

13th Annual Interclerkship Day: Improving Patient Safety

January 4, 2016

Every January JCPH hosts the Patient Safety clerkship for the entire 3rd Year class of Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC). Now in its 13th year, this clerkship offers an exceptional opportunity for students to increase their awareness about medical errors, patient safety, quality, communication, and leadership.

The morning kicked off with a welcome by Jefferson's President/CEO, Steven K. Klasko, MD, MBA, who encouraged the students to think about the importance of quality and safety and what it means for the future of medical education and healthcare. Echoing the words of Dr. Klasko, David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Dean of JCPH, shared his passion as an advocate for the creation of an undergraduate curriculum that expands the definition of professionalism to include more on quality and safety.

Keynote speaker, John J. Nance, JD, is an internationally known aviation and patient safety expert. Nance is a founding board member of the National Patient Safety Foundation and an aviation analyst for ABC News. Nance frequently appears on the news to lend context and clarity



SKMC students at Interclerkship Day

to stories and investigations regarding aviation accidents. Through the use of videos and real scenarios, Nance drew parallels between physicians and pilots, demonstrating how medicine can use crew resource management (CRM) principles adapted from the airline industry to improve patient safety. He discussed the critical role of communication and emphasized the importance of creating an environment and culture that allows a student or resident to speak up if something is wrong. Nance believes that this type of environment will foster development of a culture where all team members are committed to improving patient safety. Perceptions and assumptions may impede effective communication. Nance's basic message is that "we are all individually flawed," and perfection is nearly impossible.

Barry M. Mann, MD, Chief Academic Officer for Main Line Health and Professor of Surgery, SKMC, discussed the culture change and shared educational initiatives used at Main Line Health to "speak up for safety." Dr. Mann engaged students in a surgery related scenario to demonstrate and model ways to enhance safety behaviors and integrate error prevention tools. Mann also discussed power



Aviation and patient safety expert, John Nance.



Panel discussion with John Nance, Barry Mann, MD, and Jason Baxter, MD, MSCP, FACOG

gradients and the importance of physician "buy in."

Anne B. Docimo, MD, MBA, CMO of Jefferson Health, presented on quality and safety across the continuum with a special emphasis on the healthcare marketplace. She described the relationship between healthcare costs and quality measures, the Affordable Care Act, and the notion of patients as consumers. Docimo discussed Jefferson's strategy, driven by the Triple Aim: improve the health of a population, per capita costs, and the experience of care.

During lunch the College within A College (CwiC) students in the current cohort met with Dr. Nash, Dr. Docimo, John Nance, new JCPH Quality and Safety Program Director, Mary Reich Cooper, MD, JD, and MPH Program Director, Rob Simmons, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and were encouraged to get more involved and pursue leadership through service.

The afternoon began with a lively and interactive session on the importance of skillful communication when discussing bad news or errors with patients and families. Jason Baxter, MD, MSCP, FACOG, Associate Professor in the Department

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of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Director of Inpatient Obstetrics, helped to characterize the elements of a successful encounter with patients and families while the audience observed important skills and participated in role plays.

Interclerkship Day concluded with a panel discussion that offered advice for the students as they move forward in medical school and their future careers.



CwIC Students