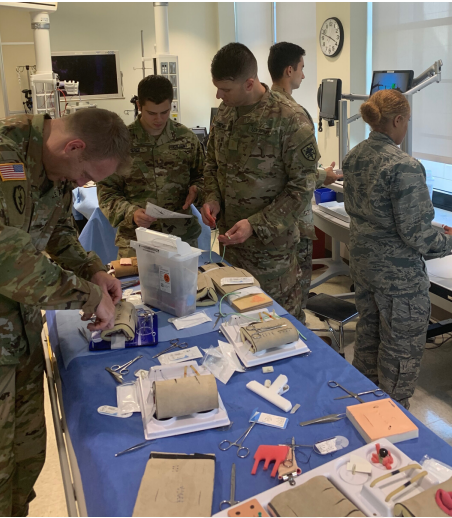


The American College of Surgeons

Surgery Interest Group Success Story

Uniformed Services University

Student Surgery Interest Group



In November of 2018, the Surgery Interest Group at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) turned over its leadership positions to new students in the School of Medicine Class of 2022. The new leadership had a mission to revamp the SIG presence on campus and bring forth more opportunities for students to learn more about surgical specialties. Part of the plan was to host more surgical skills sessions, with the goal of at least one session per month. Basic suturing skills labs were held in larger groups and lessons were taught on knot tying, instrument basics, and beginner suturing skills. Subsequent sessions were held where students were given the opportunity to try microsuturing on porcine eyes with the guidance of an ophthalmologist, as well as an opportunity to suture on cadavers. Students who were able to attend these suturing sessions felt that it was a great way to learn a basic skill used frequently by surgeons and to get a head start on learning a skill that may be expected of them during their surgical clerkships. SIG officers served as teaching assistants at these suturing clinics and were able to share their skills with classmates and other university students who attended the sessions.

I've had the opportunity to attend several SIG skills labs including a basic suturing lab where we learned how to do two-handed, one-handed, and instrument tying using synthetic string. I've also attended a microsuturing lab where we sat alongside Ophthalmology residents as they talked us through steps for suturing porcine eyes under a microscope. Through the cadaver suture labs, I was able to apply the basic techniques I learned in other skills labs to real human tissue. This allowed me to not only drill the techniques and get exposed to more advanced suturing, but it was much more valuable than suturing rubber tubes together as the cadavers allowed me to experience the feel of sewing through different types of tissue and better simulate live suturing. I feel strongly that having these experiences early on will give me a significant advantage during my surgical rotations as a medical student and into residency.

-Spencer Glancy, SOM c/o 2022, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

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In addition to the suturing sessions, surgical skills sessions were held at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Simulation Center. These sessions included small groups of students and were based on more technical surgical skills. Through these sessions, students were able to use a wide range of surgical simulations such as basic laparoscopy, chest tube placements, central venous catheter placements, and bowel anastomosis. This is a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to advanced procedures and familiarize themselves with these procedures before entering their surgical clerkships. Through the efforts of the Surgery Interest Group at the Uniformed Services University, students have had opportunity to attend five basic suturing labs, one microsuturing lab, one cadaveric suturing lab, and five technical surgical skills labs. There is no shortage of skills at USUHS!



Uniformed Services University

Student Surgery Interest Group Officer List



2LT Josh Hansen,
President



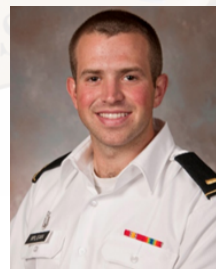
2LT Alexys
Bermudez,
Secretary



ENS JaiDeep
Bhargava,
Shadowing
Coordinator



2LT Lance Charlton,
Research
Coordinator



2LT Jamie McLean,
Treasurer



2LT Kyler Osborne,
Skills Coordinator



2d LT Briana Pompa-
Hogan, Volunteer
Coordinator