

SCOAP Retreat

On Friday, June 14, faculty and staff from the Department of Surgery's [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) participated in the 6th Annual SCOAP Retreat in Chelan, Washington. [The Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program \(SCOAP\)](#) is a performance surveillance and benchmarking quality improvement collaborative in Washington State. SORCE has long-partnered with SCOAP in research and development through its [CERTAIN](#) program. CERTAIN is building a learning healthcare system in Washington State through projects and initiatives that track quality, benchmark best practices, drive improvement, and allow all healthcare stakeholders to have their input heard as to what is needed to improve the system. The Annual SCOAP Retreat brings together the community to share the successes achieved by SCOAP in the last year and to hear of new activities and developments that are underway within SCOAP, and through partnership with CERTAIN.



Dr. David Flum presenting at the 6th Annual SCOAP Retreat.

Dr. David Flum, CERTAIN Medical Director and Department of Surgery Professor Associate Chair for Research, and SORCE Medical Director, said of the SCOAP/CERTAIN partnership, “There is still a very thin evidence base around what every surgeon should do in caring for his or her patients. What we don’t need is a report card. What we *do* need is to figure out what is working and how we can share that among our community. We need programs like SCOAP that generate healthcare evidence through quality improvement surveillance, and programs like CERTAIN partnering with SCOAP to provide the learning element to healthcare by leveraging data gathered and sharing evidence-based practices back to the community to improve healthcare delivery.”

SORCE faculty and staff presented highlights of CERTAIN’s accomplishments with SCOAP over the previous year and highlighted key areas for development in the upcoming year. Led by **Danielle Lavalley, PhD**, Senior Researcher at SORCE, CERTAIN will continue development in the Patient Voices Project, which partners with patients through the research process to incorporate patient-reported outcomes like quality of life into clinical practice as a complement to traditional clinical data informing quality improvement and research activities. Led by **Dr. Tom Varghese**, Department of Surgery Associate Professor, CERTAIN will also continue to focus on moving evidence into practice through the [Strong for Surgery](#) initiative, which is working to identify and implement evidence-based practices to optimize the health of patients prior to surgery.

To learn more:

- CERTAIN and associated projects:
 - www.becertain.org
 - [facebook.com/certainWA](https://www.facebook.com/certainWA)
 - [@certainWA](https://twitter.com/certainWA)
 - [in](#) search for group “CERTAIN Learning Healthcare System”
- Strong for Surgery
 - www.strongforsurgery.org
 - [facebook.com/StrongforSurgery](https://www.facebook.com/StrongforSurgery)
 - [@strong4surgery](https://twitter.com/strong4surgery)
- SCOAP
 - www.scoap.org
 - [youtube.com/scoapchecklist](https://www.youtube.com/scoapchecklist)
- SORCE
 - uwsurgery.org/sorce
 - [in](#) search for group “Surgical Outcomes Research Center”