



From treating heart disease to fighting cancer, these physicians are changing the world of medicine

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# America's LEADING DOCTORS

**THEY'RE AMONG THE BEST AND brightest in medicine. Collectively, these physicians have saved millions of lives through revolutionary treatments of diseases ranging from cancer and diabetes to heart attacks and HIV/AIDS.** Many have been responsible for major medical breakthroughs and have participated in the creation of drugs that have improved the quality of life of patients at home and abroad.

This is the caliber of medical professional who can be found on **BLACK ENTERPRISE's** list of America's Leading Doctors. The roster boasts 140 African American physicians and surgeons located in various parts of the country and running practices in a range of specialties, including neurology, obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN), dermatology, urology, cardiology, pediatrics, and oncology. The following served as the criteria for inclusion on the list:

- All physicians are leaders in their respective fields.
- All have been confirmed as being certified (as of March 21, 2008) in accordance with the American Board of Medical Specialties, a nonprofit organization that represents the "gold standard" in physician certification and helps 24 approved medical specialty boards in the creation and use of standards in the evaluation of doctors. While medical licensure sets the minimum competency requirements to diagnose and treat patients, it is not as comprehensive as board certification.

We did not include physicians who are retired, engaged purely in medical research, no longer treat patients, or no longer have an affiliation with the medical profession.

In the development of this list, our editors spent more than six months engaged in research, consulting organizations such as the National Medical Association, American Medical Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, American Cancer Society, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, American Diabetes Association, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We also contacted top-ranked physicians as well as the nation's leading medical schools, including Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, Meharry Medical College, Howard University College of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and Mayo Medical School. These institutions provided our research team with a list of physicians who they viewed as a cut above in service and reputation. Moreover, experts supported their choices, supplying us with the details of their colleagues' experience, reputation, background, and training. What sets this year's list apart from previous rosters—**BE** developed similar listings in 1988 and 2001—is that we gave a stronger weighting to innovative doctors who have been involved in medical breakthroughs across specialties. (See "A Legacy of Medical Excellence," About This Issue.)

With the current national focus on health, **BE** took this opportunity to once again compile our exclusive list. It not only reveals top-rated physicians advancing medicine but it also provides access to doctors you can trust with your life and the well-being of your family. ▶

**Keith Black, M.D.**

Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery; Director, Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Specialty:  
Neurosurgery

**EARLY IN HIS MEDICAL CAREER, BLACK BECAME FASCINATED WITH THE INNER** workings of the human brain. This interest led him to pursue a career in neurosurgery with a special focus on brain tumors. For Black, the most difficult part of his job is treating malignant brain tumors. He maintains that half of all brain tumors are malignant and can't always be cured. In those cases, "physicians can improve the quality of life and extend life with surgery and other treatments but they cannot cure the disease," he says.

As chairman of the department of neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, this top-rated surgeon manages, among other duties, the hospital's neurosurgical institute, which has a staff of 33 neurosurgeons and a faculty of 11 academic neurosurgeons who teach residents and perform research in addition to surgery. "We're actively involved in the training of the next generation of neurosurgeons," Black says.

He seeks to change cancer treatment by reducing and possibly eliminating the need for chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation treatments. "We are learning how important it is to also use the body's immune system to fight tumors," he says. In fact, Black and his team of researchers are working on a vaccine developed in his research lab. The team has treated about 100 patients with positive results. "And with the most aggressive cancer, called a glioblastoma, we've shown that we can increase the chance of survival at two years from 8% to 42%, using this vaccination in combination with chemotherapy and surgery," says Black. Through such leadership, Black has made Cedars-Sinai one of the top neurosurgical centers in the country.

—Sheiresa McRae



The following physicians are listed by their board certifications:

ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

**Michael A. LeNoir, M.D.**

**Title:** CEO and Medical Director, Bay Area Multicultural Clinical Research and Prevention Center; President, Ethnic Health Institute at Summit Medical Center; Associate Clinical Professor in Pediatrics at the University of California at San Francisco  
**Specialties:** Pediatrics, Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

LeNoir has been a practicing allergist and pediatrician for 25 years. He has been active in both clinical and academic medicine. He is a nationally recognized expert in treating asthma in the African American community and inner cities. LeNoir founded the Ethnic Health Institute in Oakland, California.

ANESTHESIOLOGY

**Emery N. Brown, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Title:** Professor of Computational Neuroscience, Health Sciences and Technology, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts General Hospital; Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School  
**Specialty:** Anesthesiology

A practicing clinical anesthesiologist, Brown continues to conduct groundbreaking research on developing algorithms to interpret brain signals, which can be applied in research on the use of motor signals in prosthetic devices such as robotic arms for people with spinal cord injuries or neurodegenerative diseases.

**David G. Nichols, M.D., M.B.A.**

**Title:** Mary Wallace Stanton Professor, Vice Dean for Education, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
**Specialty:** Pediatric Critical Care Medicine

Nichols is the editor-in chief for a number of leading textbooks in pediatric critical care medicine and sits on the board of directors for the American Academy of Pediatrics. Nichols received the Distinguished Career Achievement Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics section of Critical Care Medicine.

CARDIOLOGY

**Augustus O. Grant, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Title:** Vice Dean for Faculty Enrichment, Duke University Medical Center  
**Specialty:** Cardiology

Grant is professor of medicine at Duke University Medical Center, in Durham, North Carolina. He is the past president of the American Heart Association. A fellow of both the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology, his research and clinical efforts focus on treating cardiac arrhythmias.

**Christopher J.W.B. Leggett, M.D., F.A.C.C.**

**Title:** Director of Cardiology, Medical Associates of North Georgia  
**Specialty:** Interventional Cardiology

Recognized for his substantial contributions internationally, Leggett is one of the leading interventional cardiologists in the country. He is an expert in the use of endovascular interventional technology, including treatments for vascular disease. Leggett practices at St. Joseph's, Piedmont, and Northside hospitals in Metro Atlanta.

**Elizabeth O. Ofili, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C.**

**Title:** Chief of Cardiology, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Clinical Research Center, and Associate Dean of Clinical Research, Morehouse School of Medicine  
**Specialty:** Cardiology

A past president of the National Association of Black Cardiologists, Ofili has made more than 600 scientific presentations on hypertension, heart failure, coronary artery disease, and women's health. The U.S. Congressional Physician Advisory Board named her physician of the year in 2003.



### Linda Bradley, M.D.

Vice Chairman of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health Institute and Director, Center for Menstrual Disorders, Fibroids, and Hysteroscopic Services, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Specialty:  
Obstetrics &  
Gynecology

ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP OBSTETRICIANS, BRADLEY IS CONSIDERED AN INNOVATIVE leader in the field of hysterectomy alternatives and the evaluation of abnormal uterine bleeding. This internationally recognized surgeon's work involves the study of novel procedures, technologies, and medications to treat women who have uterine fibroids and abnormal bleeding. "Fibroids are like a thumbprint. Everyone is very different," Bradley says.

African American women face a higher risk than others, with as many as 50% to 80% having fibroids of a significant size. Of the 600,000 hysterectomies performed annually in the U.S., a third of these cases are related to fibroids, making it a major health issue for women. "A hysterectomy has been the standard [treatment]," says Bradley. "But women are having children later in life. Many now want to keep their uterus and maintain fertility."

The 52-year-old practitioner pioneered hysteroscopy—the use of a thin telescope to view the uterus. "It is an office-based evaluation instead of taking patients to the operating room for medical discovery," she explains. Bradley is principal investigator for new procedures such as endometrial ablation (removal of the uterine wall) and myomectomy (removal of fibroids leaving the uterus intact). She has also been involved with several clinical trials for embolization, a procedure to shrink fibroids, and has established a very successful collaborative practice with interventional radiologists to refer women for the uterine sparing procedure.

—Carolyn M. Brown

### Lynne Perry-Böttinger, M.D., F.A.C.C.

**Title:** Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University; Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University  
**Specialty:** Clinical and Interventional Cardiology

Perry-Böttinger focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease. She is knowledgeable in cardiac catheterization and interventional cardiology. She is a regular guest on major network television shows, serving as an expert on heart conditions and other medical topics.

### Eliot F. Battle Jr., M.D.

**Title:** Co-Founder and Director of Cosmetic Dermatology and Laser Surgery, Cultura Cosmetic Medical Spa  
**Specialty:** Cosmetic Dermatology and Laser Surgery

Battle's Washington, D.C., medical practice merges dermatology, laser surgery, plastic surgery, spa therapy, and pharmacy. He is an authority on cosmetic laser therapy on darker skin types. His laser research at Harvard helped pioneer the new generation of noninvasive "color blind" cosmetic lasers.

### Fran E. Cook-Bolden, M.D.

**Title:** Director, Skin Specialty Group and Ethnic Skin Specialty Group; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University  
**Specialty:** Dermatology

Cook-Bolden is noted for her cutting-edge dermatologic care for all skin types. She has been a leading researcher in both cosmetic and medical dermatology in the treatment of ethnic skin. In addition to running her private practices, she is founder and director of the Acne and Pigmentation Treatment Centers in New York.

### Charles E. Crutchfield III, M.D.

**Title:** Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor, University of Minnesota; Founder, Crutchfield Dermatology  
**Specialty:** Medical & Cosmetic Dermatology

One of the nation's leading dermatologists, this Eagan, Minnesota, doctor has handled hundreds of cases involving ailments such as psoriasis, vitiligo, laser surgery, atopic dermatitis, cosmetic procedures (including Botox treatments and alphahydroxy skin peels), and ethnic skin conditions.

### Peggy A. Fuller, M.D.

**Title:** Dermatologist/Medical Director, Esthetics Center for Dermatology  
**Specialty:** Dermatology

Fuller is founder and medical director of Charlotte, North Carolina-based Esthetics Center for Dermatology. The top-rated physician is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology, and a member of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgeons.

### Pearl E. Grimes, M.D.

**Title:** Director, The Vitiligo and Pigmentation Institute of Southern California  
**Specialty:** Dermatology

Grimes provides cutting-edge and alternative therapies to patients affected by vitiligo and other skin diseases. She is director of the Vitiligo and Pigmentation Institute of Southern California and professor of dermatology at University of California, Los Angeles. She is internationally recognized for her research on pigmentary disorders.

CARDIOLOGY

DERMATOLOGY

*Arthur L. Burnett:*

*Some of his past work has literally enhanced the quality of life for millions. His team's groundbreaking research paved the way for the clinical development of Viagra.*

## DERMATOLOGY

**Monte O. Harris, M.D.**

**Title:** Co-Founder and Director of Plastic Surgery, Cultura Cosmetic Medical Spa  
**Specialty:** Facial Plastic Surgery

Harris is a facial plastic surgeon with a culturally sensitive approach to rhinoplasty and a pioneer in cosmetic facial rejuvenation for individuals of darker skin tones. He currently spearheads research to define the process of facial aging across ethnic groups.

**Yvonne Knight, M.D.**

**Title:** Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Dermatology, VCU Medical Center; Founder, The Aesthetic Clinique and the MediSpa Clinique, VCU Medical Center  
**Specialty:** Dermatology

Knight's Richmond, Virginia, practice fuses dermatology, laser surgery, plastic surgery, and spa therapy. Also a broadcast medical journalist, she specializes in cosmetic facial enhancement, high frequency wavelength treatments, and advanced dermatologic surgeries.

**Amy J. McMichael, M.D.**

**Title:** Associate Professor of Dermatology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
**Specialty:** Dermatology

This Winston-Salem, North Carolina, physician is a leading expert in the latest treatments for facial blemishes, pigmentation issues and discoloration, and hair loss. She has conducted numerous studies on dermatological issues such as facial pigmentary disorders, alopecia, melasma and their effects on patients of color.

**Susan Taylor, M.D.**

**Title:** Director, Skin of Color Center, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center; Dermatologist, Society Hill Dermatology  
**Specialty:** Dermatology

With more than 20 years experience, this New York-based physician is an internationally recognized expert in dermatology. She is board certified in both internal medicine and dermatology. She is also CEO of the skin care line Rx for Brown Skin.

## ENDOCRINOLOGY

**Robert L. Collins, M.D.**

**Title:** Medical Director, The Reproductive Center  
**Specialty:** Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

A nationally recognized expert in infertility and in vitro fertilization, the Youngstown, Ohio, doctor has written and lectured extensively on the subject of infertility. He serves as professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine.

## FAMILY MEDICINE

**Natalie E. Joseph, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

**Title:** Attending Surgeon, Fox Chase Cancer Center  
**Specialty:** Surgical Oncology

Based in Philadelphia, Joseph's primary clinical interests include breast and gastrointestinal cancers, particularly colorectal cancer. She is co-author of several papers focusing on colorectal cancer and immunology of the gastrointestinal tract.

**Valière Alcèna, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.A.C.**

**Title:** Internist, White Plains Medical Center; Clinical Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, New York Medical College  
**Specialty:** Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology

A distinguished physician, clinical professor, author, and broadcast medical journalist, Alcèna was the first physician to hypothesize that the lack of male circumcision in Africa and other countries was partly responsible for spreading the AIDS virus.

## INTERNAL MEDICINE

**Alfred R. Ashford, M.D.**

**Title:** Interim Senior Associate Dean, Columbia University Medical Center at Harlem Hospital Center  
**Specialty:** Medical Oncology

Co-founder of the Upper Manhattan Physicians Against Cancer Project, Ashford is committed to physician education, community outreach, and cancer control in inner cities. He was chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society's Eastern Division from 2004 to 2006. In 2005, he received the American Cancer Society's Saint George National Award.

**Carolyn Barley Britton, M.D., M.S.**

**Title:** Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology, Columbia University Medical Center  
**Specialty:** Neurology

World-renowned, Britton is called upon for her extensive expertise in neurological complications of viral/bacterial infections such as HIV and herpes. Her research focus centers on various areas of infectious diseases including Neuro-AIDS and Lyme Disease, and she is the current president-elect of the National Medical Association.

**Arleen Brown, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Title:** Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
**Specialty:** Internal Medicine

This internist researches racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health status. Her EXPORT pilot project gauged the impact of neighborhood negatives such as toxic environments and limited access to healthcare.

### Arthur L. Burnett II M.D.

Title: Director, Male Consultation Clinic; Professor, Department of Urology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Specialty:  
Urology

**BURNETT REPAIRS LIVES. HIS PROWESS IN TREATING PATIENTS WITH SEVERE** urological conditions has earned him ranking among the top urologists in the nation. He has built this reputation over the past 25 years, sharing his expertise in areas such as prostate cancer, pelvic reconstruction, sexual medicine, and female urology. He also directs the Male Consultation Clinic for the treatment of male sexual disorders.

Burnett, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is director of the Basic Science Laboratory in Neuro-Urology, a major operation within the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute. With his eight-person team, he is currently involved with as many as 20 different research projects, seeking to uncover new procedures to correct urological disorders. In fact, some of his past work has literally enhanced the quality of life for millions. In 1990, Burnett was one of the leading scientists who discovered the role of nitric oxide biochemical mechanisms for erectile dysfunction. His team's groundbreaking research paved the way for the clinical development of Viagra.

For years, Burnett has played a role in increasing the pipeline of minority physicians and medical researchers. In fact, he annually selects about eight minority college students for summer internships at the research laboratory.

With Burnett's myriad projects, he has not lost sight of quality healthcare here and abroad. He performs surgeries weekly while providing top-flight patient care, working closely with them before and after treatment. And he also continues his work to help Caribbean nations develop programs to treat prostate cancer.

—Tracey Brown



### Giselle Corbie-Smith, M.D., M.Sc.

Title: Associate Professor of Social Medicine and Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Specialty: Epidemiology

Corbie-Smith's work focuses on the impact of trust and distrust among physicians and patients. She also evaluates methodological and ethical issues when research projects include minority subjects. She maintains a clinical practice at a local community health center.

### Samuel J. Daniel, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G.

Title: President and CEO, North General Hospital  
Specialty: Gastroenterology

Daniel has been principal investigator in several clinical trials studying chronic hepatitis C. A fellow in the American College of Physicians, he has co-authored *Hepatitis C: The Black Person's Guide*. He still maintains an active gastroenterology practice in Harlem.

### James A. Diggs, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Title: Assistant Chief, Division of Cardiology and Associate Professor of Medicine and Program Director of Cardiology, Howard University Hospital  
Specialty: Cardiology

Diggs practices cardiology and internal medicine in Washington, D.C., at Howard University Hospital. He is an expert in interventional cardiology for the diagnosis and treatment of heart diseases. With more than 30 years experience, Diggs strives to provide the best medical care with compassion and without compromise.

### Winston H. Gandy Jr., M.D.

Title: Director, The Atlanta Cardiology Group (ACG) at Saint Joseph's Hospital; Director, Cardiac Lab at both Saint Joseph's Hospital and ACG  
Specialty: Cardiology

Gandy is widely recognized for his expertise in echocardiography, a procedure that takes "moving pictures" of the heart with sound waves. He was instrumental in getting the city of Atlanta to place defibrillators in Hartsfield International Airport. Additionally, he was one of the founding board members of the American Cardiovascular Research Institute.

### Levi Garraway, M.D., Ph.D.

Title: Physician-Scientist, Center for Cancer Genome Discovery, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Specialty: Medical Oncology (Melanoma and Prostate Cancer)

Garraway's research involves using genomics technologies to identify mutations in cancer cell DNA, and to understand how those mutations might make cancer cells vulnerable to new targeted therapies.

### James R. Gavin III M.D., Ph.D.

Title: Clinical Professor of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine and Indiana University School of Medicine  
Specialty: Endocrinology

A leading U.S. diabetes researcher, Gavin has made outstanding contributions to the elimination of diabetes in minority communities. His investigations into insulin helped to reveal that this hormone interacts with blood cells. He is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation trustee emeritus and a past president of the American Diabetes Association.



### Edward E. Cornwell, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.M.

Surgeon-in-Chief, Howard University Hospital; LaSalle D. Leffall Professor and Chairman of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine

Specialty:  
Surgery

**CORNWELL, 51, HAS ACHIEVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INCREASING SIZE, SCOPE,** and improvements in trauma practices and patient care at some of the nation's leading medical institutions. In fact, he has spent his career working in communities where young African American males are victims of fatal gunshot wounds. "A phenomenal percentage of gunshot wounds were coming in dead on arrival. So, further improvements were needed in outreach and violence prevention beyond hospital walls," says Cornwell, who made violence prevention a focal point of mainstream academic surgery.

That is part of his charge as he leads Howard University's Department of Surgery to national prominence in patient care, teaching, and research. "During the days of segregation, there were few places [for African American medical students] to go other than Meharry and Howard," he says, citing Howard's role in the development of first-class physicians and surgeons. "A lot of my early heroes were doctors right here."

Cornwell joined Howard in January, leaving his post as professor of surgery and chief of trauma at Baltimore-based The Johns Hopkins Hospital. A native son of Washington, D.C., his vision for Howard's department of surgery is to advance surgical procedures such as transplants, cardiovascular surgery, and bariatric surgery used to help obese patients lose weight. He has also focused on the treatment of cancer and improvement of trauma/critical care services.

—Carolyn M. Brown

### F. Kennedy Gordon, M.D.

**Title:** Owner, Gordon Elite Sports Medicine P.C.  
**Specialty:** Primary Care Sports Medicine

With a vast career in sports medicine, including work with the New York Giants football team, Gordon's Union, New Jersey-based practice caters to both pro athletes and individuals who suffer with pain and want to improve their life with exercise. He served as a staff physician at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, New York, in 2000.

### L. Julian Haywood, M.D.

**Title:** Professor of Medicine, Director, Electrocardiography Department  
L.A. County, USC Medical Center  
**Specialty:** Cardiology

A veteran in cardiovascular medicine, Haywood is a senior attending physician at the Los Angeles County, University of Southern California Medical Center. One of the first black full professors in cardiology at a major medical school, he co-developed (with Hewlett-Packard) digital monitoring systems for arrhythmia detection.

### Kenneth A. Jamerson, M.D.

**Title:** Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School; Medical Director, Program for Multicultural Health, University of Michigan Health System  
**Specialty:** Hypertension

Jamerson has been principal investigator of some of the most noteworthy analyses of hypertension. With the help of clinical research to explore racial disparities in the treatment of elevated blood pressure levels, he and his colleagues are gaining insight into why African Americans make up such a disproportionate share of patients.

### Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A.

**Title:** President and CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
**Specialty:** Geriatrics

Lavizzo-Mourey leads the Princeton, New Jersey, nonprofit that deploys nearly \$500 million in annual grants to fund the improvement of the U.S. healthcare system and nurture the development of the nation's top doctors. She also finds time to treat patients in a community health clinic.

### Rayburn S. Lewis, M.D.

**Title:** Executive Director and Medical Director; Swedish Medical Center, Ballard Campus  
**Specialty:** Internal Medicine

Lewis serves as executive director and medical director of the Ballard campus of Seattle's Swedish Medical Center, the largest nonprofit health provider in the Pacific Northwest. He is responsible for strategic and operational management of both the Medicine and Behavioral Health Service groups.

### Rita J. Louard, M.D., F.A.C.E.

**Title:** Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism and Director, Clinical Diabetes Program, Montefiore Medical Center  
**Specialty:** Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism

Louard is one of two directors of the clinical diabetes program at Montefiore Medical Center. While she's not actively involved in clinical trial research at the moment, the most innovative part of her diabetes practice is its focus on integrating a multidisciplinary team (doctor, nurse practitioner, dietitian) to better treat patients.