



James Franklin Densler, MD, FAAP, FACS

(Aka “Dr. D. – The Fun Doctor”) James Franklin Densler, MD is a Professor of Surgery at Morehouse School of Medicine. He spends most of his time at the medical school in the Department of Medical Education teaching first and second year students.

Dr. Densler was born in Savannah, GA, July 3, 1932 and attended the public schools of his hometown. He graduated from Alfred E. Beach High School in 1950 and was the Valedictorian of his class.

Dr. Densler received a B.S. degree in Biology from Savannah State College in 1954 (highest ranked student) and taught briefly in the Chatham County (GA) school system before serving in the U.S. Army as a medic. He received his Medical Degree (first honor student) from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN in 1961 and did his Internship and General Surgery Residency at the U.S. Public Health Hospital, Staten Island, NY (1961-1966). He completed his Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the United Hospitals of Newark, NJ (1966-1968).

He started his practice in Atlanta, GA in 1969 with the Atlanta Surgical Professional Association. His associates were Clinton E. Warner, MD, FACS and Warner E. Meadows, MD, FACS. The Atlanta Surgical Professional Association was the first African American Incorporated Group Practice in Georgia. He also worked for the Georgia Department of Children and Youth Services as Medical Director of the Lorenzo Benn Youth Development Center, Atlanta, GA (1977-1998) and as a Consultant Surgeon for the Georgia Children’s Medical Service (1988-1990).

Dr. Densler was the First African Pediatric Surgeon to practice in the USA (1969), the first African American to be accepted into the Surgical Section of the American Academy of the Pediatrics (1971) and the second African American to be certified in Pediatric Surgery (1976). Locally, he was the first African American to serve on the Hospital Authority of Fulton County for Northside Hospital, Atlanta, GA (1980-1988).

He has had many leadership roles in several hospitals and medical societies. When he was Chief of Staff at Southwest Community Hospital, Atlanta, GA (1974), he invited Morehouse School of Medicine, which was in the planning stages, to use the hospital to train their students and residents. When the medical school opened, he gave lectures to the Charter Class and trained many students and residents in his practice.

As chairman of the Education Committee of the Atlanta Medical Association and co-chairman of the Georgia State Medical Association, he was able to invite many prominent speakers and to sponsor several lectures and conventions to help upgrade medical care in Georgia.

Dr. Densler retired from his busy practice in 1999 and then started to work for Morehouse School of Medicine in the Department of Medical Education, teaching first and second year students and running the Pediatric Surgery Clinic at the Otis W. Smith/Southwest Grady

Healthcare Center (2000-2003). He also worked as a Medical Officer at the Atlanta Military Entrance Processing Station at Fort Gillem, GA (2000-2012).

Mable Wesley Densler, BSN, MSN of Birmingham, AL is his wife of 52 years and they have two sons, James F. Densler Jr., a postal worker in Atlanta and Duane W. Densler, MD, a Neurosurgeon in Pikeville, KY. Dr. Densler's hobbies include gardening and photography. He is proud of the *care and service* he gave his patients. He is also very elated about the many students, residents, patients, family members and friends who let him serve as their mentor/role model and who went on to become outstanding and dedicated workers in their fields of endeavor.