Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota. Buchwald earned his B.A. at Columbia College, New York, in 1954, graduating first in his class. He earned his M.D. at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, graduating at the top of his class in 1957. He then interned at the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. After two years as Chief Flight Surgeon, SAC, U.S. Air Force, he completed his residency training at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, earning his M.S. (Biochemistry) and Ph.D. (Surgery) degrees. Buchwald joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota in 1966. Among the numerous awards and honors Buchwald has received in recognition of his clinical and scholarly accomplishments are the following: Phi Beta Kappa, 1953; Valedictorian, Columbia College 1954; graduating Summa Cum Laude, 1954; Alpha Omega Alpha, 1956; Shearing Award, 1957; First Clinical Research Award, Minnesota Surgical Residents Society, 1966; Phi Lambda Upsilon Honorary Chemistry Fraternity, 1966; Samuel D. Gross Award, Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, 1967; Sigma Xi, 1968; Distinguished Service Award, Association for Academic Surgery, 1976; Inventor of the Year Award and induction into the Minnesota Inventors Hall of Fame, 1988; Outstanding Achievement Award, Minnesota Medical Alley, 1989; First Annual Clinical Scholar Award, University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic and Medical School, 1991; and elected to membership in the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center's Academy for Excellence in Health Research, 2015.

Buchwald is a distinguished member of the major national and international societies in surgery and in his specific interest areas of obesity management, atherosclerotic coronary heart disease, and implantable artificial internal organs. He has served as Chair of the Surgical Council of the American College of Nutrition (1976); Secretary-General and Chair of the International Study Group for Implantable Insulin Delivery Devices (1984-1992); President of the Central Surgical Association (1997-98); President of the American Society for Bariatric Surgery (1998-1999); and President of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity (IFSO) (2003-2004). In 2014, he was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.