

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SURGERY INTEREST GROUP SUCCESS STORY

Penn State College of Medicine Student Surgery Society

The Penn State College of Medicine hosts a very active Student Surgery Society. This organization is directed by three second year students (two co-presidents and one treasurer), and is supported by the Department of Surgery and the Office of Student Affairs. Dr. Brian Saunders, endocrine surgeon and surgery clerkship director, advises the organization. The group hosts monthly activities, ranging from subspecialty lunch lectures, to skills sessions, to evening dinner panels highlighting regional Penn State graduates in private or academic practice. Holidays serve as an impetus to gather the group and enjoy good food, comradery, and to practice much needed surgical skills. Last Halloween, Student Surgery Society members showed off their scalpel skills with an evening of pumpkin carving. Students from all years of medical school came for the festivities, food, and music. Informal mentoring accompanied the craft. Discussions of preparation for clerkships and residency applications flowed as easily as the apple cider and donuts. Fun was had by all, and the medical student housing was decorated with exquisitely carved jack-o-lanterns.



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Washington University in St. Louis Surgery Interest Group

This year, SIG at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis has expanded surgical skills events to reach more than 100 first and second year medical students, up from 30 students in previous years. The events are now held in the WUSM Institute for Surgical Education (WISE), a medical simulation laboratory, in order to give students a glimpse into resident surgical skills training and medical simulation. Additionally, through education funding support from Ethicon, we were able to make our sessions even more realistic by using pig feet and high quality needles/suture to practice suturing skills. Alongside these events, a major initiative within our new surgical skills training is longitudinal skills education. We added a longitudinal training component through monthly open-practice sessions that are facilitated by the SIG leaders, in order for students to "keep-up" on the surgical skills they have learned.



Through conversations with preclinical medical students, we identified that a major barrier to students considering a surgical career was finding surgical mentorship. In order to respond to this need, we created a "surgeon breakfast series". In this series, we arrange breakfasts for a surgeon to meet with 6-8 medical students for about an hour, to answer any questions the medical students may have and discuss their pathway to surgery. This small group format has received very positive feedback, with students feeling more comfortable asking questions, pursuing future OR/clinical experiences, and "debunking" many myths about life as a surgeon. The breakfast series has featured 19 surgeons from various specialties and 65 first and second year medical students.



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Duke University School of Medicine Duke General Surgery Interest Group

The Duke General Surgery Interest Group has had wonderful success connecting surgical faculty, medical students, and high school students. In January 2016, Duke University Department of Surgery collaborated with the Duke General Surgery Interest Group with the goal of “providing medical students and high school students in our community with early and positive interactions with surgery.” We applied for and were awarded the “Health Career Academy Medical Student Grant” from the national Health Career Academy (HCA) organization to create a new chapter. Thirty-four medical students adapted a case-based learning (CBL) curriculum at a local high school with a 61% black and 20% Hispanic minority population, median household income of \$41,694, and 58% of students on free/reduced lunch. Each grade level receives 12, 90-minute CBLs sessions, which involve learning clinical terminology, surgical diseases, and clinical reasoning. Using the HCA framework, over the past two years we created an interactive curriculum of surgical cases in order to leverage the inherent engaging qualities of surgical intervention to capture student interest.

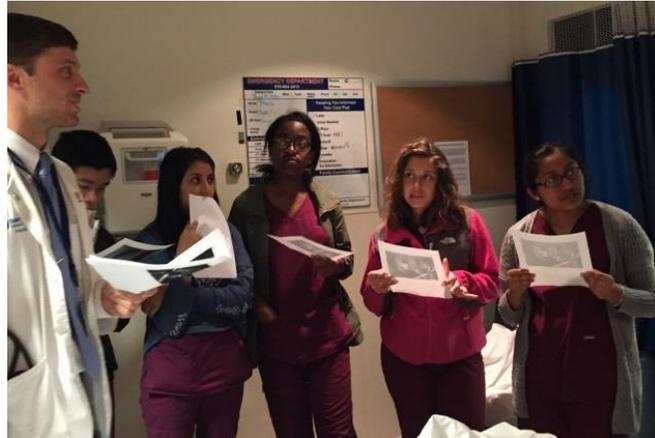
Our site partner in this endeavor, the City of Medicine Academy, proved to be the perfect school to start our initial program. Since our start, we have enrolled 77 high school students, and our program has had over five field trips to Duke University Hospital, including a Trauma Day where student toured our Life Flight helicopters and participated in real-world simulations. The students have proven to be not only knowledgeable but also eager to learn and be involved in the program. In the first year survey, students ranked program helpfulness highest in understanding patient care and learning about career options. They also reported learning about healthcare topics and spending time with medical students were the most enjoyable experiences. Surveyed teachers strongly agreed that medical students were respectful and served as role models. They reported the program was important to students’ futures, students had substantial individual attention, and students developed relationships with medical student mentors. Our faculty support has been better than we could have ever expected. Faculty lecturers and subject content experts supplement lessons and provide real world context. We have had over 22 presentations by 14 different Duke surgical, pediatric, and radiology faculty at the City of Medicine Academy, and 2 final case presentations by City of Medicine high school students to Duke General Surgery faculty. The Duke General Surgery Interest Group chapter of Health Career Academy has had an excellent start, and we hope to continue our working introducing high school students to surgery.

Health Career Academy Leaders

2015-2016: Harold Leraas and Victoria Bendersky

2016-2017: Kyle Freischlag

2017-2018: Keven Ji and Reed Kamyszek



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University of Arkansas General Surgery Interest Group

In the past two years, the General Surgery Interest Group (GSIG) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has taken great strides in establishing a noticeable presence on campus. We now have monthly events throughout the year, which range from lectures by attendings about surgical lifestyle to skills workshops for third and fourth-year students. This year we have implemented membership dues for the first time, which have increased excitement as well as student participation to over one hundred members. Below are a few of our featured events.

Mock Anatomy Practical

Beginning three years ago, our interest group wanted to find a way to assist students as they began the exciting adventure of medical school. We decided that the best way to complete this task would be to assist them academically in their first course, Human Anatomy. The interest group partnered with the Anatomy Lab coordinators and course directors (Kevin Phelan, David Davies, PhDs) to host a mock practical the Saturday before the first anatomy practical. Officers and members of the interest group stay late the Friday night before and tag cadavers, cross-sections, and anything that the professors could potentially tag. Our goal is to simulate an environment that is a direct reflection of the professors' practical. It also serves as a great anatomy review for members of the group as they have to remember the anatomy they learned over a year ago to tag the appropriate structures. This event has been a great team-building activity for the interest group members as we work together to generate fair but challenging questions for the first-year students.

Speed Dating event for surgical specialties

This past year, the interest group wanted to find a way that underclassmen could obtain early exposure to several different surgical subspecialties. We decided that the best way to accomplish this would be to have students interact directly with attendings and residents in a broad range of surgical fields. We set up a 'speed dating' event where groups of five students moved from table to table to discuss different surgical subspecialty fields with their respective attendings and residents. This past year we had more than ten surgical specialties represented, which included neurosurgery, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, urology, orthopedics, plastics, trauma, burn surgery, surgical critical care, cardiothoracic, ophthalmology, general, and vascular. Approximately seventy students attended, and many were able to set up research projects and shadowing opportunities through this event.



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

SURGERY INTEREST GROUP SUCCESS STORY

University of Arkansas General Surgery Interest Group

Skills workshops

A majority of our events are tailored towards underclassmen (first and second-year students) to create excitement for the field of general surgery before they enter their clinical years. We also seek to create events for third and fourth-year students who have already decided to pursue a career in surgery. We decided that the best medium for such events would be through skills workshops. Our first workshop was a suture session led by one of our trauma surgeons and a supervisor of the interest group, Dr. Kevin Sexton. During this workshop, appropriate suturing technique was taught and students were shown how to practice their new skills at home. A second workshop was conducted in coordination with the anatomy lab using 'lightly embalmed' cadavers. These cadavers are embalmed in such a way that they are more similar to living human tissue, and they offer the perfect opportunity for practicing bedside procedures. We utilized this opportunity to complete an event for learning chest tube placement and central line placement.

Lectures by Surgical Advisors

Unique to this Interest Group are the three advisors in the General Surgery Department with diverse backgrounds who are committed to medical student education: Jason Mizell (colorectal surgery), Kevin Sexton (trauma/critical care surgery), and Katie Kimbrough (trauma/critical care surgery). Dr. Mizell has implemented a Business in Medicine course offered to fourth year students at the University of Arkansas that assists them as they begin their career in medicine and helps ensure young doctors are financially aware. Since the interest group started three years ago, he has offered our introductory lecture of the year to first-year students to explain the path to pursue a career in surgery. Dr. Sexton was recently hired at University of Arkansas as a combined researcher/physician. Because we believed that a major deficiency for students interested in surgery was their ability to find outlets for research, we asked Dr. Sexton to give an annual lecture on the appropriate conduct in approaching a physician about research ideas and opportunities. Following his inaugural lecture last year, approximately twenty medical students in the second year class were able to secure research opportunities in the department of surgery. Twenty-five students now have active research projects in the division of general surgery and 6 students presented at national surgical meetings the last calendar year. In 2015, Dr. Kimbrough initiated the "Summer in Surgery" program, which is an opportunity for first-year medical students to gain clinical experience in the department of surgery during their pre-clinical years. She has given a presentation each year to first-year students and explains the application process for the program.

Summer in Surgery

This is a summer curriculum between the 1st and 2nd year of medical school that is not directly involved with the General Surgery Interest Group, but has been well received by first-year students and thus has led to their subsequent involvement with the interest group. It consists of an intensive program during which students participate in two 2-week surgical rotations. These rotations are a simulation of a 3rd clerkship and give interested students an idea of what the field of Surgery entails. During this time, students also receive lectures about the different surgical subspecialties and how to conduct formal research. Each student has to prepare a presentation about a potential research project that they would like to pursue. Many of these projects eventually come to fruition and result in poster presentations, as well as publications. Through this program, first-year students are able to spend their summer between first and second year gaining early clinical experience, which aids them in determining whether Surgery is career they want to pursue