The Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture Series
Previous Honorees and Lecturers

Year	Honoree	Lecturer
1996	William L. Smiley, M.D.	LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. M.D.
1997	Henry Hampton, M.D.	Henry Hampton, Jr.
1998	Andrew Spencer, M.D.	Henry Foster, M.D.
1999	Frank Richards, M.D.	Clive Callender, M.D.
2000	John Gladney, M.D.	Levi Watkins, M.D.
2001	Homer Nash, M.D.	Audrey Forbes Manley, M.D.
2002	Mary A. T. Tillman, M.D.	Beverly Coleman-Miller, M.D.
2003	Leslie Bond, Sr., M.D.	Vanessa Northington Gamble, M.D., Ph.D.

Homer G. Phillips and the Legacy of Public Hospitals in St. Louis

In 1905 Dr. John Green, President of the St. Louis Medical Society, with a keen understanding of the plight of public hospitals in other cities issued this charge to St. Louis physicians on the eve of opening a new City Hospital:

> *"Will it vouchsafe to the pauper a medical care equivalent to that which his pecuniarily more fortunate fellow citizens receive? Will it fulfill to the utmost its function of providing instruction in practical medicine to the undergraduate student? And will our hospital be thoroughly in accord with the spirit of medical enlightenment?"*
>
> Presidential Report, St. Louis Medical Review
> January 14, 1905

A succession of public hospitals failed in that charge -- City Hospital No. 1 (Max C. Starkloff), City Hospital No. 2, and St. Louis County Hospital, despite their professed missions, opened as segregated facilities. Only under duress, and toward the twilight of their existence, did they admit and treat irrespective of race, creed or color. There is one bright exception, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital. It opened its doors as a truly "public" facility in 1937, still shrouded in intrigue after the mysterious assassination of its main advocate and benefactor, attorney Homer Gilliam Phillips. 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. The successes of its subsequent years of operation (as well as the complex issues surrounding its closure) became legendary in the annals of public hospitals. It closed its doors on August 17, 1979, followed by St. Louis City No. 1 in 1985, St. Louis County Hospital in 1987, and St. Louis Regional Hospital in 1997. While we cannot now walk the halls of Homer G. Phillips Hospital, we can learn much from its history, presented by the very people who strived diligently to provide culturally sensitive care to the patients who so deeply trusted and loved them and their hospital. This lecture series is named in honor of the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis.

Washington University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture Series

Honoring

R. Jerome Williams, Sr., M.D., F.C.C.P.

Retired Internist – Private Practice
Former Director, Tuberculosis Service
Homer G. Phillips Hospital
Former Director, Outpatient Department
Homer G. Phillips Hospital

"A Tale of Two Professions: Medicine and Business"

Guest Speaker: *L. D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H.*
Brickhouse Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery, Eastern Virginia Medical School

Friday, October 22, 2004
Washington University School of Medicine
Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC)
Great Rooms
320 South Euclid Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63110

6:00 p.m.
Cocktails
Atrium/Lobby

6:30 p.m.
Dinner
Great Rooms

7:30 p.m.
Program
Main Auditorium

Program

Welcome . . . . . **Will Ross, M.D.**
Associate Dean & Director
Office of Diversity Programs

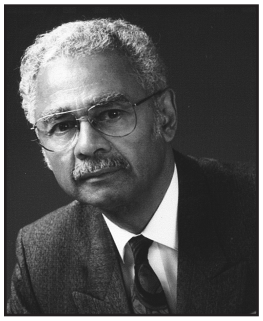
Introduction of L. D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H. . . . . . **Consuelo H. Wilkins, M.D., M.S.C.I.**
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology
Vice President, Mound City Medical Forum

"A Tale of Two Professions: Medicine and Business" . . . . . **L. D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H.**
Brickhouse Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery, Eastern Virginia Medical School

Presentations . . . . . **Larry J. Shapiro, M.D.**
Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean for Medical Affairs

Remarks . . . . . **R. Jerome Williams, Sr., M.D., F.C.C.P.**
Retired Internist – Private Practice
Former Director, Tuberculosis Service, Homer G. Phillips Hospital
Former Director, Outpatient Department, Homer G. Phillips Hospital

Honoree: R. Jerome Williams, Sr., M.D., F.C.C.P.



Dr. Jerome Williams, Sr. has been a leader in the St. Louis African American community for over 50 years. He is currently retired after 50 years of private practice in Internal Medicine. Dr. Williams attended college at Morehouse and completed medical school at Meharry Medical College in 1947. He then entered the residency program at Homer G. Phillips Hospital. Afterwards, he was appointed Director of the Tuberculosis Service, and for fifteen years served as Director of the Outpatient Department at Homer G. Phillips Hospital. Dr. Williams founded a bustling medical practice, Gateway to Health, Williams Clinic, Ltd. on Union Blvd. in North St. Louis with his son, Jerome Williams Jr., M.D.

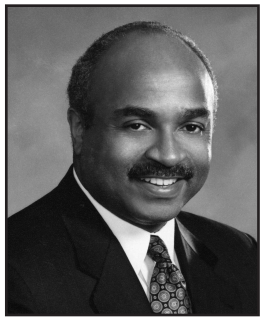
Among his numerous leadership positions in medicine, he has served as President of the Mound City Medical Forum, President of the Pan Missouri Medical Association, and Chief of Staff of the former Central Medical Center. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Physicians Health Plan and the Missouri State Board of Registration for Healing Arts. He is an active member of the National Medical Association, Mound City Medical Forum, AMA, and the American College of Chest Physicians.

A well-recognized civic leader, Dr. Williams is a Life Member of the NAACP and Urban League, and was appointed to the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners. Among the many community organizations with which he has been affiliated, he has served on the Board of the St. Louis Symphony for ten years, the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association, and is a Commissioner of the Missouri Botanical Garden. He is a past-President of the St. Louis Community College Board of Trustees, a charter member of the St. Louis Community College Foundation Board, as well as that Board's past President and Vice President.

As one of the pioneers of the civil rights movement in St. Louis, Dr. Williams was one of the leaders of the march on Jefferson Bank in 1963 to protest discrimination in hiring and lending. He later helped found the Gateway National Bank in North St. Louis and served on the bank's Board of Directors. To such an unselfish and rewarding life has come many well-deserved accolades, including honorary degrees from St. Louis Community College, awards from the St. Louis Symphony, Harris Stowe State College, the Northside Preservation Commission, and the St. Louis Society of Black Educators, and induction into the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity – Eta Boule.

Dr. Williams is a dedicated family man, married to his wife Carol for over 50 years. They have five children (two of whom are physicians), 17 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Dr. R. Jerome Williams Sr. is a man of vision, a talented medical practitioner and educator, and a trusted civic leader in the St. Louis region.

Speaker: L. D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. L. D. Britt, a native of Suffolk, Virginia was the valedictorian of Booker T. Washington High School. He graduated with a B.A. degree (With Distinction) from the University of Virginia and received extensive surgical and critical care training at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Britt, Brickhouse Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School, is the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. Dr. Britt is the author of over 100 scientific publications. In addition to being a reviewer for the New England Journal of Medicine, he serves on numerous editorial boards including the Annals of Surgery, Journal of the American College of Surgeons, the American Journal of Surgery, Shock, the Journal of Trauma, Current Surgery and others. He is a member of several national and international organizations including Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society (AOA), Society of University Surgeons, Southern Surgical Association, Societe' International de Chirugie, Halsted Society and American Surgical Association. Dr. Britt has many national and international leadership positions, including being the President-elect of the Society of Surgical Chairs and Executive Director of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons.

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, AOA. 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.

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. In addition, Dr. Britt has been honored with an Emmy award for his contribution to the television special: Youth/Violence: A Call to Disarm. He has participated in numerous visiting professorships and distinguished lectureships throughout the country as well.

Dr. Britt serves on numerous national and international boards and is involved in numerous church and community activities.