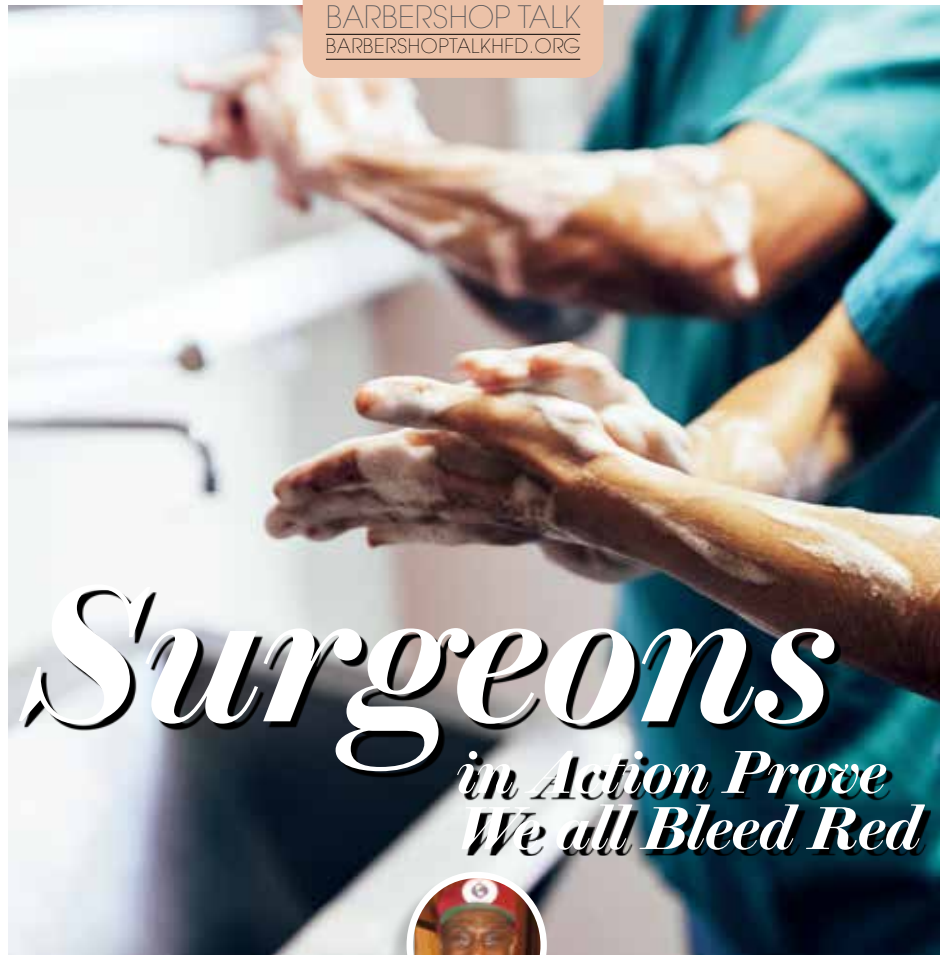


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# Surgeons in Action Prove We all Bleed Red



by **Robert L. Woodard**  
*The Wynnefield Barber*

**B**arbers were the original surgeons and doctors. Ticinius Mena, a Roman Senator, was the first to introduce the custom of barbering in 296 BC. The red and white stripes on the barber's pole are recognized around the world. They represent bandages and blood. This brings to mind Surgeon and Scientist Joseph Lister, known as the "Father of Antiseptic Surgery." He rewrote all of the medical books that made doctors aware of the damages of bacteria. He instructed them to wash their hands and clean their instruments, which helped prevent the spreading of many bacteria that caused infection. Today, surgeons hold their hands up above the waist and below the neckline, after they have scrubbed to prevent contamination. They keep their sanitized hands in view at all times.

Barbering has always fascinated me because the Barber Surgeon trained students in performing surgery via "Guilds." As times changed, many doctors decided to attend college to get a degree. In the classrooms, students performed surgery on cadavers and didn't practice washing their hands before surgery. In the early 1900s, there was an influenza epidemic and these unsanitary practices contributed to its worldwide spread. Keep in mind that the barber surgeons always washed their hands before operating. They understood that bacteria could kill their living patients.

Discovery after discovery, many doctors have contributed to improving medical history and those who practice medicine. I was privileged to interview Dr. Suzanne De La Monte. She discovered in her laboratory that Alzheimer's disease was caused by a lack of insulin to the brain. She described it as diabetes of the brain. There's also Dr. Avery August from Cornell University, who discovered a disease called Epigenetics. Epigenetics travels through time and affects people who have been traumatized. The damages of trauma are passed on to their offspring, going back centuries. Let's not forget Dr. Bennet Omalu. He discovered a disease called CTE, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, caused by trauma to the head, to which many NFL players have been exposed.

I am privileged to say that I have interviewed and spoken personally with these doctors and surgeons. I am also proud to say that barbering played a big part in the history and health of doctors and surgeons. One of the beautiful parts about surgery is that we as human beings all bleed red. Keep in mind, there's only 'One Race' called 'Human,' with 'Many Cultures' and there's only 'One Color' called 'Melanin,' with 'Many Shades.' Take the "RACE Test" today, for a better way at [www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org](http://www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org). **PRH**

*Woodard's Barbershop, 5031 Diamond Street, is a member of the Philadelphia Row-Home (PRH) Business Network.*



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