



Richard H. Bell Jr. M.D. is a native of Providence, Rhode Island. He earned his bachelor's degree at Princeton University and MD degree at Northwestern. Dr. Bell then completed his general surgical residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver. Following military service, he joined the faculty at the University of California at San Diego. That was followed by his appointment as an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1983, where he rose to Chief of the Division of General Surgery. In 1994 he joined the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle as Vice Chair of Surgery and Chief of Surgery at the Seattle VA Medical Center. In 2000 he became the Loyal and Edith Davis Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago. Dr. Bell was recruited to the American Board of Surgery (ABS) in August 2006 to head up an effort to define and implement a national curriculum for residency training in general surgery and serve

as chair of the Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE). He recently also served as chair of the Surgery Milestones Working Group for the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, a group defining a process for competency-based residency program accreditation. In addition, he has chaired a task force on surgical geriatric competencies for the American Geriatrics Society and American Medical Association. While at the ABS, he conducted major studies on the operative experience of general surgery residents in the U.S. and on attrition from general surgery training. He retired from ABS in January 2011 and co-founded a company, DiscourseLLC, to create medical educational software. He also is director of the Patient Safety Education Project, based at Northwestern University.

Dr. Bell is a past president of the Association for Academic Surgery and the Central Surgical Association. He has served as vice-president of the Society of Surgery for the Alimentary Tract, and is a member of the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. He is a past member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. He has a long-standing interest in pancreatic diseases and held extramural research funding from the Veterans Administration or from the National Institutes of Health for the study of pancreatic cancer for more than 20 years. His clinical interests focus on surgery for chronic pancreatitis as well as pancreatic cancer. He has written over 150 articles and book chapters on clinical, research, and education topics and edited a major textbook in digestive tract surgery and handbook on operative technique. He has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Surgery, and Pancreas*.