E. Anthony Rankin, MD, receives American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons’ Diversity Award

Served as organizations’ first African American president

ORLANDO, Fla.—The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) today presented the 2016 Diversity Award to orthopaedic surgeon E. Anthony Rankin, MD, of Washington, DC, at a ceremonial meeting at the organization’s 2016 Annual Meeting.

The Diversity Award recognizes members of the Academy who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding commitment to making orthopaedics more representative of, and accessible to, diverse patient populations.

Dr. Rankin trained more than 120 minority and female residents as chief of orthopaedic surgery at Providence Hospital and professor of orthopaedic surgery at the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. Many of those students returned to underserved communities to practice. He joined the Howard University Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1973, at the time one of only three minority-based orthopaedic programs in the United States, with the expressed goal of training more minority orthopaedic surgeons and serving as a mentor and role model to medical students.

Throughout his career Dr. Rankin championed several initiatives using diversity as a lens, including Culturally Competent Care, which brings cultural awareness into every patient-physician interaction in an effort to enhance outcomes. He also played a key role in establishing the AAOS Leadership Fellows Program and the Academy’s first committee on diversity, two specific examples instrumental in recruiting highly qualified female and minority orthopaedic surgeons to positions of leadership.

“Dr. Rankin’s promotion of diversity in orthopaedics has been a career-long mission,” said Augustus A. White, III, MD, PhD, Ellen and Melvin Gordon Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and professor of medical education at Harvard Medical School in Boston. “Part of his motivation came upon attending his first AAOS meeting in 1967 and learning that there were less than 10 board certified African American orthopaedic surgeons in the United States at the time.”

“Removing obstacles and the unintended barriers for women and minorities to become orthopaedic surgeons has been part of Dr. Rankin as a person in his community and on the national stage,” said Douglas W. Jackson, MD. “He has rolled up his sleeves and worked hands-on while personally teaching and lecturing on the importance of every aspect of culturally competent health care.”

Dr. Rankin currently serves as chief of orthopaedics at Providence Hospital and clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at Howard University College of Medicine, both in Washington, DC. Additionally, he
is a clinical associate professor at Georgetown University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., and a medical degree at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. He completed an internship at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, DC, a general surgery residency at the Dewitt Army Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Va., and an orthopaedic surgery residency at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He also completed postgraduate training at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC and at the Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago.

“I am grateful for the leadership roles I have held at AAOS which allowed me to promote the inclusion of minorities and women in orthopaedic education and patient care,” said Dr. Rankin, who became the first African American president of the Academy in 2008. “Through the Diversity Advisory Board and other resources, the Academy continues its efforts to improve accessibility for underserved populations.”

Medicine runs in the Rankin family. His wife, Frances is a psychiatrist and son Marc is an orthopaedic surgeon.

Read more about Dr. Rankin

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
With more than 39,000 members, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) is the world’s largest association of musculoskeletal specialists. The AAOS provides education programs for orthopaedic surgeons and allied health professionals, champions and advances the highest musculoskeletal care for patients, and is the authoritative source of information on bone and joint conditions, treatments, and related issues.

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