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Alexander K.C. Leung, MBBS, FRCPC, FRCP (UK &amp; Ire), FRCPC, FAAP and William Lane M. Robson, MD, FRCPC, FRCP (Glasg)

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Oguz Cebesoy, MD and Enver Taner Baltaci, MD

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Luqman Dabiri, MD, MSc (London), FRCS and Wellman Cheung, MD

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Paul Rousseau, MD

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Reviewed by Ribhi Hazin

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Surgical Section of the NMA

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**Calendar****About the Cover**

The National Medical Association (NMA) was founded in 1895, and Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a prominent surgeon from Chicago, was one of the founding fathers and its first vice president. The first president of this fledgling organization was Dr. Robert Fulton Boyd, a surgeon from Nashville, TN, who later served as professor and chairman of surgery at Meharry Medical College, his alma mater. The surgical section of the NMA was formed in 1906 as the "major organization in the country uniting black surgeons," a distinction it continues to hold today. The mission of the NMA, so eloquently expressed by Dr. Carl Rowan, another surgeon from Meharry, still graces the masthead of the *Journal of the National Medical Association* today. The first president of the surgical section was Dr. John E. Hunter of Lexington, KY. The early meetings of the surgical section included practitioners of the various subspecialties until the late 1930s, when they were recognized as independent specialties by the new NMA constitution. The leaders of the surgical section have included some of the most outstanding leaders in American surgery, and 26 surgeons have served as NMA presidents. The surgical section has played a very significant role in all aspects of American surgery, including healthcare and manpower studies, education and public policy. Section members have served in every capacity in national surgical organizations, including two presidents of the American College of Surgeons; chair of the Residency Review Committee for Surgery (Dr. L.D. Britt, professor and chair of surgery, Eastern Virginia School of Medicine); chairman of the American Board of Surgery; presidents of numerous regional surgical societies; professors and chairs of numerous majority and minority departments of surgery, including, more recently, the University of Minnesota (Dr. Selwyn Vickers), Duke University (Dr. Danny Jacobs) and the Albany Medical School (Dr. Stephen Stain); and the first African-American regent of the American College of Surgeons, Britt. Dr. Henri Ford, current vice chair of surgery at the University of Southern California and the chairman of pediatric surgery, was recently president of the prestigious Society of University Surgeons. Dr. Haile Debas, former professor and chair of surgery and dean at UCSF was the first African-American president of the world's most elite surgical association, The American Surgical Association.

As the surgical section celebrated its 100th anniversary during the Dallas convention, it continues to be an organization of pride, strength and character that is deeply entrenched in the fabric of the NMA and American surgery, and one that continues to acknowledge the men and women on whose shoulders we stand. In the immortal words of Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr., section chair from 1974–1975, "until we are living in a completed society, there will always be a need for the surgical section of the NMA." It is to the men and women of the surgical section—past, present and future—that we dedicate this 100th-anniversary photograph of this unique and very special organization and proudly display it as the cover for the *JNMA* for this month.

NMA section chairpersons: to submit your 100th-anniversary section photo for possible cover publication please send the high-resolution photo and your About the Cover to shaynes@nmanet.org. Thank you.