

# Black History Month

## Medical Marvels

### Charlotte transplant surgeon is a rarity in rarefied discipline

By Herbert L. White  
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Roger Denny is a rarity in an exclusive medical field.

Denny, a transplant surgeon at the Transplant Center Carolinas Medical Center, is one of 18 African Americans trained to perform the procedure in the U.S. In a typical year, Denny, who specializes in liver, kidney and pancreas surgery, performs about 50 transplants a year.

"It's a field I found interesting," said Denny, who came to Charlotte in 2002. "Every surgery is a large surgery. That's why it's always interesting."

The interest runs in Denny's family. His brother Jason is also a transplant surgeon, making them 11 percent of the African Americans practicing the discipline nationally. Education

is the key to success in the sciences and medicine and a requirement for surgeons, Denny said.

Getting more African Americans into medicine requires more diligence in meeting academic and professional goals.

"It starts all the way back in high school," he said. "How many black kids go to college from high school? How many go on to medical school? And of those, how many will go into surgical fields? It's a matter of numbers."

Denny, who interned at State University of New York-Brooklyn and trained for transplant surgery at the University of Minnesota in



Denny

Minneapolis, stuck to his goals. The Mt. Sinai School of Medicine graduate is fulfilling his ambition by working in one of the most demanding areas of medicine. It's also a chance to provide patients a gift that's useful every day.

"It's not a field that every-

one can do," he said. "I love the field because when you give a person a transplant, you give them another chance at life."

Denny's work includes education. By monitoring hypertension or avoiding it altogether through diet and exer-

cise, more people can lead healthy and productive lives. High blood pressure is one of the leading precursors to stroke and heart disease in African Americans.

"Unfortunately, hypertensi-

son and diabetes are running rampant in the African American community," he said. "If more education isn't done, it's going to reach a crisis stage in the African American community."

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### P&G Helps Preserve African-American Cultural Heritage

As we recognize the achievements of past generations of African-Americans who helped build a strong foundation for America's future, and continue our commitment to helping preserve our rich cultural heritage, we'd like to invite everyone to join us this summer for the unveiling of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. P&G is a founding sponsor and largest corporate donor of the Center.

We also invite you to the second annual "Teach Personal Freedoms" tour, a one-woman dramatic interpretation of 200 years of African-American history, starring award-winning actress-singer Denise Thimes. The play, which begins in Houston and travels to Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, and Philadelphia, is part of a five city tour to build awareness for the Freedom Center. For details, please visit [www.teachpersonalfreedoms.com](http://www.teachpersonalfreedoms.com).

We are very proud of our support of the Freedom Center and other African-American programming, such as: the Pantene® Total You Tour, which empowers women with health and beauty information; Universal Sisters health and wellness conference; and the EBONY Black Family Reunion, bringing families together. So as we celebrate Black History Month, let us urge all Americans to use resources, starting at home, to teach the children and others the African-American story — preserve, celebrate, educate, and honor.



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