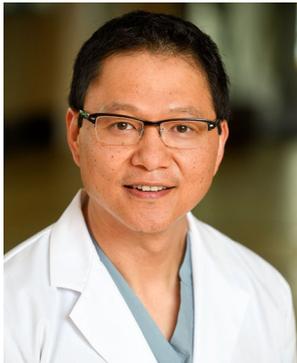




Keith Kim, MD

Keith Kim¹ · Cynthia Buffington¹ 

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Dr. Keith Kim is the Director of Bariatrics at Florida Hospital Celebration Health and has been active in the bariatric community for nearly 20 years. He is known internationally as a renowned surgeon and educator of minimally invasive and bariatric surgery. Dr. Kim is most recognized for his role as an innovator and pioneer in the field of robotic bariatric surgery.

Keith Kim was born in Suwon, South Korea. At age 5, he moved with his parents and siblings to Archdale, North Carolina, USA. As new immigrants, Dr. Kim's parents worked hard to provide for the family while instilling in their children the importance of education and the belief that worthy goals are always achievable. Accordingly, all three children obtained higher degrees in science and medicine.

Dr. Kim in 1986 was awarded an academic scholarship, The John Motley Morehead Scholarship, to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned, with distinction, a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry. He then attended the

University of NC School of Medicine (1990 to 1994) as a Merit Scholar and graduated with honors. Dr. Kim's internship and residency in General Surgery (1994–1999) were also performed at the University of North Carolina Hospitals.

Following residency, Dr. Kim joined South Mississippi Surgeons in Ocean Springs, MS, and served as Medical Director of Bariatric Surgery for 4 years. In 2003, he joined U.S. Bariatrics where he was asked to help develop a multidisciplinary bariatric program at Florida Hospital Celebration Health (now AdventHealth, Celebration), located in the community that Disney built, Celebration, FL. In 2008, the program became the Florida Hospital Metabolic Medicine and Surgery Institute with Dr. Kim as Medical Director. The Institute is a multidisciplinary bariatric program that performs over 500 surgeries per year and includes, in addition to an on-site clinic, a bariatric-designated hospital unit with bariatric-trained and educated staff.

As a bariatric surgeon, Dr. Kim has performed nearly 6000 surgeries, including the sleeve gastrectomy, adjustable gastric band, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, duodenal switch, surgical conversions, and revisions. In 2008, he developed a stepwise technique for the performance of totally robotic (TR) Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) and has currently performed over 2000 TR-RYGB primary surgeries and nearly 300 totally robotic secondary and revisional procedures. At AdventHealth Celebration, Dr. Kim has played a significant role in the development and growth of the surgical robotic program and the hospital's international robotic training center. He has given live demonstrations of his robotic procedures online and at bariatric and robotic professional meetings worldwide.

As an educator, Dr. Kim has proctored and supervised surgeons in robotics and other surgical approaches in bariatrics. He has been an invited guest speaker at over 130 professional meetings and symposiums, a director of over two dozen courses, and has organized and directed five national and international symposiums. He edited a book entitled: "Robotics in General Surgery" and authored or co-authored eight book chapters, twelve peer-review articles, and over 100 published abstracts.

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He has also served as a reviewer for *Obesity Surgery* and *Surgery for Obesity and Related Disorders*, and he has served on the board of editors for the *Journal of Robotic Surgery*.

In addition to his contributions to bariatric education, Dr. Kim is active in research. He has served as Principal or Co-Investigator of nine sponsored and investigator-initiated grants. His research focus, in addition to studies of the efficacy of bariatric surgeries and procedures, has included investigation of surgical and metabolic outcomes, patient nutritional needs, quality-of-life and psychosocial status, program quality improvement, and protocols testing the efficacy of specific medications, techniques and procedures to prevent complications and reduce hospital costs and length of stay. He and his team have been invited to present this research at surgical and medical professional meetings, including ASMBS, IFSO, SAGES, TOS, ADA, and SRS.

Dr. Kim belongs to a number of medical and surgical societies where he has, and continues, to play a role in leadership and service. In 2015, he served as the President of the Society of Robotic Surgery. As a member of ASMBS and IFSO, he

has organized and conducted specialized sessions and served as a faculty lecturer and director of master's courses. In service to ASMBS and IFSO, Dr. Kim has also served on many service boards and committees. He was Chairman of IFSO's Innovations and New Technology Committee, Chairman of the ASMBS Public Education Committee, Secretary/Treasurer of the ASMBS Foundation Board and has been a member of the ASMBS Access to care, Education, Insurance, Research, and Professional Liability Committees.

Dr. Kim's future professional goal is to continue the quest for excellence in bariatric surgery through education, research, innovation, and service. His most important goal, however, is to continue to be a loving father to Ella (11) and Alex (13) and to instill in his children those characteristics provided to him by his own parents—a never-ending desire for knowledge and the belief that worthy goals are always achievable.

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