

My First Year as Clerkship Director



Toby Cohen Tally MD
Site Clerkship Director, Surgery
Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Surgery

Winnie Davis Hall, UGA Health Sciences Campus, Athens, Georgia



No disclosures

My First Year as CD

- New Job
- New Program
- New Sites
- What is working
- What needs work
- Lessons learned
- Ongoing Challenges



New Program

- Partnership between MCG @ UGA
- only 4-year regional campus
- Integrated hybrid curriculum
- Separate track



*Class of 2014:
Our first 40
students*

New Job

- Core faculty; anatomy & SGL, and now CD too
- New to the community
- New to academics
- Out of clinical practice



*Small Group
Learning
(SGL)
6 hrs/wk
years 1 & 2*

New Sites

- Culture change for medical community
- Surgeons new to teaching in private practice setting
- No built in curriculum
- No residents



*Dedicated space
for students at
both Athens
hospitals*

New Clinical Faculty

- 12 General Surgeons - 6 solo, 2 groups of 3
- Vascular group (5)
- Orthopedic multispecialty group (12+)
- 2 urology groups (3 each)
- 2 plastic surgeons
- 4 CT surgeons
- Neurosurgery group (3)
- 2 otolaryngologists
- 3 ophthalmology groups
- Anesthesiologists at both hospitals

Challenges

- Culture change
 - OR etiquette, Roundsmanship
- Balancing student experience
 - breadth vs depth
- Feedback & faculty development
 - “meets expectations”? Do you remember what you didn’t know on your first day as a 3rd year med student?
- Developing curriculum
 - “What do I want the students to get out of this clerkship?”

What is working:

- Weekly Academic Half-Day
- Hand-pick student placements
- Feedback on the fly
- Work-in-progress attitude

1st year class t-shirt made by SGO



What needs work:

- Integrate basic science into clinical years
- Teaching trauma outside a level I center
- Teaching the basics without residents
- Setting explicit expectations



Expectations

- No news is good news?
- The squeaky wheel syndrome



Philosophy?

- Transitioning from classroom to clinic
 - Let them sink or swim??
- Role of the CD?
 - Administrator
 - Advisor
 - Mentor
 - Guide



More Topics for Discussion

- How can we get students to practice the thought process behind order-writing when only using (or observing the use of) EMR?
- How do we get the student involved earlier in the work-up of patients in the ED (i.e. abd pain, cold foot, trauma) when diagnosis is made before calling the surgeon?
- How can we demonstrate, and allow for practice of, surgery style presentation skills in community hospitals without team rounds?

Thank You,

Toby Cohen Tally, MD

TTally@UGA.edu

706-286-0056

