

Edward Barksdale, Jr. MD, FACS, FAAP (*Brief Bio – Society of Black Academic Surgeons*)

Edward M. Barksdale, Jr. MD FACS, FAAP is the Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Chicago and the Chief Surgical Officer of the Chicagoland Children's Hospital Alliance (CCHA). Dr. Barksdale currently works at the nexus of academia, clinical surgery, medical education, public health, and social justice as a passionate advocate for child health and healthcare. He endeavors to inspire individuals and transform communities at the precipice of hope.

Dr. Barksdale is the former *Robert J. Izant, Jr. MD Professor* and Surgeon-in-Chief at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital/University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve School of Medicine (CWRUSOM) (2007–2024). Prior to that role he was a tenured professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Attending Pediatric Surgeon (1994–2007). An NCAA All-American Athlete and honors graduate of Yale University (1980), Dr. Barksdale received his medical degree from Harvard University (1984). He completed a residency in General Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital (1991) where he became the first black "super chief resident" in the history of this program (1991–92). He completed fellowship training in Pediatric Surgery at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio (1994).

Academically, Dr. Barksdale has a strong interest in pediatric cancer and for many years had a funded laboratory research program studying the immunobiology of neuroblastoma, a common pediatric malignancy. His clinical investigative interests have also included the chronic childhood condition of Short Bowel Syndrome/Intestinal failure. He co-founded the first interdisciplinary program in the world to manage intestinal failure that included the then novel approach of intestinal transplantation (1996) at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. This work has been both foundational and transformational in the advanced care of children with intestinal failure (short bowel syndrome). Numerous institutions nationally and internationally have emulated this program.

His current research efforts have evolved toward the translational study on the impact of toxic stress and youth violence on the health of children and communities. He is a frequent lecturer on these clinical topics and social issues. He has published more than 60 peer reviewed articles in leading journals and numerous book chapters. Most recently he has been devoted to building programs to address health disparities, particularly in fragile populations of children. His work extends from collaborating with civic, community and academic leaders to craft *The Child and Youth Trauma-Informed Policing Program*. The first program in the country designed to address the unique developmental and psychological needs of children when encountering law enforcement following the police shooting and tragic death of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the Co-Founder of the *Antifragility Initiative*, a novel holistic, person-centered, pediatric violence intervention with more than \$4M in funding by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in addition his team has received support from the NIH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Cuyahoga County Government, and generous philanthropic support for this work totaling well over \$500K.

Dr. Barksdale is a member of numerous national medical/surgical organizations, where he has also held major leadership roles. Among these include service as the current 2nd Vice President of the ACS (2025), Past-President Society of Black Academic Surgeons (2014) and Past President American Pediatric Surgery Association (2022). He is the recipient of the *George Herbert Walker Bush '43 Lifetime Leadership Award* from Yale University (2023). He has also excelled in medical education and mentorship of medical

students, surgical trainees as well as career surgeons. He is an elected member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators (2022) and the founder of the SBAS Leadership Academy (1996) that has actively supported the development of some of America's top minority surgeons. A recipient of the James F. Densler Award (2024) for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from APSA he has worked fearlessly to enhance opportunities for minorities and women to gain access not just to opportunities for training but also for career development and leadership. Dr. Barksdale was recently recognized by the Mt. Sinai Foundation (Cleveland) with its prestigious *Maurice Saltzman Award* (2024) for his "work of significant value or merit or of national or international importance to the health interests of our community."

His academic interests are in childhood cancer, intestinal failure, violence injury prevention and leadership development. Most recently he has been devoted to building programs to address health disparities, particularly in fragile populations of children. He is the Co-Founder of the *Antifragility Initiative*, a novel holistic, person-centered, pediatric violence intervention with more than \$4M in funding by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). His group has also received NIH funding, support from the Academy of Pediatrics and generous philanthropic support for this work. He endeavors to help build communities that are more safe, vibrant, and prosperous, especially for children and young people.

He is the husband of one and father of 4 adult children two of whom are pursuing careers in surgery. His life has been profoundly guided by strong values he learned from family and community growing up in Lynchburg, Virginia during the dynamic 1960's.