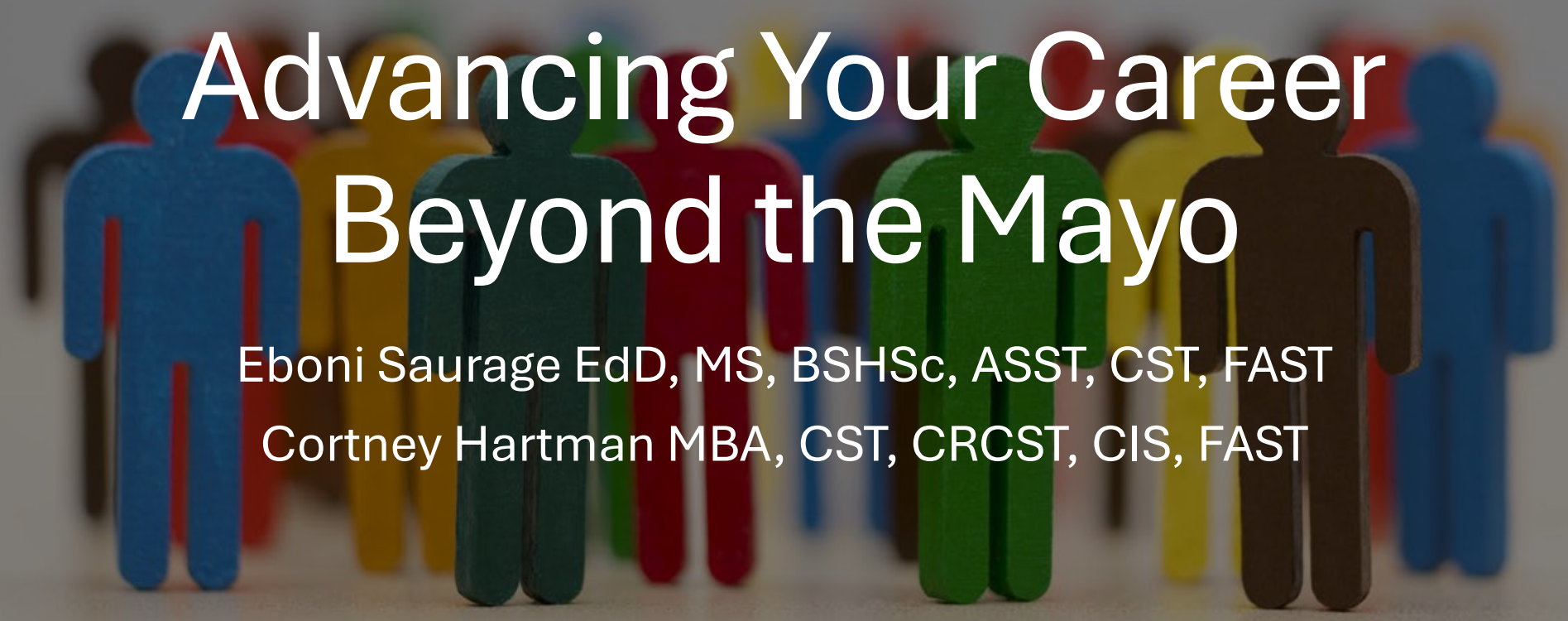




Advancing Your Career Beyond the Mayo

Eboni Saurage EdD, MS, BSHSc, ASST, CST, FAST

Cortney Hartman MBA, CST, CRCST, CIS, FAST

Disclosures

Eboni Saurage

Dean Nursing and Allied Health at
Baton Rouge Community College

Cortney Hartman

Senior Specialist-Portfolio Marketing
Stryker Upper Extremities

Objectives

- Inspire and empower members to take ownership of their career journey.
- Offer practical advice and insights to navigate the profession effectively.
- Share personal anecdotes and success stories that demonstrate the impact of mentorship and networking.
- Foster a sense of community and collaboration among participants to support each other in their pursuit of excellence.

THE OTHER WAY

THIS WAY

THAT WAY

Objectives

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- Offer practical advice and insights to navigate the profession effectively.
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A small green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a dark, textured rock surface. The background is a light, hazy gradient.

Evolving Landscape of Surgical Practice

Overview of Historical Trends of the Surgical Technologist

Overview of Current Trends and Challenges

The Importance of Continuous Adaptation

Professional Identity – THINK, ACT, FEEL

"The role of learning and qualifications contributes to professional identity through increased knowledge and skills and social capital of the profession. (Cornett, et. al. 2023)

"Professional identity involves internalizing and demonstrating the behavioral norms, standards, and values of a professional community, such that one comes to “think, act and feel” like a member of that community."

Mastering Surgical Skills

Ongoing Training
Opportunities

Incorporating New
Technologies and
Techniques

Building a Professional Reputation



Establishing a Strong Surgical Brand



Effective Communication with Patients and Peers



Leadership in Surgical Teams

Developing Leadership
Skills in a Surgical
Context

Collaborative Decision-
Making and Team
Building

Objectives

- Inspire and empower members to take ownership of their career journey.
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THE OTHER WAY

THIS WAY

THAT WAY



Research and Publication

The Role of Research in
Advancing Surgical Careers

Embracing Innovation and
Technology in Surgical Practice

Academic Posters

Development of a Perioperative Orientation Program for the Advanced Practice Provider

Lisa Clemens DMSc, MS, PA-C and Cortney Hartman MBA, CST, CRCST, CIS, FAST

Gaps Identified

Sterile Technique
Surgical Skill Proficiency



Solution

Sterile Technique: Scrubbing, Gowning, Gloving

- Key Concepts of Sterile Technique
- Surgical Hand Scrub/Rub
- Donning Sterile Gown & Gloves
- Removing PPE
- OR Traffic Patterns
- Opening Sterile Packaging
- Hands Free Neutral Zone & Sharps Safety

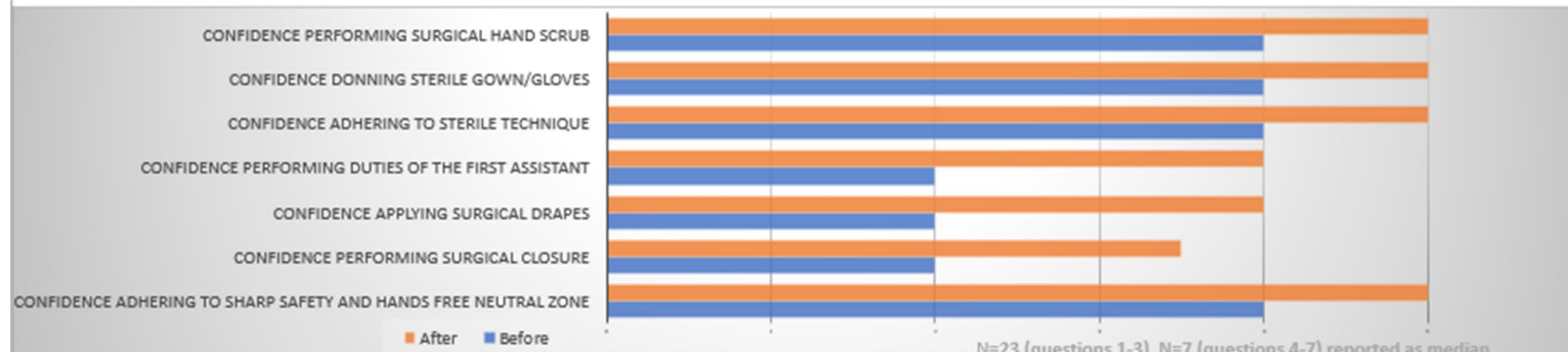
Surgical Safety & First Assisting

- Surgical Consents & Site Marking
- Basic Instruments
- Sterile Draping
- Surgical Counts
- Role of the First Assistant
- OR Safety Protocols
- Surgical Closure

Surgical Simulations

- Code in the OR
- Fire in the OR
- First Assistant Simulations
- Surgical Closure
- Laparoscopic Trainer

Results



Academic Posters

Surgical Technology Students Work Collaboratively with an Elementary School to Increase Awareness of Hand Hygiene and Infection Control

Eboni Saurage, B.S., C.S.T.¹ and Rhoda A. Reddix, Ph.D.^{1,2}

¹School of Arts, Sciences and Health Professions,

²Office of Service-Learning and

Our Lady of the Lake College

Baton Rouge, LA 70808



Procedure

Part I-Community

Students are introduced to concepts of infection control and principles of sterile technique at the beginning of their curriculum in a Fundamentals in Surgical Technology didactic and lab course. Here they learn the groundwork of how hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Faculty decided this was the perfect course to incorporate a service-learning project. To have students better understand infection control and proper hand washing techniques by teaching elementary school children the basics on how germs are spread through contact and how to properly wash their hands in order to prevent it.

The project required students to research infection control and hand washing techniques and develop a lesson plan to share with a group of kindergarten teachers for approval before scheduling a presentation and hands on demonstration on how germs are spread, why it is important to wash your hands and how to wash hands properly. Service-Learning students also assess the children's hand washing habits before and after the presentation which allow them to directly observe the impact they have had.

Students adopted the "Henry the Hand-Champion Handwasher" strategies for teaching hand awareness and hand hygiene to the kindergarten students. The Henry the Hand Handwasher was created in 1996 by Dr. Will Sawyer who then went on to create a Henry the Hand Foundation in 1999.



Part II - Self-Awareness

Throughout the fundamentals of Surgical Technology course, students are assigned guided reflection questions to answer during the project development which addressed the individual skill and preconceptions. After the project the Surgical Technology students are asked to reflect on what they learned about themselves. The self-reflection assignment has revealed awareness and transformation in students as they begin with no awareness of what they have to offer develop to an awareness of how important they truly are by reaching out.

Prompt	Sample Quote
What have I learned about myself through this experience? Do I have more less understanding or empathy than I did before my service?	"What I've learned about myself through this experience is that I like showing others how to do things. I like working as a team. After this service, I have a better understanding that I can spend time as a great team working on a common goal."
Do I feel my actions have had an impact? What more needs to be done?	"I definitely feel my actions impacted the children and hopefully their siblings, parents and/or grandparents. They were so excited to see how well they had washed the germs away and got rewarded. Maybe we could extend our teaching to other schools or nursing homes."
How does this relate experience to what I am learning back in class?	"In class we are taught the importance of sterile technique and how it affects the patient's positive outcome and recovery. If we do not properly wash our hands and focus on 'germs' we put the patient at risk."
Does health or social issues have different meaning for me as a result of this experience?	"My view on health has changed through this experience. At first I really didn't care about what health was and only knew that as long as I wasn't sick I was healthy. Now health means that I should worry about others and how they could avoid getting sick."
How will this experience serve as a positive behavior/attitude?	"This experience proved to me in being helpful. I have had and every other child that I taught healthy behaviors. For that I am very proud and happy. I will continue to help other children and adults learn how to properly wash their hands and avoid getting sick."



Service-Learning Assessment

Purpose: Assess whether kindergarten students who participated in the service learning project and advanced to higher grade levels, retained the information.

Observation: OLOL College students observed hand washing practices and recorded based on the number of students who washed their hands correctly.

Survey: Children took a brief survey to assess the cognitive skills of hand washing.

Elementary: Elementary students identified students based on enrollment.

Summary

Service-learning has the ability to empower students to make a difference.

Transformation in student's views to social and health issues are identified in the self-reflection assignment.

Service Learning project assessment is integral in discovering community impact.

Before the service learning project, 100% of the more than 100 kindergarten students and 72% of second graders were actually observed using soap and water to wash their hands but approximately 92.7% of all first graders and 81.6% of all second graders, cognitively indicated they use soap and water to wash their hands.

Conclusion

Surgical Technology students who participated in the service-learning project to increase awareness of hand hygiene and infection control revealed new consideration of community needs as well as transformation in themselves as they became attentive to their own capabilities of making a difference by reaching out to others in the community. In addition, the level of impact the project had on the community would have never been realized without the follow up project assessment.

Studies are still in progress to complete assessment with expectations to reveal a continued increase in hand hygiene compliance within elementary school children. Our results did show a decrease of hand hygiene compliance in the second grade children which have not been through the presentation as recent as the younger first grade students. A continued decrease in compliance with increased grade level would indicate reinforcement of the concept be considered in consecutive years to assist with sustainability of the hand washing project. This is consistent with reports by Scarborough, M., 2002 and Talat, M. Follow-up studies will continue for this project to develop an interventional component to this program for continued improvement with hand hygiene compliance within this elementary school and hopefully others in the area.

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Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the following individuals who

Results

FIGURE 1

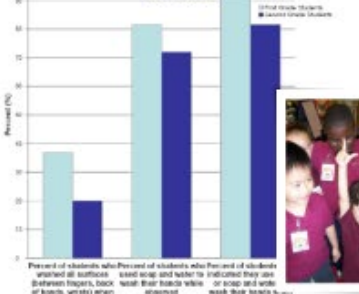


Figure 1: Illustrates the percent of students who use soap and water to wash their hands as they were taught by the surgical technology students while in kindergarten

Academic Posters



UNIVERSITY of ST. AUGUSTINE
for HEALTH SCIENCES

Transition from Clinical Practice to Academia and the Support Given by Educational Institutions: A Qualitative Study

Stephanie Austin, MA, CST, FAST
Dissertation Candidate

Background

The idea for this study was derived from questions being asked during a conversation on Facebook on the Surgical Technology Educators Page and from personal experience. New educators were frustrated due to the lack of support and training given by educational institutions and voiced concerns in open forums. Due to the current shortages, it is vital to provide quality educators to surgical technology programs. Surgical Technologists who transition into education are experts in the field of surgical technology but not in education. Identifying the struggles of practitioners transitioning to education may give vital information to educational institutions to assist in making this transition easier, thus reducing the number of practitioners leaving education.

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to evaluate experiences practitioners encountered during transition into education and identify the effects and shortcomings of educational training received. Due to the current shortage of surgical technologists, it is vital to provide quality educators to surgical technology programs. While surgical technologists are experts in the field, education is a new quarter and the experiences of practitioners transitioning into education will reveal areas of improvement to ensure longevity of new educators.

Case description / methods

This study will be a qualitative study using surveys distributed to surgical technology educators who have a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years experience education. Following analysis of the data, if any follow-up questions arise, panel discussions or individual interviews will be scheduled.

Potential Participants in Research Study

Research participants will be identified based on the following qualifications:

Surveys will be sent out to educators who qualify for the study. If you want to participate and meet the following requirements, use the QR code below to submit your name and email for consideration.

- Must be a CST
- Must be an surgical technology educator for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 5 years.
- Commit to submit survey in 3-5 days from receipt
- Commit to possible interview or focus group (1 hour)



Discussion

Surgical Technology is an allied health profession that began during World War II when there was a shortage of registered nurses. As the profession grew, education became necessary. The development of surgical technology programs opened up positions for the transition from practitioner to educator. Evaluating the experiences of practitioners transitioning to education will determine if the educational institutions are providing quality instruction to adequately prepare practitioners to be successful educators. Ensuring that academic institutions provide quality education during the transition from practitioner to educator is vital to the success and longevity of the profession. Having quality faculty teaching surgical technology students provides quality employees to hospital systems currently struggling with staffing of qualified Certified Surgical Technologists.

Conclusions

Research for this study cannot begin until the research proposal and IRB are approved later this semester. Look for updates on the presentation at the AST National Conference in Chicago.

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Dissertation Candidate
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Stephanie Austin is a surgical technology educator with 19 years experience in the field with 9 years in education. She holds degrees in Surgical Technology, Higher Education Leadership, Healthcare Management, and is currently working on an EdD in Teaching and Learning. Stephanie currently holds the Position of Assistant Professor and Director Of Surgical Technology at Walters State Community College in Sevierville, TN. She is also Vice President of the TNAST, is a member of the State Assembly Leadership Committee, and serves as a site visitor for the ARC/STSA.



Publications



Development of a Cost-Effective Simulation-Based Central Line Task Trainer

Gavin J. Lehmann MBA¹; Lisa Clemens DMSc, MS, PA-C¹; Kevin Pei MD, MHS-Ed, FACS¹; Alton Liu MD¹; Cortney Hartman MBA, CST, CRCST, CIS, FAST¹; Lauren Young NREMT-P, CHSOS¹; Adam Fischer MSN, RN, CHSE¹; John Lozo BS, CHSOS¹; Mindy Flanagan PhD²

¹Parkview Health System, Advanced Medical Simulation Lab, Fort Wayne, IN

²Parkview Health System, Parkview Research Center, Fort Wayne, IN The authors listed declare no conflicts of interest.

Brief Description / Abstract:

Simulation-based central venous catheter insertion training has been well established in the literature. This training modality has been associated with reduction in overall central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSIs) and positive return on investment. Unfortunately, commercial central line trainers and consumable products require a significant capital investment and can be cost-prohibitive for organizations planning widespread implementation of simulation-based central venous catheter insertion training. A novel central venous catheter insertion task trainer was developed to address this barrier. Practicing physicians and advanced practice providers participated in simulation-based central venous catheter insertion training using both the commercial task trainer and the novel task trainer. Participants were surveyed regarding their confidence, skill, and knowledge of central venous catheter insertion pre- and post-training using both the commercial task trainer and the novel, more cost-effective task trainer created in house. Participants reported equivalent improvement in confidence, skill, and knowledge related to central venous catheter insertion using both the commercial and novel central venous catheter insertion simulation task trainers. The novel, central venous catheter insertion simulation task trainer is a replicable, more economically efficient alternative to a commercial task trainer for simulation-based clinician central venous catheter insertion training.

Education Opportunities

**More Opportunities Available
than EVER Before**

Bachelor in Allied Health and
Health Sciences

Masters in Administration and
Business

PhD, EdD, DBA



Leadership Development

Leadership skills
essential for effective
teamwork.

The Surgical
Technologists Role in
Leading Surgical Teams.



Career Opportunities



AST Career Center

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Help Sign In

Find Your Next Job

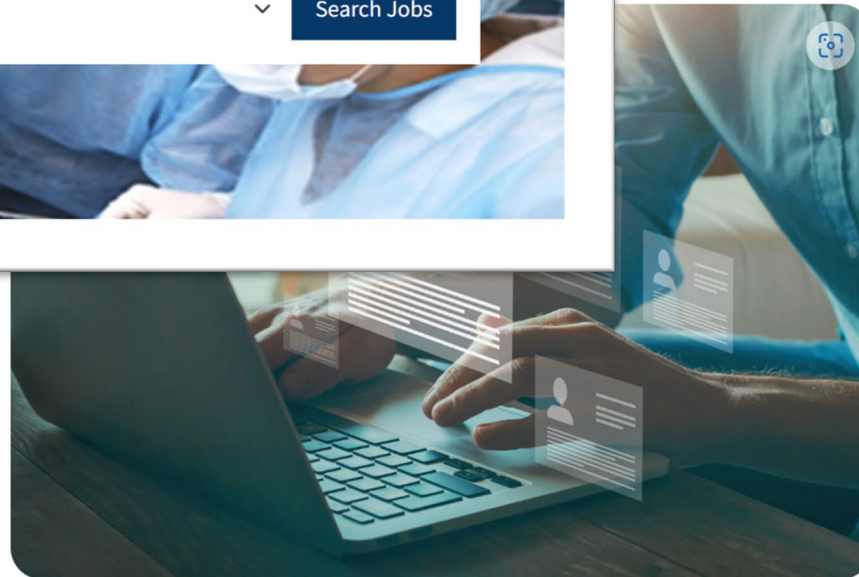
Keywords

Location
Search All Locations

Search Jobs

[Advanced Search](#)

Association of Surgical Technologists (AST), [AST Career Center](#)[Find Your Career Here](#)



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Take advantage of our job seeker account features below to help you do your research, find the right job opportunity, and get your experience and skill set in front of your ideal employer.

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Careers in Education

Sharing you Knowledge

ACADEMIC BASED

- Guest Lecturer
- Skills Lab Instructor
- Clinical Instructor
- Clinical Coordinator
- Program Director
- Healthcare Specialist

HOSPITAL BASED

- Inservice Provider
- CPR Instructor
- First Aid Instructor
- Hospital Education

Surgical
technique/sterile
technique can be
used in other
areas of the
hospital

NICU

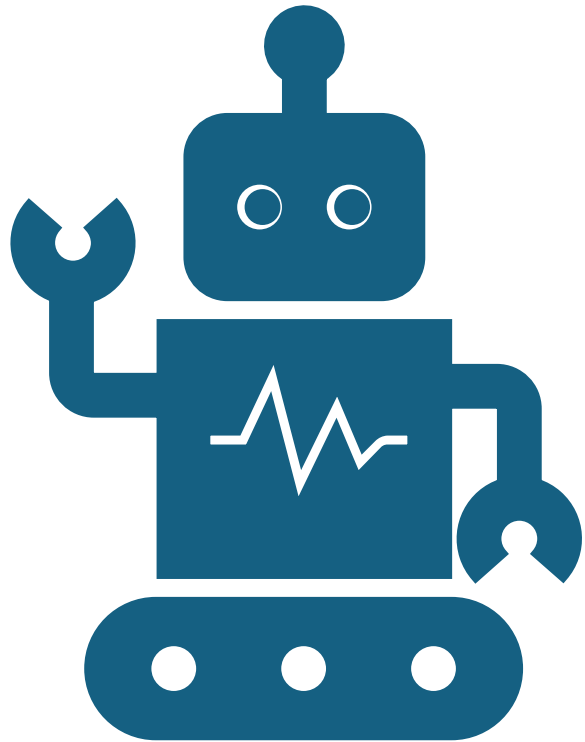
Labor & Delivery

Interventional Radiology

Cardiac Cath Lab

Emergency Department / Trauma

Environmental Services



Healthcare Simulation

A hand is holding a blue surgical grasper, which is a tool used in minimally invasive surgery. The grasper has two loops for gripping. In the background, a robotic arm is visible, suggesting a surgical setting. The text "Orientation for Circulating RNs" is overlaid on the image in white.

Orientation for Circulating RNs

Periop 101: Introduction to the OR

Simulation Lab - OR

General orientation to the
operating room

Flow of an OR room

Identify equipment and
the functionality

Sterile vs Non- Sterile

Environmental
sanitation/terminal
cleaning





Periop 101: Sterile Technique

- Identify and maintain a sterile field
- Inspecting sterile items for sterility before opening
- Opening sterile supplies / implants
 - Wrapped
 - Peel packs
 - Rigid sterilization containers
- Medication/solution transference to sterile field
- Surgical skin prep
- Scrubbing, gowning, gloving



Periop 101: Surgical Safety

- Safe use of electrocautery
- Patient transfer
- Patient positioning
- Positioning aids
- Pressure points

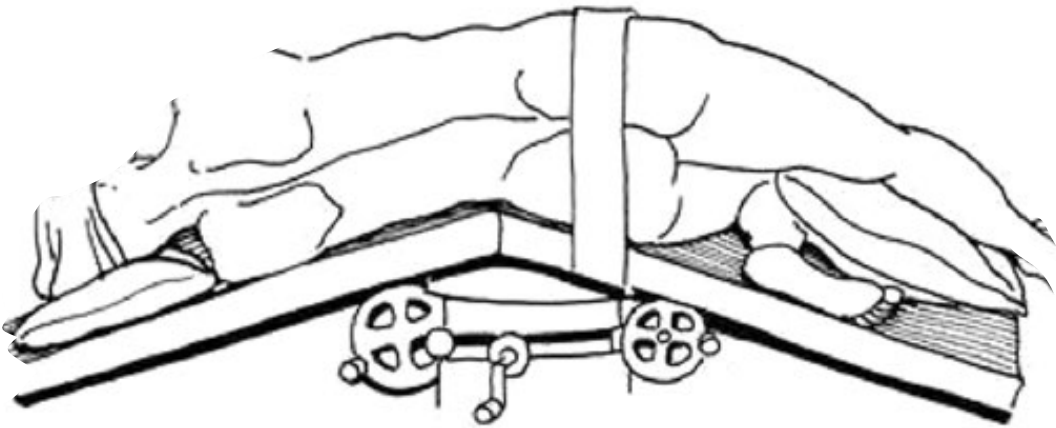


Figure 2 Diagram of the kidney position.

Periop 101: Anesthesia

- Basic monitoring
- Pulse oximeter, noninvasive blood pressure, ECG lead placement, capnography
- Airway Management
 - Laryngoscopes
 - Endotracheal tubes
 - Laryngeal mask airways
 - Oral & Nasopharyngeal airways
- Intubation & Extubation
 - Cricoid Pressure



A photograph of three surgeons in an operating room, wearing blue scrubs and masks, performing a procedure. A large surgical light is visible above them, and a monitor displays vital signs. The foreground shows surgical instruments on a table.

Orientation for Advanced Practice Providers

Sterile Technique: Scrubbing, Gowning, Gloving

- Surgical Hand Scrub
- Waterless Surgical hand scrub
- Donning a Sterile Gown
- Closed Gloving Technique
- Open Gloving Technique
- Double Gloving
- Traffic Patterns in the OR
- Doffing Sterile PPE
- Sharps Safety /Hands-Free Neutral Zone



APP Surgical Safety & First Assisting

- Site marking & patient identification
- Time Out
- Establishing a sterile field
- Opening sterile gown & gloves to sterile field
- Transferring solutions/medications to sterile field
- Draping
- Safe use of electrocautery
- Sharps safety/hands free neutral zone
- Surgical counts
- General instrumentation test
- Role of the First Assistant
 - Suction
 - Cautery
 - Retracting
 - Using a scalpel
 - Suture

Surgical Simulations

- Fire in the OR
- Code Blue in the OR
- Malignant Hyperthermia
- Laparoscopic Trainer
- Suture 101





Medical Device Companies

Sterile Processing

Perioperative Education



There is no spoon

Objectives

- Inspire and empower members to take ownership of their career journey.
- Offer practical advice and insights to navigate the profession effectively.
- **Share personal anecdotes and success stories that demonstrate the impact of mentorship and networking.**
- Foster a sense of community and collaboration among participants to support each other in their pursuit of excellence.

THE OTHER WAY

THIS WAY

THAT WAY

Mentorship in Surgical Advancement

The Impact of Mentorship on Surgical
Career Development

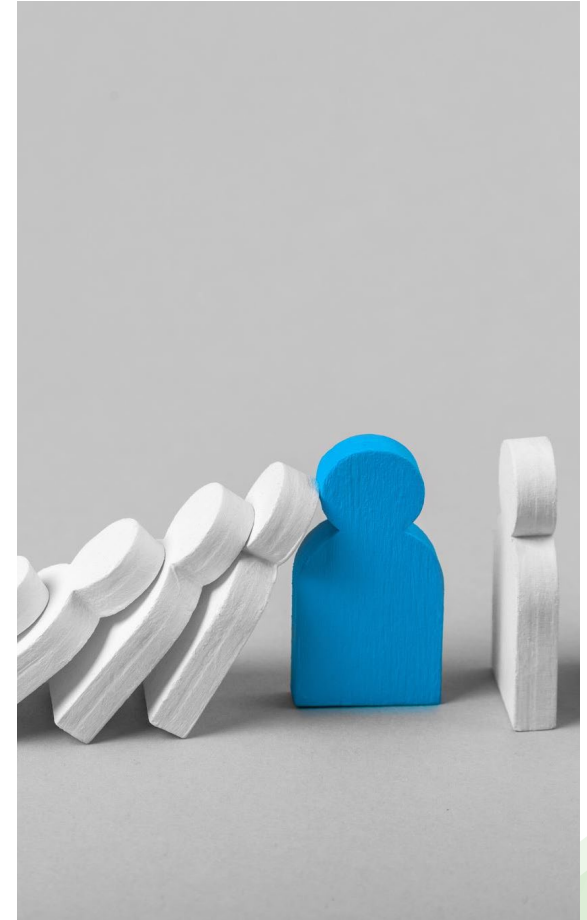


Strategies for Finding and Nurturing
Mentor-Mentee Relationships

Mentorship Networking and Career Guidance

**The Impacts of Mentorship and
Networking**

**Tips for finding and fostering a
mentorship relationship**



Objectives

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- Share personal anecdotes and success stories that demonstrate the impact of mentorship and networking.
- **Foster a sense of community and collaboration among participants to support each other in their pursuit of excellence.**

THE OTHER WAY

THIS WAY

THAT WAY



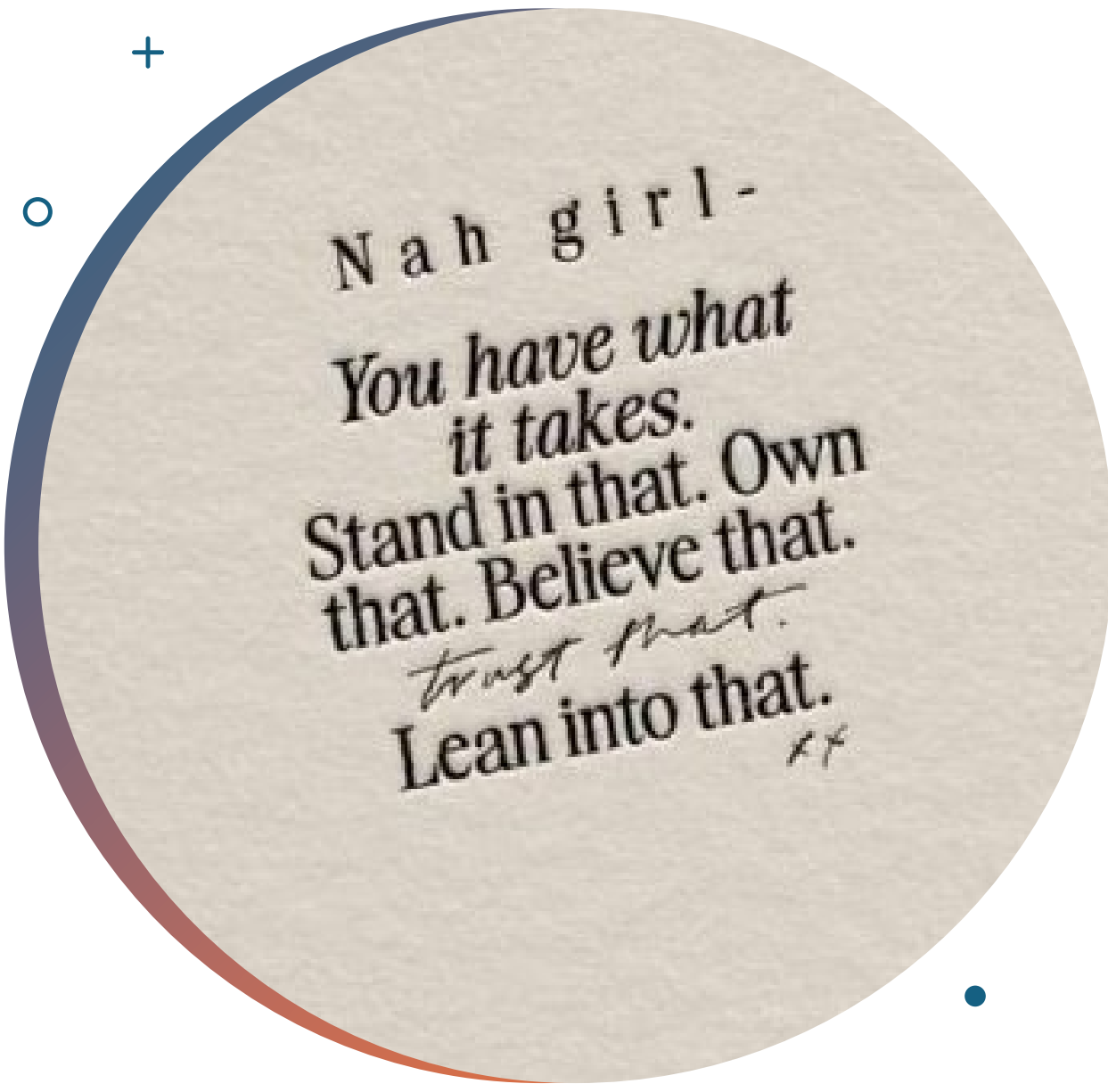
Volunteer



Objectives

- ✓ Inspire and empower members to take ownership of their career journey.
- ✓ Offer practical advice and insights to navigate the profession effectively.
- ✓ Share personal anecdotes and success stories that demonstrate the impact of mentorship and networking.
- ✓ Foster a sense of community and collaboration among participants to support each other in their pursuit of excellence.



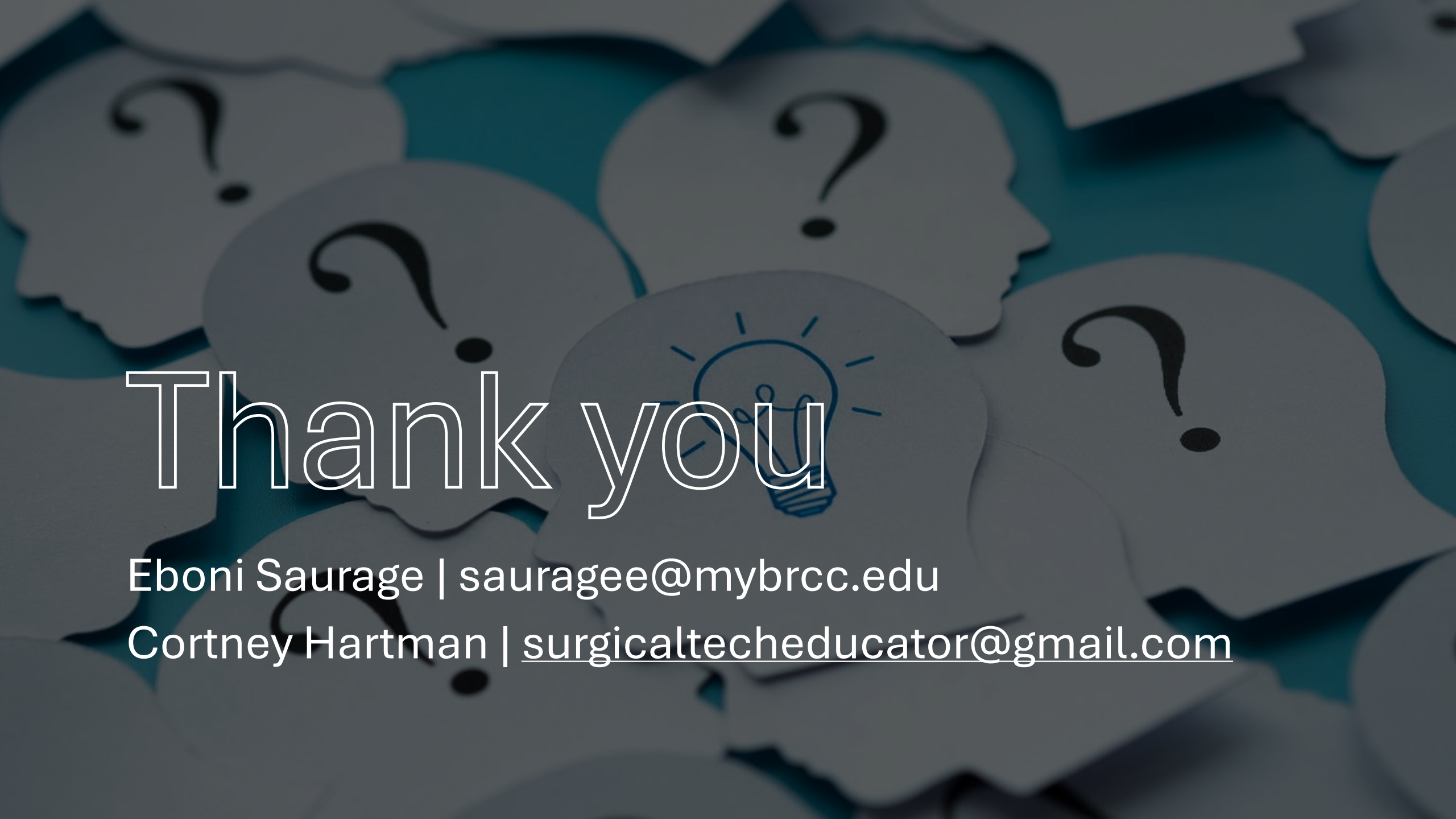


Nah girl -
You have what
it takes.
Stand in that. Own
that. Believe that.
trust that.
Lean into that.
KF

**Let's embark on this
journey towards
surgical excellence
together!**

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The background features a repeating pattern of stylized human head silhouettes in profile, facing right. Some silhouettes are filled with a dark teal color, while others are white with a black question mark inside. A single silhouette in the center contains a blue line-art lightbulb with radiating lines, symbolizing an idea or knowledge.

Thank you

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