

BIOGRAPHY OF L.D. BRITT, M.D., M.P.H.

Brickhouse Professor and Chairman Department of Surgery Eastern Virginia Medical School

Dr. L.D. Britt, a native of Suffolk, Virginia was the valedictorian of Booker T. Washington High School. He received a B.A. degree (with *Distinction*) from the University of Virginia and was a member of the coveted Raven Society. A graduate of Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Britt has had extensive surgical and critical care training.

Dr. Britt, Brickhouse Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School, is the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. Dr. Britt is the author of over 190 scientific publications. In addition to being a reviewer for the *New England Journal of Medicine*, he serves on numerous editorial boards, including, the *Annals of Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, the *American Journal of Surgery* (Associate Editor) *Surgery*, *Shock*, the *Journal of Trauma*, *Journal of Surgical Education* and others. He is a member of several national and international organizations, including Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, Society of University Surgeons, Southern Surgical Association, Societe' Internationale de Chirurgie, Halsted Society and American Surgical Association. He has served on the National Institutes of Health SOH Study Review Panel. Dr. Britt has had many national and international leadership positions, including being the President of the Society of Surgical Chairs, past Chairman of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery, Secretary of the Southern Surgical Association and the Executive Director of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. He is on the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. He also sits on the executive board of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). Dr. Britt is a former member of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Surgery. He was also a member of the Executive Council of the American College of Surgeons National Committee on Trauma and was the Chairman of all the regional committees of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, which includes all fifty states and the international community. Also, Dr. Britt, the past Vice-President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, is now the Recorder/Program Chair for the organization. He is the immediate past President of the Southeastern Surgical Congress, President of the Halsted Society, and Chairman of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. In addition, Dr. Britt was elected Director of the American Board of Surgery and was also appointed to the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Program National Advisory Committee.

Dr. Britt is the recipient of the nation's highest teaching award in medicine, **the Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teaching Award**, which is given by the American Association of Medical Colleges in conjunction with the national medical honor society, **Alpha Omega Alpha**. Each medical school, in both the United States and Canada, submits its best faculty member to compete for this top award given for medical education. He was also selected to be the AOA Visiting Professor. Dr. Britt was also selected by the Association for Surgical Education to be the recipient of the 2004 **Distinguished Educator Award**, presented annually to one individual who has attained national prominence and demonstrated excellence as a master educator. In addition, on eight occasions, Eastern Virginia Medical School has awarded Dr. Britt **the Sir William Osler Award** as the outstanding teacher of the year. In addition, he was the recipient of the **Dean's Faculty Achievement Award** for excellence in the clinical sciences and subsequently received the highest award given by the medical school, the **Dean's Outstanding Faculty Award**. He is the youngest faculty member ever to be given this award. Dr. Britt received Virginia's most prestigious award, The **Outstanding Faculty Award**, which is presented by the Governor and State Council of Higher Education for excellence in teaching, research and public service. The recipient of this

award is selected from over 15,000 faculty members of the 160 state supported and private institutions. In addition, Dr. Britt has been honored with an **Emmy Award** by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his contribution to the television special: Youth / Violence: A Call To Disarm. Dr. Britt has participated in over 100 visiting professorships and distinguished lectureships throughout the world, including the **A. Clifford Barger-Hinton Wright Lecture**, which is given by a distinguished physician to both the faculty and entire student assembly at Harvard Medical School. Also, he was named the **Edward Richardson Visiting Professor** at Massachusetts General Hospital. This is considered one of the oldest lectureships at Harvard Medical School. In addition, he was named the **Deryl Hart Visiting Professor** at Duke University, the **Woodward Visiting Professor** at the University of Florida, the **Will C. Moore Visiting Professor** at Indiana University, the **Altemeier Visiting Professor** at the University of Cincinnati, the **Erb Lecturer** for the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the **Drew-Syphax Visiting Professor** for Howard University Hospital, the **William R. Drucker Visiting Professor** at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the **Felda Hightower Lecturer** at Wake Forest University. Also, Dr. Britt was selected to be the Foundation Visiting Professor for the **Royal Australasian College of Surgeons** and the **Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh** for their first combined Clinical Congress, which was held in Adelaide, Australia. He has also been a Visiting Professor at both the **Royal College of Surgeons of England and Ireland**. Dr. Britt was named the **2003 Maurice Galante Visiting Professor** for the University of California at San Francisco. In 2004, he was the **Distinguished Sherman Lecturer** for Southeastern Surgical Clinical Congress. Dr. Britt was the 2005 **James Rives Visiting Professor** at Louisiana State University and the **Robert Zollinger Visiting Professor** at Ohio State University. In 1996, he completed the **Miller Visiting Professorship** at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. His most recent visiting professorships include the **Muller-Jones Society (UVA)**, **James DeWeese** (University of Rochester), and the **E. Starr Judd** (University of Minnesota).

Governor Mark R. Warner appointed Dr. Britt to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Capitol Foundation. Dr. Britt is an appointed member to the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program National Advisory Committee. Along with his academic pursuits, Dr. Britt is an “active” participant in the community. He is the former Rector of the Board of Visitors at Norfolk State University and a former Executive Council member of the Board of Managers at the University of Virginia. He has been the recipient of the B’NAI B’RITH Great American Traditions Award, the NAACP Man of the Year recognition, and the Community Service Award presented by the Boy Scouts of America for his support of urban scouting. Dr. Britt received an honorary doctorate degree from Norfolk State University for both his professional and community achievements. In addition, he was the honoree featured in the Strong Men and Women: Excellence in Leadership series sponsored by Virginia Power/ North Carolina Power. Community leaders have established both a medical school scholarship and community service award in his name. Dr. Britt serves on several other state, national and international boards and is involved in numerous church and community activities.

President George W. Bush recognized Dr. Britt’s leadership role in medicine and nominated him to the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and he was subsequently confirmed by the United States Senate. At the end of his tenure, Dr. Britt was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He currently serves as a consultant and is the Distinguished Visiting Surgeon in Combat Trauma Care (U.S. Department of Defense).

The National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Medicine in collaboration with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture recently featured Dr. Britt for his contributions to academic surgery.

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