

John Bookwalter, M.D.

Dr. John Bookwalter is the renowned surgeon inventor of the original, patented and market-leading Symmetry Surgical® Bookwalter® Retractor System. His groundbreaking invention has been a staple in American hospitals for more than 40 years.

1950

Decided to become a doctor at the age of 12 after hearing his father say, "It's a privilege to take care of sick people," during a house call.

1964

Graduated from Amherst College in Massachusetts and Harvard Medical School. Trained at Boston City Hospital as a General Surgeon.

1970-1972

While serving in the U.S. Army, generated the idea for the Bookwalter® Retractor.

1975

Works with Codman & Shurtleff, Inc. to further develop his retractor idea.

1979

The Bookwalter® Retractor hits the market as the first retractor of its kind to introduce the idea of continuous improvement with backwards compatibility.

2011

Symmetry Medical purchases the surgical instrument business of Codman & Shurtleff, Inc., creating a new company, **Symmetry Surgical**.

*Symmetry purchased Codman's reusable stainless steel and titanium surgical instruments and retractor systems.

