

The American College of Surgeons

Surgery Interest Group Success Story

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Holden Surgical Society

by Kayla B. Hicks

If Holden Surgical Society at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine has taken anything from its namesake, Dr. William D. Holden, it would be the dedication to innovation in the area of medical and surgical education. For many years, Holden Surgical Society (HSS) has been the mainstay for interdisciplinary surgical exposure and education at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRUSOM), offering mentorship and shadowing opportunities, a variety of panels and skills workshops, and our monthly Holden Lecture Series. While these opportunities have been the backbone of HSS's offering to students at CWRUSOM, each year, the HSS Executive Board has endeavored to offer something new to our classmates. These changes have ranged from laparoscopic surgery workshops to exclusive looks at the groundbreaking fetal surgeries performed at University Hospitals. In the spring of 2018, the HSS Executive Board introduced the Pediatric Surgery Preceptorship. This opportunity, geared toward first and second year medical students, gave students a concrete opportunity to gain exposure to the full spectrum of surgical care and explore their interest in surgery. Students were matched with a pediatric surgeon fitting their interests, with specialties ranging from ENT to Cardiothoracic. Students then followed their surgeon for 5 clinic days and a full OR day, allowing them to capture a glimpse of what it is like to be a pediatric surgeon of that specialty. In addition, students were treated to a journal club with one of our pediatric surgeons where they reviewed articles highlighting the importance of mentorship in surgery, and differences in outcomes in pediatric general surgery. This preceptorship opportunity allowed students, not only to explore their interest in pediatric surgery by experiencing the captivating atmosphere of the operating room, but by pairing each surgeon with only one student and facilitating meetings between them, we attempted to give students a ready-made mentor that could help them navigate the rough waters of becoming a surgeon. While a high bar has been set for subsequent HSS Executive Boards, we are prepared to rise to the occasion and continue to provide the best and most advanced in surgical education for our classmates.



Holden Surgical Society Executive Board 2018-2019



Dr. Todd Otteson, MD, showing Preceptorship participants how to scrub in, don and doff prior to their OR days