

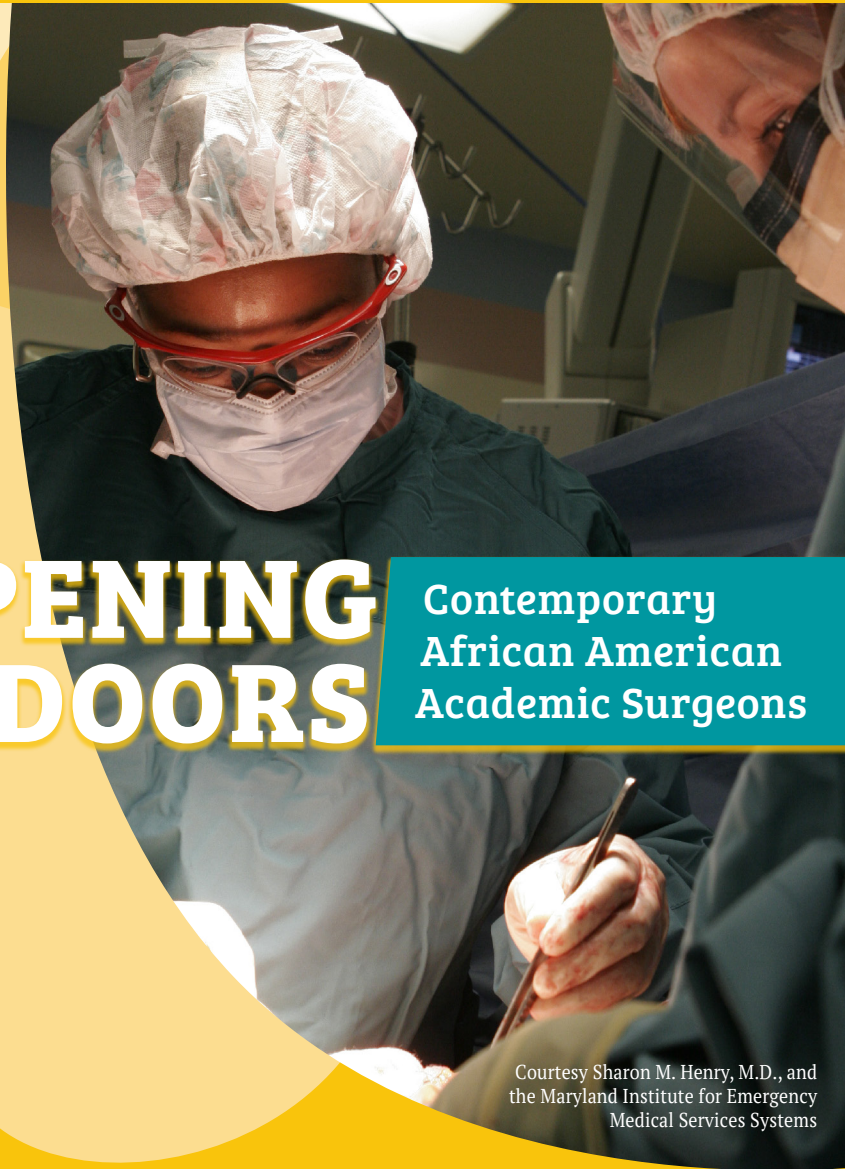
African American surgeons still face many challenges, but the path has been made easier by the pioneering surgeons who came before them. African Americans hold some of the most prestigious academic surgical positions in the United States. The tradition of excellence through performance and education continues.



Carla M. Pugh, M.D., a former professor at Stanford University School of Medicine and clinical director of the University of Wisconsin Health Clinical Simulation Program, does surgery.

Courtesy Carla M. Pugh, M.D.

www.nlm.nih.gov/opening-doors



OPENING DOORS

Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons

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

The National Library of Medicine makes vital health information available to communities worldwide.



MedlinePlus is an online health information resource for patients and their families and friends, produced by the National Library of Medicine, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

medlineplus.gov



PubMed comprises more than 32 million biomedical literature citations and links to full text content when available.

pubmed.gov



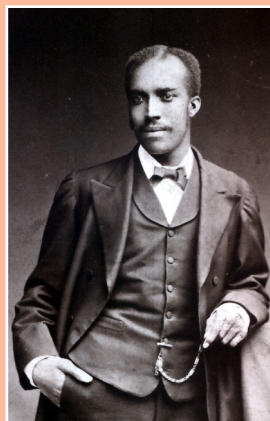
The National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture produced this exhibition.

Guest Curators: Margaret A. Hutto and Jill L. Newmark
Exhibition Design: HealyKohler Design

African Americans have always practiced medicine, whether as physicians, healers, midwives, or “root doctors.” The journey of the African American physician from pre-Civil War to modern day America has been a challenging one. Early black pioneer physicians became skilled practitioners and educators, paving the way for future physicians, surgeons, and nurses and opening doors to better health care for the African American community.

Freedmen’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. was established in 1862 and became the official teaching hospital for Howard University College of Medicine in 1868.

Courtesy Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives, ca. 1903



Charles R. Drew, M.D., was a leading surgeon, educator, and pioneer in the preservation of blood. He was a professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine, which experienced enormous growth under his leadership, from 1941 until 1950. An inspirational, stimulating, and dynamic teacher, Dr. Drew’s far-reaching influence can still be felt today.

Courtesy National Library of Medicine

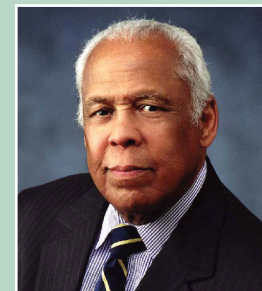
In 1895, Dr. Nathan F. Mossell founded Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School. The black-owned and operated institution served the black community of Philadelphia and provided professional opportunities to black physicians and nurses. In 1948, it merged with Mercy Hospital to form Mercy-Douglass Hospital and remained open until 1973.

Collections of the University of Pennsylvania Archives

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.

Claude H. Organ, Jr., M.D. (1926-2005) was a leading general surgeon and educator at Creighton University and in the University of California system.

Courtesy The Organ Family



Alexa I. Canady, M.D. (1950-) is a retired pediatric neurosurgeon and professor at Wayne State University.

Courtesy Alexa I. Canady, M.D.



Rosalyn P. Scott, M.D., M.S.H.A. (1950-) is a leading cardi thoracic surgeon and has taught at various institutions, including UCLA.

Courtesy Rosalyn P. Scott, M.D., M.S.H.A., 1985



LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D. (1930 -2019) was a leading oncology surgeon and medical school teacher at Howard University.

Courtesy Lou Jones, 2006