

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Raphael C. Lee

PERSON

Lee, R. C. (Raphael Carl), 1949-

Alternative Names: Dr. Raphael C. Lee; R.C. Lee;

Life Dates: October 29, 1949-

Place of Birth: Sumter, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Work: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Plastic Surgeon

Biographical Note

Dr. Raphael C. Lee was born in Sumter, South Carolina, on October 29, 1949. Graduating from high school in 1967, Lee went to the University of South Carolina, where he earned his B.A. degree in electrical engineering in 1971. Lee enrolled in Temple University School of Medicine and Drexel University College of Engineering; in 1975, earning both his M.D. and his M.A. degrees.

Lee began his career in surgery at the University of Chicago Hospitals as an assistant resident in surgery in 1975. In 1979, Lee received his Sc.D. degree in biomedical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and in 1981 he left the University of Chicago for Boston to do further teaching, research, and surgery. Lee held dual faculty appointments at Harvard University and M.I.T. in 1983, teaching electrical engineering, bioengineering, and surgery. In 1989, Lee returned to the University of Chicago, where within two years he had become a full professor, and eventually, professor of surgery, dermatology, organismal biology and anatomy, and molecular medicine. Lee also served as the director of molecular cell repair research at the University of Chicago.

Lee's resume includes a list of awards, recognitions, professional memberships, and publications. Lee was awarded a 1981 MacArthur Prize Fellowship, and a 1985 Searle Scholar Award, as well as being named by the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago as one of the sixteen outstanding scientists in African American history. In 2018, Lee received the Pierre Galletti Award from the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, generally considered America's highest award in the field of biomedical engineering and technology, for his contributions to understanding the

molecular biomechanics of traumatic injuries. Lee held a membership in the New York Academy of Science; was awarded a fellowship by the American College of Surgeons; and was a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society. Lee was also listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, Notable 20th Century Scientists, and was named as one of America's 100 Brightest Young Scientists by Science Digest.

Lee specialized in the repair of scars and burns, and developed a number of treatments in the course of his research.

Related Entries

St. Jude's Catholic School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bishop England High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

diploma

University of South Carolina [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Drexel University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Temple University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Anne Catholic School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Massachusetts General Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harvard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

