



## Aurora D. Pryor, M.D.

Aurora D. Pryor<sup>1</sup>

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Dr. Aurora D. Pryor is an internationally recognized leader in minimally invasive and bariatric surgery. She is a model academic surgeon and surgical innovator, who at mid-career has already distinguished herself by achieving significant advances. Indeed, Dr. Pryor continues to move the art and science of bariatric surgery forward, as well as the use of novel non-surgical interventions, in the battle against obesity. Moreover, as an educator, she is training the surgeons of the future to understand the need for innovation and patient-centered care.

Dr. Pryor grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and left the Midwest to pursue her college education at Duke University, where in 1991 she received her B.S. degree in biomedical and electrical engineering. For the next two decades, Duke played a central role in her medical training and the launch of her career as an educator and physician scientist. There, she earned her medical degree in 1995, having spent the last two years of her training as a fellow in the prestigious Four

Schools Physician Scientist Training Program in the Departments of Medicine and Cell Biology. Subsequently, she completed her residency training in general surgery at Duke University Medical Center. Midway through her training, she did a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the Departments of Biochemistry and Experimental Surgery. Following her residency she completed a one-year fellowship in minimally invasive surgery.

On the completion of her surgical training in 2003, Dr. Pryor had gained an impressive set of skills in advanced laparoscopic and bariatric surgery, as well as the surgical management of reflux disease, achalasia, and other esophageal conditions. Her outstanding performance as a resident and fellow led to her appointment that year as a member of the full-time faculty of Duke's Department of Surgery, one of the world's leading surgery programs. She rose in the ranks from assistant professor to associate professor over the next 6 years.

While on the faculty at Duke, Dr. Pryor also served as program director of the minimally invasive and bariatric fellowship program, associate program director of the Duke general surgery residency program, and surgical director of the Duke Surgical Education and Activities Laboratory. In addition, she served as chief of general surgery at the Durham Regional Hospital, a wholly owned Duke University Medical Center affiliate, as well as Co-Director of the Duke Metabolic and Weight Loss Surgery Program. She was also director of the Duke minimally invasive surgery program at Durham Regional Hospital.

By 2011—the year Dr. Pryor departed Duke to assume a leadership role in the Department of Surgery at Stony Brook University—she was serving as a member of the Board of Governors of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and on the editorial boards of *Surgical Endoscopy* and *Bariatric Times*. She had recently been appointed to serve as an in-training exam basic science consultant of the American Board of Surgery.

After arriving at Stony Brook University, Dr. Pryor was appointed professor of surgery and chief of the Division of

✉ Aurora D. Pryor  
Aurora.Pryor@stonybrookmedicine.edu

<sup>1</sup> Department of Surgery, Stony Brook Medicine, HSC 19-053, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

General Surgery, as well as department vice chair for clinical affairs. In addition, she became the founding director of Stony Brook's multidisciplinary Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center. It was under her leadership that the Division of General Surgery evolved into the Division of Bariatric, Foregut, and Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery. Soon after her arrival at Stony Brook, she established the Fellowship Council-accredited advanced gastrointestinal, minimally invasive and bariatric surgery fellowship.

Dr. Pryor has accelerated into leadership roles in several regional and national societies. Since 2003, she has been a member and, subsequently, a leader in the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). Her initial roles in the ASMBS were on the Program and Emerging Technology committees, both of which she eventually served on as chair. In those positions, she worked on several papers on the incorporation of new technologies into practice. Taking that one step further, she testified before the FDA on behalf of ASMBS. She served on the Executive Council as a councilperson-at-large from 2014 to 2017. In that role she provided oversight for Emerging Technologies, Membership, and the Obesity Prevention committees. She is also co-chair of the General and Foregut Surgery committee. She also serves as treasurer of the New York State Chapter of the ASMBS.

Dr. Pryor has been active in the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) since 1999, and is now slated to be SAGES president in 2019–2020. She is the past chair of the SAGES research and career development and membership committees. She currently serves on the governing board of SAGES as treasurer and also chairs the Finance committee. She was the SAGES representative to the Fellowship Council Board where she has also served as secretary/treasurer, second vice president and now serves as first vice president. She is expected to ascend to the Fellowship Council presidency in 2020. She recently received the Excellence in Medical Leadership Award presented by SAGES at the society's annual meeting. Additional continued leadership in her field is seen in Dr. Pryor's recent appointment to the American Board of Surgery's (ABS) Gastrointestinal Surgery Advisory Council. In her work through SAGES, the Fellowship and the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Pryor is working to improve surgical education and competency assessment.

Dr. Pryor's career achievements are many, and continue to accrue. To date, she has performed thousands of surgical and

non-surgical (endoscopic) bariatric procedures. An ever-active scholar as well as clinician, she has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, and co-edited four books: *Atlas of Laparoscopic Surgery* (Springer, 2008); *Gastrointestinal Bleeding: A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Management* (Springer, 2010, first edition; Springer, 2016, second edition); and, *The SAGES Manual: Ethics of Surgical Innovation* (Springer, 2016). She has given more than 200 presentations worldwide, has received a number of research grants, and holds patents for several surgical technologies, including the SPIDER single port surgery system. Her current research efforts focus on advancing laparoscopic bariatric surgery techniques and outcomes, and on new technology in surgery. Further demonstrating her commitment to surgical scholarship, she currently is an associate editor for *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, subject editor for bariatric and foregut surgery for *Surgical Endoscopy*, and serves on the editorial boards of *Annals of Surgery* and *Bariatric Times*.

In addition to innovation in surgery, Dr. Pryor has been an advocate for diversity and improved quality of life in surgery. Beginning in 2008, she has chaired several career development courses, and several specifically for women in surgery. She has helped junior faculty with key components in an academic career, including research, funding, and publication. She has been a proponent to maintaining a healthy personal life in conjunction with a surgical career, and this year received the Stony Brook wide Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award. Dr. Pryor continues to strive to help junior faculty achieve success and opportunity within their surgical practice.

In summary, Aurora D. Pryor, M.D. is a model academic surgeon who is striving to improve patient outcomes and surgical practice. She not only asks the necessary questions, she acts through many different avenues to advance new knowledge, clinical innovation, and the practice of surgery. She is a prominent leader in the field of bariatrics worldwide, and she clearly continues to measure up to her promise as a brilliant physician scientist dedicated to improving patient care, population health, and physician satisfaction in the battle against obesity.

Dr. Aurora Pryor lives in Old Field, NY with her husband Bill Beasley and their son Sage (19) and daughter Ariana (16). They enjoy sailing, landscape design, and home remodeling.