

Prof. Benjamin Solomon "Ben" Carson, Sr., M.D. (born September 18, 1951) is a retired American neurosurgeon. Among other surgical innovations, Prof. Carson did pioneering work on the successful separation of conjoined twins joined at the head. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, by President George W. Bush in 2008. After delivering a widely publicized speech at the February 2013 National Prayer Breakfast, he became a popular figure in conservative media for his views on social issues and the government's role in the health care industry.

Prof. Ben Carson was born in Detroit, Michigan, and was raised by his single mother, Sonya Carson. He struggled academically throughout elementary school and emotionally with his temper. But after his mother reduced his television time and required him to read two books a week and produce written reviews for her, he started to excel in middle school and throughout high school. After graduating with honors from Southwestern High School, he attended Yale University, where he earned a degree in psychology. From Yale, he attended University of Michigan Medical School, where he attained his M.D.

At present he is a *Professor of Neurosurgery, Oncology, Plastic Surgery and Pediatrics* and the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University. He was inspired to pursue a career in medicine when he heard stories in church of missionary doctors and their ability to heal people physically, mentally, and spiritually. At age 33, he became the youngest major division director in Johns Hopkins history, as Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery. He is also a Co-Director of The Johns Hopkins Craniofacial Center.

According to Johns Hopkins Hospital: "Dr. Carson focuses on traumatic brain injuries, brain and spinal cord tumors, achondroplasia, neurological and congenital disorders, craniosynostosis, epilepsy and trigeminal neuralgia. He is also interested in maximizing the intellectual potential of every child."

Prof. Carson's hand-eye coordination and three-dimensional reasoning skills made him a gifted surgeon.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Carson_-_cite_note-PennState-3 After medical school, he became a neurosurgery resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Starting off as an adult neurosurgeon, Carson became more interested in pediatrics.

Prof. Carson's other surgical innovations have included the first intrauterine procedure to relieve pressure on the brain of a hydrocephalic fetal twin, and a hemispherectomy, in which a young girl suffering from uncontrollable seizures had one-half of her brain removed.

In 1987, Prof. Carson made medical history by being the first surgeon to successfully separate conjoined twins (the Binder twins) who had been joined at the back of the head (craniopagus twins). The 70-member surgical team, led by Prof. Carson, worked for 22 hours. At the end, the twins were successfully separated and can now survive independently.

In March 2013, Prof. Carson announced he would retire as a surgeon. His retirement became official on July 1st, with Carson saying he would leave the decision of whether to go into politics "in the hands of God, but much can be done outside the political arena."

Prof. Carson is a member of the American Academy of Achievement, and the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. In 2008, the White House awarded Carson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He has been awarded 38 honorary doctorate degrees and dozens of national merit citations.