

Northwestern Department of Surgery

D.E.I. Committee Newsletter

Feb 2022

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. As a surgical department, it is a good time to reflect on and celebrate the unique and important contributions Black surgeons have made to the field.

Right: Dr. Augustus A. White has a history of numerous firsts: he was the first Black medical student at Stanford and first Black department head of a Harvard affiliate hospital. An orthopedic surgeon by trade, he led the Diversity Committee of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. He is the author of, "Seeing Patients: Unconscious Bias in Health Care", a book that explores racial bias in healthcare.



Right: Dr. Andrea Hayes-Jordan is the first Black woman to be a board certified pediatric surgeon in the United States. She currently serves as the first woman Chair of the Department of Surgery at Howard University. A renowned surgeon-scientist, Dr. Hayes-Jordan's research has provided pivotal insights into the management of rare pediatric sarcomas.



Left: Dr. Samuel Kountz (1930 – 1981) was one of two Black graduates from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine in 1961. He led a prolific career in kidney transplantation as a clinician and scientist. As a Fulbright scholar, Dr. Kountz performed the first kidney transplant in Egypt. During his lifetime, he was named president of the Society of University Surgeons and received honorary doctorates from both the University of Arkansas and UCSF.

Want to learn more?

- Consider this thought prompt: "How do you define antiracist?"
- Read, "How to be Antiracist", by Ibram X Kendi. Or if you are short on time, listen to his podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/be-antiracist-with-ibram-x-kendi/id1564144316>
- Check out Dr. Augustus White's book, "Seeing Patients: Unconscious Bias in Health Care".