

Speaker: Levi Watkins Jr., M.D.




Dr. Levi Watkins is the Associate Dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Professor of Cardiac Surgery. He is the first African American to achieve these positions at Hopkins. He grew up in Alabama where he was exposed to widespread prejudice and to the early civil rights movement, both of which would have lasting effects. He initially attended First Baptist Church of Montgomery and became close friends with his pastor, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy and family; later, he attended Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where he was first introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and family. After graduating

from Tennessee State University, he integrated the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1966 becoming the first black ever admitted and the first black to graduate from that institution.

He was a surgical intern at Johns Hopkins in 1970 and in 1978 became the first black chief resident in cardiac surgery at that institution. While developing his research interest at Harvard Medical School's Department of Physiology between 1973 and 1975, he defined the role of the renin-angiotensin system during congestive heart failure. This and other work led to the clinical use of angiotensin blockers in the treatment of congestive heart failure today. As a full-time faculty member in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Watkins performed the world's first human implantation of the automatic implantable defibrillator in February of 1980 and subsequently developed several different techniques for the implantation of this device. To date, the lives of over 100,000 people have been saved with this treatment.

Early exposure to the civil rights movement and its leaders sealed Dr. Watkins' commitment to racial equality, particularly in the area of medicine. In 1979 he joined the Admissions Committee at Johns Hopkins Medical School, and after four years, minority representation increased 400%. Similarly, growth has now occurred in the faculty and house staff.

In June 1991, he was promoted to Professor of Cardiac Surgery, and that September appointed Dean for Postdoctoral Programs and Faculty Development in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He has received many honors and awards in recognition of his significant contributions. In 1993 his life and work were featured on PBS' New Explorers program entitled "A Dream Fulfilled." In June 1999, Dr. Watkins was the recipient of the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association Heritage Award for exceptional contributions and devotion to the university. Also, two recently published books, African-American Medical Pioneers by Charles H. Epps, Jr. and Noteworthy Publications by African-American Surgeons by Claude H. Organ, Jr., M.D., feature his achievements.

 **Washington**
University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Homer G. Phillips Lecture Series

Honoring

John H. Gladney M.D.

Former Supervisor, Otolaryngology Division
Homer G. Phillips Hospital
Clinical Professor Emeritus, Otolaryngology Division
at St. Louis University Health Sciences Center

"Training Minority Physicians: The Charles Drew Model"

Speaker: Levi Watkins Jr., M.D.

*Associate Dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
and Professor of Cardiac Surgery*

Friday, October 20, 2000
Chase Park Plaza
212 North Kingshighway
St. Louis, Missouri

5:30 p.m.
Cocktails
Regency Room

6:30 p.m.
Dinner
Khorassan West Room

7:30 p.m.
Program
Khorassan West Room

Program

- Welcome** **Dr. Will Ross**
Associate Dean & Director
Office of Diversity Programs
- Introduction of Michael DeBaun, M.D.** **Lisa Stevenson**
Associate Director
Office of Diversity Programs
- Introduction of Levi Watkins, M.D.** **Michael DeBaun, M.D.**
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
St. Louis Children's Hospital
- "Training Minority Physicians:
The Charles Drew Model"** **Levi Watkins, M.D.**
Associate Dean of the Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine and Professor of Cardiac Surgery
- Remarks** **Linda Rodrigue, M.D.**
President, Mound City Medical Forum
- Presentations** **William Peck, M.D.**
Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean
Washington University School of Medicine

The Homer G. Phillips Lecture Series

This lecture series is named in honor of the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis. At a time in American society when people of color were restricted from most medical training programs, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital became the premier training ground for African American medical professionals – many of whom remained to deliver high quality health care in the St. Louis area and who later assumed prestigious positions throughout the nation. Washington University School of Medicine shared in that legacy by providing support personnel for medical education, research and patient care at Homer G. Phillips.

Honoree: John H. Gladney, M.D.



Dr. Gladney attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama, graduating with a B.A. degree in 1943. He served faithfully in the US Army and the US Air Force, rising to the rank of Captain. He received his M.D. degree from Meharry Medical College in 1946, then traveled to St. Louis to train at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital where he served as an Intern and Senior Intern. He obtained subspecialty training in Otolaryngology during his residency at the Hines VA Hospital in Illinois and later at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary from 1953-1956. He received board certification by the American Board of Otolaryngology in 1958.

Dr. Gladney then began a prestigious career in clinical and academic Otolaryngology, rising through the ranks from Instructor in Otolaryngology to Professor and Interim Chairman of Otolaryngology from 1987-1988 at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. He is currently Clinical Professor Emeritus of Otolaryngology at St. Louis University Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Gladney has served as Supervisor of Otolaryngology at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital, and has hospital appointments at St. Louis University Health Sciences Center, Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, Jewish, DePaul, Deaconess and St. Mary's Hospitals. He has been inducted into the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society, and is a member of numerous professional societies, including the Mound City Medical Forum, Missouri State Medical Association, American Academy of Otolaryngology, and the St. Louis Ear, Nose and Throat Club. He has served as President of the Firmin Desloge Hospital Medical Staff, President of the St. Louis and Missouri ENT Associations, and Vice President of the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society.

He has been active in a variety of church and civic groups, serving as President of the Board of Health of University City from 1986-1987, and a member of the Corporate Board of Homeland Ministries, United Church of Christ, from 1988-1997. These and other accomplishments of this distinguished physician, teacher and mentor to countless medical trainees were acknowledged in 1991 when he received the Stellar Achievement Award by the St. Louis American Newspaper.