

Excellence in Professionalism Award

Isaac Karikari, MD

Dr. Isaac Karikari was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, where he developed an early interest for medicine as a child. His family immigrated to the United States at the age of 14 and he attended college at Morehouse College. With an interest in medicine, he was accepted to Duke University School of Medicine and developed an early interest for neurological surgery after spending clinical time with Dr. Allan Friedman. Dr. Karikari was fascinated by the complex nature of the nervous system and the impact that it had on patient's lives when afflicted by a disease process. Following a neurosurgery residency at Duke, Dr. Karikari furthered his education at Washington University in St. Louis where he completed a fellowship on the treatment of complex spinal deformities in children and adults.

Dr. Karikari takes great pride in providing compassionate care to all of his patients as well as being able to give back to those in need in Ghana. His passion is fueled by the bonds he builds with his patients and the joy he receives from helping them during their most difficult times. He travels to Ghana twice a year to provide surgical care for underprivileged children with complex spine problems.

Academically, Dr. Karikari's true passion is teaching residents and fellows. Dr. Karikari credits all of his accomplishments to great mentors (Dr. Brenda Armstrong, Dr. Friedman and Dr. Larry Lenke) and strives to emulate those relationships with his trainees. He has had an early prolific research career and has authored over 100 peer reviewed articles in neurosurgery/spine surgery.

In his spare time, Dr. Karikari enjoys spending time with his wife Precious and two sons (Kingston and Zion).



"Not only does he show respect and compassion for his coworkers, he also demonstrates these qualities to his patients."

"He understands that to gain respect you first have to show respect. This inherent knowledge makes him a natural leader. These compelling characteristics foster an environment of respect. He values the opinion of every member on the team, including the patient."