

Pioneers

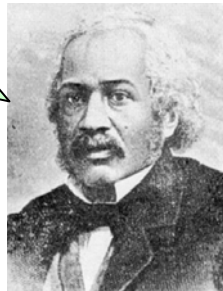
Hi. I'm a surgeon. That's a doctor that fixes things inside your body. I work in an operating room in a hospital and wear a mask, gloves, and special clothes called scrubs to make sure everything is clean and germ free.



Today I'm going to tell you about some important African American surgeons who are not only doctors, but they're teachers, too.

African Americans have been doctors and nurses for a long time. In the early days, it was very difficult for us to become doctors because most medical schools in the United States would not let us attend their schools. We had to go to Europe or Canada to become doctors.

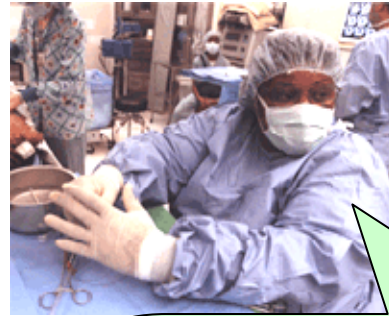
Hi. I'm Dr. James McCune Smith. I'm the first African American man to receive university training in medicine. I went to the University of Glasgow in Scotland and became a doctor in 1837.



Hi. I'm Dr. Rebecca Cole. I'm the second African American woman to become a doctor in the United States. The first was Rebecca Crumpler in 1864. I went to medical school at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and became a doctor in 1867.

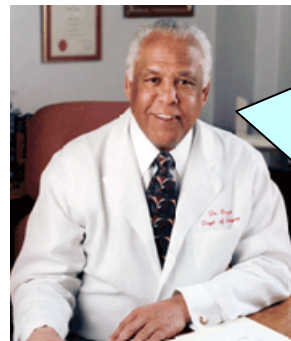
Contemporary Pioneers

Later on, it became a little easier for us to become doctors and surgeons, but we still had challenges.



Hi. I'm Dr. Alexa Canady. I'm the first African American woman to become a neurosurgeon in the United States. That's a doctor that fixes things inside your brain. I'm a pediatric neurosurgeon which means I help kids just like you.

Hi. I'm Dr. Claude Organ, I bet you think I have a funny name for a surgeon. I was the first African American to be in charge of a department of surgery at a white medical school in the United States. I also wrote the first book on black surgeons. I'm a general surgeon which means I do many types of operations on different parts of the body.



Hi. I'm Dr. Rosalyn Scott. I'm the first African American woman to become a cardiac surgeon in the United States. That's a doctor that fixes things wrong with your heart. As you can see, I'm helping some surgeons learn about surgery right now. Maybe you can be my next student.





Today, African Americans have lots of opportunities to be surgeons and we do it in many different places. Here are some surgeons working today and teaching younger doctors how to be great surgeons.

Hi. I'm Dr. Sharon Henry. I'm a trauma surgeon. I work in the emergency room and fix people that have injuries from accidents. I grew up in Maryland and now I'm a teacher and a surgeon at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. That's me on the cover.



Hi. I'm Dr. Levi Watkins. I'm a cardiac surgeon who fixes things that are wrong with the heart. I was the first person in the world to perform a special operation that helps the heart keep beating. I'm a teacher at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



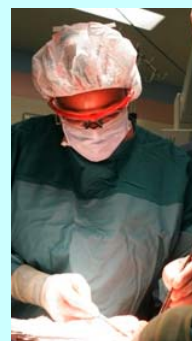
Hi. I'm Dr. Benjamin Carson. I'm a pediatric neurosurgeon and I fix things inside the brain of kids. I was the first doctor to successfully separate conjoined twins that were born attached at the head. I'm a teacher at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



Opening Doors:

Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons

A Kid's Guide



National Library of Medicine
and
Reginald F. Lewis Museum of
Maryland African American History and Culture

