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**BIOGRAPHY OF L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, D.Sc (Hon), FACS, FCCM  
FRCS(Eng) (Hon), FRCSEd (Hon), FWACS (Hon),  
FRCSI (Hon), FCS(SA) (Hon), FRCS(Glasg) (Hon), MAMSE  
Henry Ford Professor & Edward J. Brickhouse Chairman  
Department of Surgery  
Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Norfolk, Virginia**



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Dr. L.D. Britt, a member of the National Academy of Medicine, is a native of Suffolk, Virginia. Graduating valedictorian of Booker T. Washington High School, he received a B.A. degree (with *Distinction*) from the University of Virginia and was elected to the coveted Raven Society. Dr. Britt, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, has had extensive surgical and critical care training. He has been conferred honorary doctorates by three universities (Norfolk State University, Tuskegee University, and Howard University).

As the Henry Ford Professor and Edward J. Brickhouse Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Dr. Britt is the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. He is the author of 300 scientific publications (with over 230 being peer-reviewed articles). In addition, he is the author of three textbooks, including the highly touted *Acute Care Surgery* (Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Medford, NJ). He serves on numerous editorial boards, including, the *Annals of Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* (Deputy Editor), the *American Journal of Surgery* (Associate Editor), *Archives of Surgery*, *Shock*, the *Journal of Trauma*, *Journal of Surgical Education* and others. In addition, he is a reviewer for the *New England Journal of Medicine*. He is a member of several national and international organizations, including Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, Society of University Surgeons, Southern Surgical Association, Société 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 President of the Society of Surgical Chairs, past Chairman of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery, past Secretary of the Southern Surgical Association and, past President and the current Executive Director of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. He was on the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. He also sat on the executive board of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and was the recipient of the organization's Edythe J. Levit Distinguished Service Award. 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. Dr. Britt is the past President of the Southern Surgical Association, the Southeastern Surgical Congress, and the Halsted Society. Also, Dr. Britt is the past Chairman of the Board of Regents, and was elected President of both the American College of Surgeons and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma in the same year. In addition, he is past Director of the American Board of Surgery and was a member of 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. 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. Additionally, 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 216 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. 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, and the **Felda Hightower Lecturer** at Wake Forest University. In 1996, he completed the **Miller Visiting Professorship** at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. 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. His visiting professorships include the **Muller-Jones Society (UVA)**, **James DeWeese (University of Rochester)**, the **E. Starr Judd (University of Minnesota)**, the **Folkert O. Belzer (University of Wisconsin)**, the **Alton Ochsner (Ochsner Clinic)** the **Champs-Lyons (University of Alabama Birmingham)** the **Sam Gross (University of Louisville)**, the **David Skinner (University of Chicago)** and the **Francis Moore "Pro-tempore"** (Brigham and Women's Hospital-Harvard Medical) professorships, along with the **H. James Fox (University of Colorado)**, **Waltman Walters (Mayo Clinic)**, and **Evarts Graham** visiting professorships. Dr. Britt's recent visiting professorships include the **William P. Longmire, Jr. Visiting Professor** at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), the **Gardner W. Smith Visiting Professor** at Johns Hopkin's, the **Kelsey Seybold Visiting Professor** at Baylor School of Medicine, the **John Whittington Visiting Professor** at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the **Edwin P. Lehman, MD Visiting Professor** at the University of Virginia, and the **William A.L. Mitchell Endowed Lectureship** at the USA Trauma Symposium. Acute Care Surgery: Ongoing Challenges Visiting Professorship, Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, VA, Point Counterpoint **Charlie Wolferth Lecture**, Baltimore, MD, **Donald Silver Endowed Lectureship**, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

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. 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. He was featured in *Ebony* magazine as being a member of the "power elite" (one of the 150 most influential Blacks in America). *Atlanta Post* recently highlighted him as one of the top 21 black doctors in America. Dr. Britt is the recipient of the 2010 Colgate Darden Scouter Citizen Award and the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Award (the annual Suffolk city-wide recognition).

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 for the United States 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. Recently, at the inaugural presidential ceremony held in Washington, D.C., during the 96<sup>th</sup> annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Britt was awarded the U.S. Surgeon General's medallion for his outstanding achievements in medicine. The Honorable Regina Benjamin, MD, the 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Surgeon General, presented this award at a formal ceremony. During the 2011 Clinical Congress held in Senegal, Dr. Britt was also bestowed an Honorary Fellowship in the West African College of Surgeons. He was chosen by the membership to be the 132<sup>nd</sup> President of the American Surgical Association during its annual meeting. Dr. Britt was also elected to the position of Commissioner of the Joint Commission (formerly JACHO).

In 2012, he was conferred an Honorary Fellowship in the French Academy of Surgery and the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. Having recently been awarded an Honorary Fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons of Glasgow, Dr. Britt now has the distinction of receiving the highest honor given by each of the four Royal Colleges in the United Kingdom – England, Edinburgh, Ireland, and Glasgow. Dr. Britt, author of the term "Acute Care Surgery" and one of the principal architects of this emerging specialty, was the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Roswell Park Medal, honored for his major contributions to American surgery. At the 2015 annual meeting of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, Dr. Britt was bestowed the coveted title of "**Master** of Critical Care Medicine" (MCCM) by the American College of Critical Care Medicine. Recently, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed Dr. Britt to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia. His inaugural committee assignments include the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Governance Committee, and Education Committee, along with the Medical Center Operations Board. Dr. Britt was most recently selected to give the distinguished Fitts Oration at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. Also, the Southern Surgical Association awarded Dr. Britt the organization's highest accolade – Honorary Fellowship – at its 2015 annual meeting.

In May 2016, Dr. Britt was invited to be the inaugural visiting professor for the Courtney M. Townsend Lectureship at UTMB Galveston. He was also awarded the Urban League of Hampton Roads Professor Marion Capps Memorial Award for his accomplishments in community service through education. At the 148<sup>th</sup> commencement at Howard University, Dr. Britt was conferred an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Science). His co-honorees included President Barack Obama, activist and award-winning actor Cicely Tyson, and Ambassador Horace G. Dawson, Jr. The summer of 2016 serendipitously, Dr. Britt conducted his 200<sup>th</sup> visiting professorship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, IL (where Dr. Britt completed his

residency training). He was the inaugural John A. Barrett, M.D. lecturer that kicked off the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Cook County Hospital Trauma Unit.

Effective October 1, 2016, Dr. Britt was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (*formerly the Institute of Medicine*). He is the first and only faculty member from his institution to receive this distinction – considered one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine.

Dr. Britt was awarded, as the **Principal Investigator** (PI), a multimillion dollar **NIH-RO1** research grant (1 R01 MD011695-01). He was also recently awarded, as the **Co-Investigator** (CO-I), another multimillion dollar **NIH-RO1** research grant (1 R01 MD011685-01). The Mayo Clinic bestowed upon Dr. Britt one of the institutions highest honors by appointing him to be the Donald Balfour Visiting Professor. In addition to the unveiling of his latest edition of the textbook, *Acute Care Surgery* (Wolters Kluwer), Dr. Britt was inducted into the inaugural class of the Academy of Master Surgeons Educators of the American College of Surgeons in October 2018. He is a founding member of the Academy. In 2019, Dr. Britt was awarded the coveted Silbergleit Award given by the Association of Program Directors in Surgery. He is only the third individual to receive this recognition for his sustained leadership role as an accomplished program director. Most recently in 2021, Dr. Britt was honored by the American College of Surgeons with a Lifetime Achievement Award and is the fifth individual in the institution's history to receive this accolade. Because of his expertise and achievements, Dr. Britt was honored with the coveted Master Surgeon medallion at the 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST). On April 29, 2022, EVMS unveiled a bronze sculpture depicting Dr. Britt. This 9-foot-tall, larger-than-life statue is symbolic of the profound impact Dr. Britt has had over his long and illustrious career.

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