W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr., MD, is an international pioneer in minimally invasive and robotic heart surgery. In 2000, Chitwood became the first surgeon in North America to use robotics to repair mitral valves. He practices at the Brody School of Medicine and is the Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at East Carolina University. He earned the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his humanitarian work in 2009. Chitwood was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi at East Carolina University in 1998 and was named the Phi Kappa Phi National Scholar in 2004.

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. Its more than 100,000 active members include great minds in science and medicine, government and law and the military, education and business, along with sports, literature and the arts and just about every other field imaginable.