Implementation of scrub training course dramatically increases monthly enrollment in medical school surgery interest group


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What is a Surgery Interest Group (SIG)?

- **Primary source** of surgical information and exposure
  - Speakers, mentorship, networking, skills workshops
- Strength of school’s SIG can **directly impact** number matching into surgical residencies
- Success of a SIG relies on numerous factors
  - Size of membership and level of activity
  - Institutional funding and support

Charles G. Rob Student Surgical Society

- Founded by **Dr. Walter Pories**, pioneer of the “Greenville Gastric Bypass”
  - Named for his mentor **Dr. Charles Rob**
- SIG eventually stalled in activity as a side effect of Brody’s strong emphasis on primary care
- **Revitalized** in recent years by current student leadership
  - Complete overhaul → **SIG now thriving**
  - Continuing to strive for growth and expansion

Scrub Training at Brody

- Normally completed during M3 clinical orientation
  - Earlier training is a **convoluted process**!
  - Requires physician sponsor and coordination with student affairs, hospital security, OR management, empty OR, etc.
- **SIG solution**: streamline process to eliminate redundancy
  - Complete all coordination and scheduling up front
  - SIG members can simply sign up and then get scrub trained

Hypothesis

**Objective**
Grow the size and activity of Brody’s SIG while increasing access to surgical scrub training in the preclinical years.

**Hypothesis**
Providing SIG members with access to a surgical scrub training course will:

- ↑ total SIG membership
- ↑ rate of new member enrollment
Study Design*

- Created program to facilitate scrub training for dues-paying SIG members and advertised said program throughout the school.
- Retrospective review of membership and enrollment tracked via online school endorsed portal (Orgsync) for twelve month period
- Determined trends 6 months pre-implementation and 6 months post-implementation, and compared to control interest group (Internal Medicine Interest Group) membership trends over same period.

IMIG total membership increased at a constant linear rate

Marked increase in SIG membership following addition of scrub training

Change in membership following scrub training appears unique to SIG

IMIG enrollment rate unchanged in weeks following SIG scrub training

Marked increase in rate of SIG enrollment following scrub training
Hypothesis Revisited

Providing SIG members with access to a surgical scrub training course will:

- ↑ total SIG membership
- ↑ rate of new member enrollment

Limitations*

- Retrospective study
- Does not address trends over multiple years
- Does not address other benefits of joining SIG (however growth was stable prior to implementation)
- [future directions here]

Conclusion

Scrub training is a desirable skill and should be offered by all SIGs seeking to bolster the size and strength of their memberships.

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