

My mentor

The Mac of all mentors: Jack McAninch, MD, FACS

by David Aaronson, MD

I'm lucky to have had the opportunity to work with Jack McAninch, MD, FACS, at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), as a urology resident. He is a true role model who exemplifies professionalism and has delivered outstanding patient care for more than 30 years. Dr. McAninch has tremendously impacted my career path, as I now am greatly interested in pursuing a fellowship in his area of subspecialty, trauma and reconstruction.

My first experience with Dr. McAninch came at the San Francisco General Hospital, operating on a young man shot multiple times in the abdomen. The patient was unstable at presentation, intubated, and brought to Operating Room 1 for exploratory laparotomy by chief of surgery, William Schecter, MD, FACS. We were called intraoperatively to come and evaluate the patient, who was noted to have had gross hematuria. Dr. McAninch requested I perform an on-table intravenous pyelogram to assess the kidneys and ureters for function and evidence of injury. In true Dr. McAninch fashion, he asked me how much intravenous contrast I should give. My response was unfortunately incorrect and his classic admonishment quickly came: "You can't not know that!" I laugh about it now, but it certainly made me strive harder during my residency to know as much as possible about patient care. Dr. McAninch and I ultimately identified a polar injury to the left kidney and were able to perform a successful renorrhaphy.

Anyone who knows "Dr. Mac," or just simply "The Mac," finds him to be warm and caring. He is a gentleman and a scholar. He has published hundreds of journal articles and literally has written the book on *Traumatic and Reconstructive Urology*. I have had the pleasure of working on a publication with him and found his mentorship incredibly helpful. He has passed on to me his thirst for knowledge and attention to patient care.

In addition, he has instrumentally encouraged our residents at UCSF to be members of the American College of Surgeons. This encour-



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agement has allowed me to participate in ACS programs and learn about ongoing health policy actions in the *ACS Bulletin*. As a result, I have embarked upon a health policy fellowship at UCSF and stimulated my interest in health policy as a component of my career.

I will always cherish the time I have spent with Dr. Mac in and out of the operating room. I couldn't have asked for a better role model during my surgical training. I would count myself lucky if I earn a tenth of the respect Dr. Mac has from his peers and love from his patients. □

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