

Professor Shaneeta Johnson

When Professor Shaneeta Johnson took the chair of surgery at Meharry Medical College, she became the fourth black woman ever to lead a department of surgery in the United States, and the first in the Southeast. A native of The Bahamas, a surgeon, educator, global health leader, and Associate Dean of Global Health Partnerships and Engagement at Meharry, she has built her career on expanding access to advanced surgical care and on developing the workforce and systems that sustain it.

Professor Johnson earned her Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University and her Doctor of Medicine from Loma Linda University, before completing her general surgery residency at Howard University Hospital and a fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. She is board certified in General Surgery and Obesity Medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and the International College of Surgeons.

At Morehouse School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital, she built a robotic surgery programme from the ground up, securing more than \$2 million in in-kind grant funding and uniting Grady, Morehouse, and Emory University in a single initiative that brought advanced minimally invasive surgery to more than 1000 patients annually, who did not have access.

Professor Johnson's expertise has informed state and federal health policy. Her global health work has impacted care across Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America, including partnerships with The University of the West Indies, where she has also served as an External Examiner. Following Hurricane Dorian, she directed more than \$1 million in medical aid to recovery efforts in The Bahamas.

Author of more than eighty manuscripts, chapters, and books, and the only Surgeon contributing author for the 2023 and 2024 Lancet Countdown U.S. Policy Briefs, Professor Johnson has lectured on five continents, including at the University of Oxford in Europe.

Her honours include the inaugural SAGES Social Justice and Health Equity Award; the American College of Surgeons Claude H. Organ, Jr. Traveling Fellowship; the Ken Lee Award for Surgical Sustainability; the National Medical Association Emerging Leader Award; and recognition among Top Women in Medicine and Atlanta's 40 Under 40.