

**SURGICAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH GROUP**



By: **Karen Horvath**,
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Professor, General Surgery
Associate Chair for Education
Chief, Division of Education

"I'm extremely proud to provide this introduction to the DOS Surgical Education Research Group (est. 2019). One goal of the new DOS Division of Education (est. 2017) is to come together as a community and bring expertise in all-things-education under one umbrella. Our Division's foundational early work has been to first focus on administrative infrastructure by convening our incredible education staff across the department. We added the DOS Residency Program Council and then Education Division meetings to find new ways to work together. The parallel introduction of a research arm with the DOS Surgical Education Research Group is an inspired and substantial contribution.

So if you're interested in education research, "Come one, come all!" Our hope is to have people from all corners of the department represented and benefiting in a symbiotic way. On behalf of the Division of Education and our department community: "Thank you Drs. Tatum and Langdale for your visionary leadership"



By: **Lorrie Langdale**, MD, FACS
Professor & Chief,
Section of General Surgery
VA Puget Sound Health Care System

The University of Washington Department of Surgery (DOS) has been a leader in surgical research for decades. Projects have ranged from analyses of the inner workings of macrophages and cancer cells to the evolution of atherosclerotic plaque, refinement of anti-reflux procedures and outcomes related to clinical decisions in surgical practice. Despite these successes, securing protected time and funding to push back the walls of science has proven increasingly difficult, and faculty have found their interests veering toward the third mission of academia: education.



Dr. Roger
Tatum

Two years ago, Dr. **Roger Tatum**, Professor & Chief, Division of VA Health Care, and I inaugurated the Surgical Education Research Group. The group is open to any faculty with a passion for education. All that

is required is commitment, ideas, and enthusiasm. We meet monthly to propose projects, develop aims and methodology, discuss results and to resolve any barriers to project completion. Basically, this is the Education Lab meeting! Faculty may assume a variety of roles: project leader/primary author; team member with responsibility for specific sections of a project; editing and manuscript review. Their reward is authorship commensurate with their

contributions. The goal is to raise all boats, enhancing education of medical students, residents, and faculty while also supporting junior faculty promotion. I admit my role is primarily that of taskmaster, setting goals for completion, offering editorial advice, and getting the project across the finish line!

We have already seen some significant successes. Here are a few examples:

Drs. **Sarah Atkinson**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, **Nicole Zern**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, **Deborah Marquardt**, Division of VA Health Care, and Roger Tatum, designed a project to assess the impact of remote learning during the pandemic on medical student career choices. This project was presented as an abstract for the Association of Surgical Education meeting for 2021 and the paper is under review.

Dr. Zern is surveying surgical program directors about their expectations of new interns, day one versus month three. Given the many changes in medical school curricula as well as AAMC/ACGME requirements over the last 20+ years since I asked a similar question (not to mention the impact of remote learning), it will be interesting to gauge current impressions of appropriate surgical residency preparation.



Dr. Sarah
Atkinson



Dr. Deborah
Marquardt



Dr. Nicole
Zern

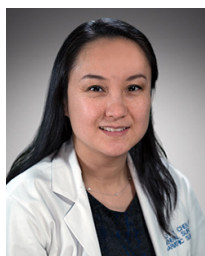


Dr. Kathleen Berfield

Dr. **Kathleen Berfield**, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, corralled a **WWAMI** student to build a valid abdominal wall model that can be assembled at home and used to teach skin and fascial closure by Zoom during the Transition to Residency sessions. Dr. Marquardt is the overall surgical lead for the surgical section of this School of Medicine requirement. Together, she and Dr. Berfield have designed and refined didactic

and practical learning modules that work well, even in a remote format and their stellar evaluations reflect the appreciation of several graduating classes!

Dr. **Judy Chen**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, is working with David Hananel, Director, Center for Research in Education and Simulation Technologies, to develop a bowel anastomosis simulation model in conjunction with the Healthcare Simulation Sciences Division. This one is very challenging, requiring a detailed description of nearly every conscious (and unconscious) movement and decision that goes into an anastomosis, and an analysis of the quality of materials integral to the engineers' understanding of how to build a true to life simulated but reusable bowel.



Dr. Judy Chen



Dr. Kristine Calhoun

Dr. **Kristine Calhoun**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, who has been very successful independent of our group in a variety of education projects, has joined with Dr. **Sara Kim**, Research Professor, Division of General Surgery, to develop a study exploring medical student expectations of their surgical clerkship experience.

With DoS chair Dr. Douglas Wood's support, Deborah Marquardt, Sara Kim, **Jeff Friedrich**, Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, and I completed a paper triangulating respect scores from medical students, residents and patients assessing surgical faculty. The data potentially allow identification of mentors and coaches to improve fellow faculty behavioral interactions with students, residents and even patients. This paper is in press in the high-profile journal, Surgery.



Dr. Jeffrey Friedrich

This is an exciting time in the Department of Surgery if you have a passion for education. You'd be welcome to bring your ideas, the time, and commitment to the DOS Surgical Education Research Group.

FANTA-SIM FOOTBALL

The 7th Department of Surgery Resident Robotic Simulation Tournament, FANTA-SIM FOOTBALL, is in full swing! The theme for this edition is based on fantasy football and will have six teams of six highly skilled residents from all levels battle it out on the virtual gridiron to see who gets to hoist the trophy at the end of the season. The grueling 16-week season is comprised of eight games, each consisting of two to three simulation training modules of varying degree of difficulty. The competitors have two weeks to perfect their composite scores on the modules for each game. FANTA-SIM FOOTBALL kicked off on October 8th, and will end February 11, 2022 two days prior to the 56th Superbowl Sunday. With a lot on the line for the competitors – trophy, prize money, academic recognition, and most importantly, bragging rights—we anticipate that the competition will be just as fierce as those of previous years. A special recognition to our colleagues at the WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare, for providing us a COVID safe environment for 24/7 scrimmages and heated competition.

