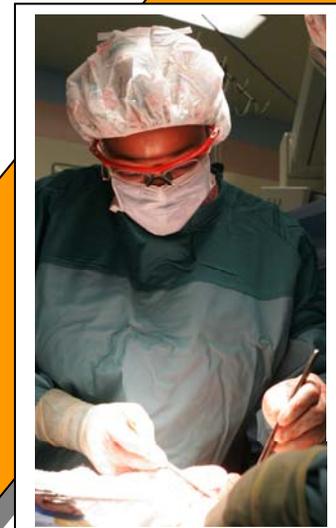
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd>



OPENING DOORS:

CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS

A celebration of the achievements of African American pioneers in academic surgery and those that continue the tradition today.



Courtesy Sharon M. Henry, M.D. and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System

This exhibition was developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.



Curated by Margaret A. Hutto and Jill L. Newmark

Pioneers

African Americans have always practiced medicine, whether as physicians, healers, midwives or "root doctors."

Early black pioneer physicians like Charles R. Drew (right) and Daniel H. Williams not only became skilled practitioners, they became trailblazers and educators, paving



the way for future physicians, surgeons, and nurses, and opening doors to better health care for the African American community.



Dr. Daniel H. Williams



Courtesy South Caroliniana Library

Dr. Matilda Evans (above), the first African American woman physician licensed in the state of South Carolina, founded the Taylor Lane Hospital in 1901, which eventually became St. Luke's Hospital and Training School for Nurses.

Contemporary Pioneers

Academic surgeons not only exemplify excellence in their surgical fields, they believe in continuing the tradition of excellence through the education and mentoring of young physicians and surgeons.



Alexa I. Canady, M.D. is the first African American woman neurosurgeon and a retired professor of surgery at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.

Claude H. Organ, Jr., M.D. was a general surgeon and the first African American chair of a department of surgery at a predominantly white medical school in Omaha, Nebraska.



Rosalyn P. Scott, M.D., is the first African American woman cardiothoracic surgeon. She is professor of surgery at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and Chief, Surgical Service

at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., cancer surgeon and professor of surgery at Howard University in Washington, D.C was the first African American President of the American College of Surgeons.



New Frontiers

In the first half of the 20th century, Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee were two of the few places available to African American academic surgeons. Today African Americans hold some of the most prestigious academic positions in the United States.



Dr. Sharon M. Henry is a trauma surgeon, professor of surgery, and chief of the division of wound healing and metabolism at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

Dr. Henry became the first African American woman member of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma when she was elected a member in 2000.



Courtesy Ebony Magazine

Dr. Levi Watkins was professor of cardiac surgery and associate dean of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He was the first African American to hold these positions at Johns Hopkins.

In 1980, Dr. Watkins performed the first human implantation of the automatic defibrillator at Johns Hopkins Hospital.