

# GIBBON SURGICAL SOCIETY

The John H. Gibbon, Jr. Surgical Society (GSS) at Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) at Thomas Jefferson University is a unique student interest group that has been working hard to increase interest in the field of surgery among medical students for the last 37 years. The society has over 400 total active members on a year to year basis, spread across the four-year curriculum. The GSS increases exposure and interest to the surgical field through a unique blend of episodic and longitudinal programming that helps bring together students, residents, and faculty in an educational setting.

The crux of the GSS approach to bolstering medical student interest is early exposure. Over the years, the GSS has run many programs specifically targeted at students in the pre-clinical curriculum to increase surgical exposure. Potentially the most influential program is Surgery at Night, which provides an opportunity for students to spend an overnight shift with a surgical resident and intern early in their medical school career; there are typically over 200 such overnight stays by students in an academic year. Students frequently have the opportunity to scrub in on emergent cases and are often instructed in suturing small incisions at the end of cases. Another excellent opportunity for students is the Organ Procurement Program, in which all students who receive the necessary training are signed up for a lottery that allows them to travel and scrub in with the organ procurement team. The most innovative program that has been started by the GSS is the SCALPELS program, in which faculty members and upperclassmen plan a longitudinal surgical curriculum that runs concurrently with the pre-clinical curriculum, and offers surgery-specific lecture topics and skill sessions relevant to the underclassmen's studies.

There are also events that are available to all students. The GSS runs a quarterly journal club, which is led by a surgeon at Jefferson in the field that is currently being studied by the second-year medical students. Many surgeons take this time to not only educate the students in critical review of the findings of papers, but also the underlying statistics that were used. The Philadelphia Surgical Symposium is the GSS's signature event each year. Students from all medical schools in the Philadelphia region are invited, and it is intended to be an informative opportunity for medical students interested in surgery. There is an associated regional medical student research poster session and competition during the event, complemented by presentations from a faculty member from each school, ranging in topics from clinical experiences, to advocating for a particular field of surgery, to hot topics in research.

The GSS was presented at the AAMC's Learn, Serve, Lead 2017 conference as a model for an effective medical student interest group. This journal, the GSR, is written, compiled, and curated by SKMC students through the invaluable help and planning of the GSS members, and stands not only as a testament to the involvement and hard work of the GSS, but also of the student body as a whole.

## **FACULTY MEMBERS**

Renee Tholey, MD, FACS  
Tyler Grenda, MD, MS

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Tyler Bauer, MS4  
Christina Stuart, MS4  
Emma Bradley, MS4  
Dean Granot, MS4  
Nick Siena, MS4  
Cait Silvestri, MS4  
Rachel Sachs, MS4  
Steph Honig, MS4  
Stephanie Rakestraw, MS4

Terry Gao, MS4  
Samantha Savitch, MS3  
Emily Sagalow, MS3  
Dante Varotsis, MS3  
Jared Raikin, MS2  
Michele Florella, MS2  
Tiffany Yu, MS1  
Diana Jimenez, MS1