Dr. Edward E. Mason (born 16 October, 1920), M.D, is a world renowned surgeon. Dr. Mason is best known as the "father of obesity surgery" because of his pioneering work in performing gastric bypass surgery for weight reduction.

Dr. Mason has deep roots in The University of Iowa. His father, Edward F. Mason, taught photojournalism at The University of Iowa. Dr. Mason obtained his graduate degree from the University of Iowa. Subsequently, he completed his PhD in Surgery from the University of Minnesota in 1944. Dr. Mason spent nearly his whole medical career at as both a professor and surgeon for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Mason began performing gastric bypass surgery for weight reduction in 1966 as an outgrowth of his work with the surgical treatment of ulcers and stomach cancers. Physicians had observed that patients treated for these illnesses with removal of the diseased part of the stomach experienced difficulty in maintaining their weight. That gave Dr. Mason as idea of turning the undesirable effect of gastric resection (weight loss) and using it for a desirable effect (to treat obesity). Starting with just a few patients, Mason soon gained the attention both of individuals whose appetites placed their health at serious risk and their physicians.

Dr. Mason has since become a passionate advocate for vertical banded gastroplasty (VBG), which he began performing in 1980. Pointing to the operation's simplicity and the fact that it restricts food intake but does not otherwise alter normal digestive functioning, Dr. Mason continues to endorse VBG as the surgical treatment of choice for obesity.

In addition to his role in developing VBG, Dr. Mason was instrumental in establishing the American Society of Bariatric Surgery and the International Bariatric Surgery Registry. Dr. Mason acted as the first president of the American Society of Bariatric Surgery. The International Bariatric Surgery Registry, which Dr. Mason continues to direct, was the first to track the outcomes of patients who underwent bariatric surgery and currently maintains a database of more than 30,000 patients.

Dr. Mason's other surgical interests include parathyroid disease and hyperparathyroidism; fluid and electrolyte balance in surgery; and treatment of giant hernias. He was among the early adopters of computer technology to process data, co-authoring the book Computer Applications In Medicine in 1964.

Dr. Mason is now retired but continues to actively teach, speak, and write. His upcoming publications include a book chapter on the history of obesity surgery and a paper on its future.