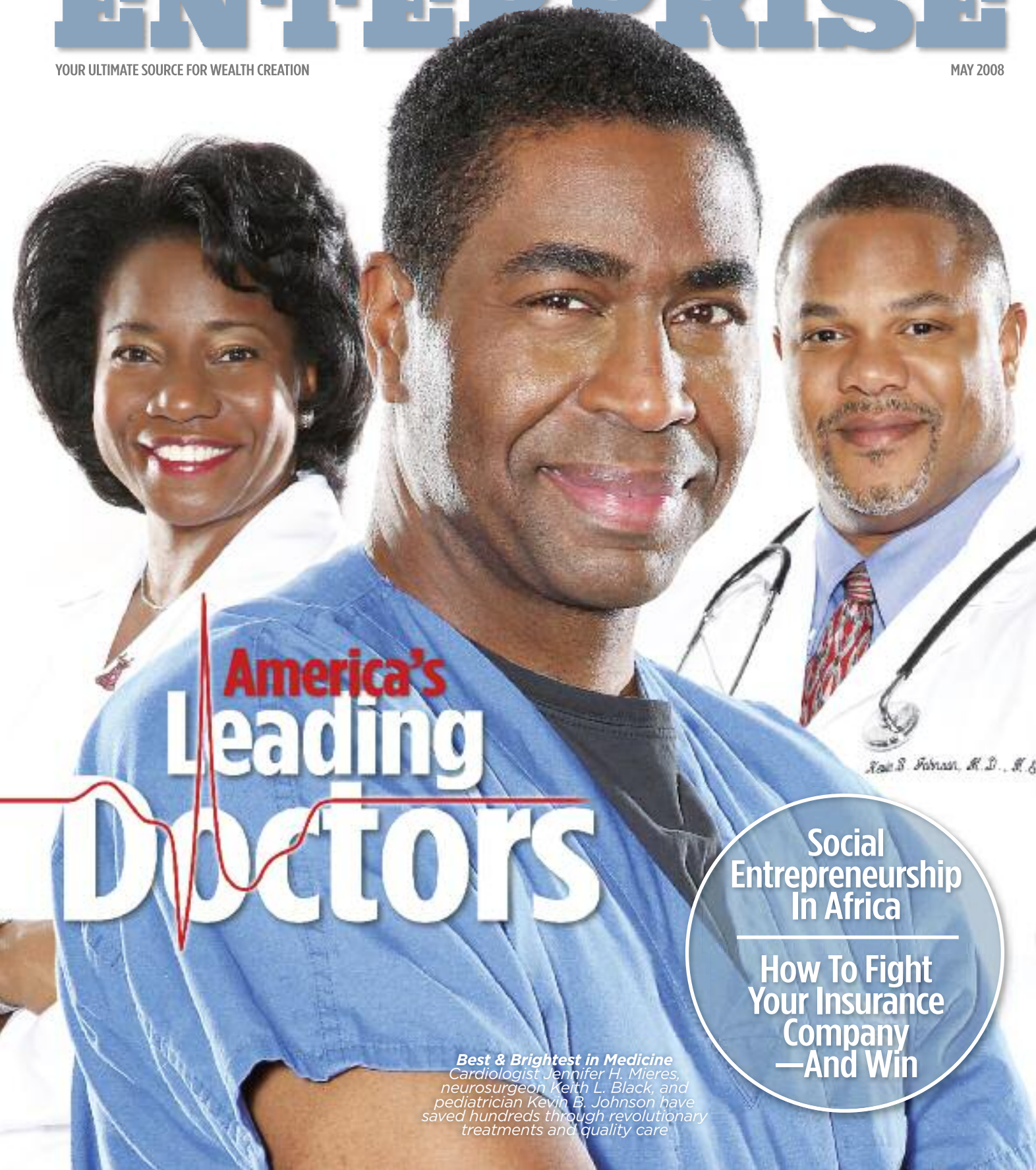


BLACK ENTERPRISE

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MAY 2008



America's Leading Doctors

Best & Brightest in Medicine
Cardiologist Jennifer H. Mieres,
neurosurgeon Keith L. Black, and
pediatrician Kevin B. Johnson have
saved hundreds through revolutionary
treatments and quality care

Social
Entrepreneurship
In Africa

How To Fight
Your Insurance
Company
—And Win

America's LEADING DOCTORS

Keith Black, M.D.

Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery;
Director, Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical
Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Specialty:
Neurosurgery

EARLY IN HIS MEDICAL CAREER, BLACK BECAME FASCINATED WITH the inner workings of the human brain. This interest led him to pursue a career in neurosurgery with a special focus on brain tumors. For Black, the most difficult part of his job is treating malignant brain tumors. He maintains that half of all brain tumors are malignant and can't always be cured. In those cases, "physicians can improve the quality of life and extend life with surgery and other treatments but they cannot cure the disease," he says.

As chairman of the department of neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, this top-rated surgeon manages, among other duties, the hospital's neurosurgical institute, which has a staff of 33 neurosurgeons and a faculty of 11 academic neurosurgeons who teach residents and perform research in addition to surgery. "We're actively involved in the training of the next generation of neurosurgeons," Black says.

He seeks to change cancer treatment by reducing and possibly eliminating the need for chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation treatments. "We are learning how important it is to also use the body's immune system to fight tumors," he says. In fact, Black and his team of researchers are working on a vaccine developed in his research lab. The team has treated about 100 patients with positive results. "And with the most aggressive cancer, called a glioblastoma, we've shown that we can increase the chance of survival at two years from 8% to 42%, using this vaccination in combination with chemotherapy and surgery," says Black. Through such leadership, Black has made Cedars-Sinai one of the top neurosurgical centers in the country. —**Sheiresa McRae**

