

The American College of Surgeons

Surgery Interest Group Success Story

Quinnipiac University

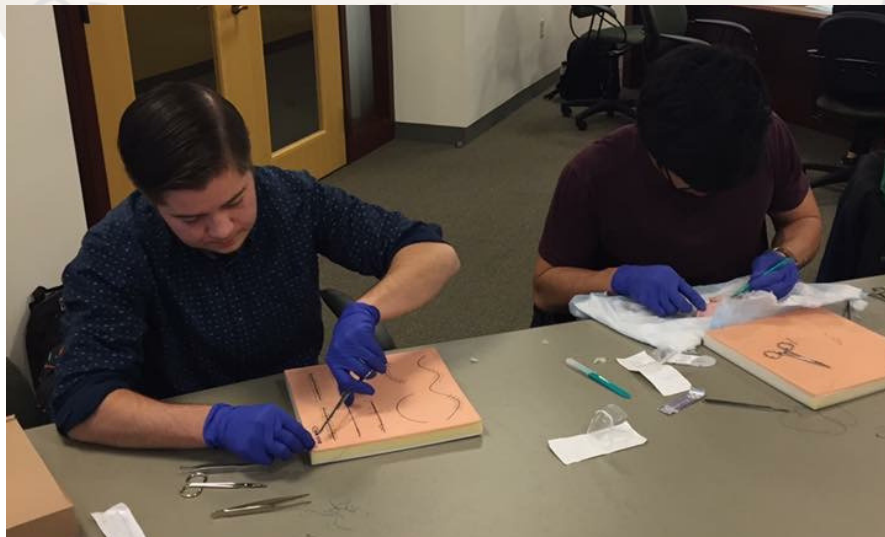
Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine

Surgery Interest Group



Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University was founded on the principles of creating a student-centered learning environment with a commitment to primary care. The first class matriculated 60 students all of whom had a passion for medicine, but realized forging a new path would be challenging. In the preclinical and clinical years students were exposed to many different aspects of medicine, thereby many strayed from the school's emphasis and wanted to pursue a career in surgery. The Netter Surgery Interest Group was born, and served as the class of 2017's largest source of support in exploring the surgical field. Christine Van Cott, MD, FACS, the director of surgical education, was an incredible mentor in helping to ensure that interested members had all of the opportunities to remain competitive in the field, while also providing them with the guidance to navigate the residency application process from a school with no match history.

Through a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication the class of 2017 matched 13 students into surgical residencies across the nation. These students took the Surgery Interest Group to new heights and now preclinical members are privileged to great opportunities in meeting surgeons practicing in a wide variety of specialties, volunteering for our local patient population, and learning how to practice interprofessional medicine. The Netter Surgery Interest Group came from humble beginnings, but continues to grow and flourish every year. In an effort to continue the legacy of the first class, we hope to support any student with surgical interests at the Netter School of Medicine.



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University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Women in Surgical Education (WISE)

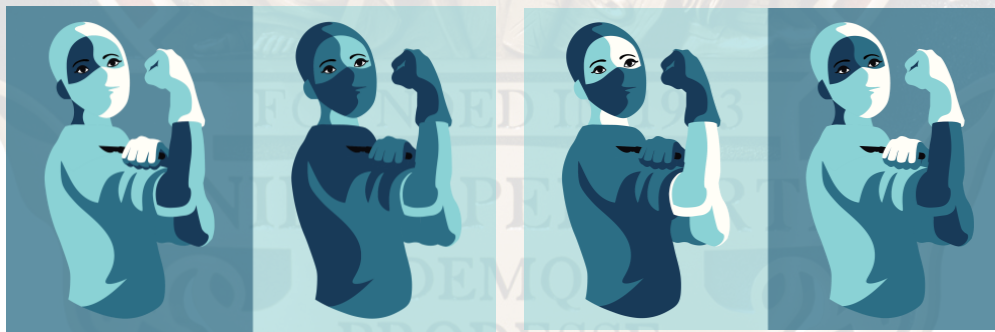
Women have historically been underrepresented in surgical fields. As the founders of the WISE organization, we are two women medical students who are planning to pursue surgical careers (otolaryngology and obstetrics/gynecology), and we felt there was a need for a surgical interest group on campus that specifically catered to the goals and aspirations of women.

The mission of Women in Surgical Education (WISE) is to cultivate the personal and professional growth of women in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine who are interested in pursuing careers in surgical fields, which include but are not limited to neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynecology, otolaryngology, vascular surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, ophthalmology, and urology. We aim to provide a network and support group for future female surgeons to realize their full potential and achieve their academic and professional goals.

We plan to host simulation labs and panels with faculty, residents, and upperclassmen for students to learn more about careers in surgery, as well as host events for students to network with potential mentors in their fields of interest. Since becoming an official group on campus last spring, one of our first events was a panel of graduating medical students who matched into surgical residencies. In August, we hosted a pizza social to officially introduce WISE to new students, residents, and faculty. We have had a positive response from everyone on campus and we are excited for our organization to continue to grow throughout the year.

We aim to remind all women that they can achieve greatness in whatever field they choose, and if that happens to be a surgical field, we are hopeful that we can assist them on their journey. We have joined the #ILookLikeASurgeon movement inspired by the New Yorker magazine's cover -- "Operating Theatre" by Malika Favre.

Connect with us on Twitter! @WISEUAMS Founded by Madison Lampkin and Meredith McKinney



The American College of Surgeons

Surgery Interest Group Success Story

University of Pennsylvania

Perelman School of Medicine

Agnew Surgical Society

Initiative: “Stop the Bleed, Save a Life”

One of the most successful new initiatives undertaken by the Agnew Surgical Society this year has been the Stop the Bleed Campaign. This is a national initiative formed with the support from the American College of Surgeons and the White House administration with the primary goal of providing communities with simple steps and resources to control hemorrhage after penetrating trauma. Our Agnew Surgical Society Community Outreach Chairs, Camille McCallister and Richard Maduka, developed the program with the aid of Dr. Jeremy Cannon, a Penn Medicine trauma surgeon and veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the early moments after natural and intentional trauma, bystanders are often present before the arrival of first responders. While the number of violent offenses continues to decrease in Philadelphia, the city remains one of the most violent cities in the United States, with the Center for Disease Control recording firearm related deaths in Philadelphia above the national average year after year. The trauma from these deaths lasts well beyond the months following the initial event, and often is widespread to affect families, friends and the school environment. The goal of the Stop the Bleed Campaign is to prevent deaths from exsanguination by teaching the community basic bleeding control. Our target population for this program is Philadelphia high school-aged youth.

The Stop the Bleed workshops are hosted by Penn trauma surgeons, nurse practitioners, hospital chaplains, and senior medical students. The sessions are divided into two parts. The first portion is reserved for training and certification in first response, appropriate tourniquet use, and wound packing with gauze and hemostatic agents for major bleeding. High school students gain hands-on practice with state-of-the-art mannequins and combat application tourniquets. The second portion is a safe-space reserved for building relationships within the community, and discussing paths into the field of medicine for youth participants—encouraging the development of the next generation of providers. Students have shared stories of prior trauma that either themselves or close contacts have experienced, including friends and family members killed by gang-related violence. Senior medical students work as mentors, providing advice and guidance for successful application to undergraduate universities and graduate programs.

Workshops thus far have included student participants from Philadelphia's Sayre and West Philadelphia High Schools. Both schools have had troubled histories, with Sayre nearly closing in the early 2000s due to poor standardized testing and low student graduation rates. However, both Sayre and West Philadelphia High School, now in a new location since 2011, are working with several after-school community organizations to nurture young minds, develop skills, and keep the students off the streets and progressing in their education. Our ultimate hope with this initiative is to empower these at-risk youths not only to feel confident and take action in the face of trauma from firearm violence, but also to gain exposure to medicine and higher education, setting goals and bolstering potential.



The American College of Surgeons Surgery Interest Group Success Story

West Virginia University School of Medicine Surgical Interest Group

The Surgical Interest Group (SIG) at the West Virginia University School of Medicine (WVU SoM) has recently become much more robust, inclusive, diverse, and active. Over the past two years, a significant amount of time and effort have been put into developing programs to introduce students to surgical fields earlier within the curriculum, through a variety of lecture and simulation based sessions.

The group caters mostly to MSI and MSII students and exposes them to general surgery and all of the surgical subspecialties. Surgical faculty involvement with activities has markedly increased over the past year and is now vigorous and growing. MSIII and MSIV students have recently been incorporated as educators in the curriculum to assist with suture workshops and simulations and to provide advice for USMLE studying and residency application.

Lectures over the past two years are well attended (by 30-50 students) and have included speakers from specialties such as: trauma surgery, neurosurgery, pediatric surgery, otolaryngology, general surgery, vascular surgery, plastic surgery, surgical oncology, urology, colorectal surgery, orthopedics, breast surgery, and cardiothoracic surgery. In addition, each year the group holds multiple simulations utilizing the state of the art West Virginia Simulation Training and Education for Patient Safety (WV STEPS) Center. These simulations include a suture workshop each fall (attended by nearly 100 students annually), a robotic simulation in the winter, and surgical simulations each spring (with endoscopy, laparoscopy, suture techniques, and central line insertions).

The WVU SoM SIG is also dedicated to giving back to the state of West Virginia. For each simulation, students volunteer to provide canned goods and personal items to donate to local charities. In addition, medical students help provide information to the general public on the Stop The Bleed Campaign, common sources of trauma in our area (four-wheelers, bicycle helmets, etc), and breast cancer awareness at University sporting events. Finally, students also volunteer their time in collecting and donating medical and surgical supplies to local surgical mission organizations.

Success for the WVU SoM SIG cannot be measured solely by the number of students who match into general surgery or surgical subspecialty residencies. Although, as an aside, that number has risen substantially in the last several years. Rather, success is defined by activities for students that are both fun and educational and raise the awareness for surgical disciplines in the eyes of all students. In addition, the group has excelled at connecting students to faculty members early on in medical school, creating lifelong mentors to help guide them through their careers.

Alan A. Thomay, MD
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Co-Directors, WVU SoM Surgical Interest Group

