

12th Annual Interclerkship Day: Improving Patient Safety

January 5, 2015

Every year JSPH hosts the Patient Safety Clerkship for the entire 3rd Year Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC). Now in its 12th year, this clerkship offers a unique opportunity for students to increase their awareness about medical error, patient safety, communication, and culture change in healthcare.

John J. Nance, JD, an internationally known aviation expert, served as the keynote speaker. Nance is a founding board member of the National Patient Safety Foundation and an ABC News broadcast analyst on aviation. Through the use of videos and real scenarios, Nance demonstrates how medicine can use crew resource management (CRM) principles from the airline industry to improve patient safety. He discussed the importance of communication and the creation of an environment and culture that allows a student or resident to speak up if something is wrong. Nance believes this type of environment will foster a team and culture where all team members are committed to improving patient safety. "Understand your own limitations as a human being," states Nance.

Rachel Sorokin, MD, FACP, Chief Patient Safety and Quality Officer of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital presented real cases to illustrate the importance of team communication and handoffs. Using Jefferson data, Dr. Sorokin honed in on specific errors, provided an analysis of how the errors occurred, and what could have been done to prevent the errors. She acknowledged the difficulty of communicating up the authority gradient, but she also encouraged students to speak up.

An Interprofessional panel representing surgery, nursing, pharmacy, rehabilitation medicine and respiratory therapy described the ABCDE Bundle approach to coordinated care for the mechanically ventilated patient to reveal how interprofessional teams can work together to ensure patient safety. The panel was moderated by Lauren Collins, MD, Associate Director of the Jefferson Center for Interprofessional Education.

Barry M. Mann, MD, Chief Academic Officer for Main Line Health and Professor of Surgery, SKMC discussed culture change and shared educational initiatives used at Main Line Health to "speak up for safety." Dr. Mann engaged students in a surgery related



From left to right: Barry B. Mann, MD; John J. Nance, JD; David B. Nash, MD, MBA; and Jason K. Baxter MD, MSCP, FACOG

scenario to demonstrate and model ways to enhance safety behaviors and integrate error prevention tools.

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