

**The Center for Surgical Health – Classroom Initiative
Presents...**

Operation Equity

2023

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Operation Equity 2023!

It is our hope that you will find your time participating in this lecture series informative, engaging, and beneficial in your studies and career. In this iteration of the curriculum, we will emphasize the intersection between various patient identities and surgical care in the hope of creating more socially minded students, and in turn more socially minded providers and faculty. The speakers and session topics have been selected for concordance with an overall theme of surgical equity, with special consideration given to recent current events and the diversity and vulnerability of the patients in Philadelphia. Throughout the course we will cover a broad range of identities and topics allowing you to critically consider how we as students, physicians, administrators, and everything in between can come together to provide patient-centric care that honors each person's lived experience and helps to dissolve barriers to access, quality care, and disparities in outcomes.

COURSE CONTACTS

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Format

This course has eight classes focused on the intersection of various identities and surgery, flanked by an introduction to surgical equity, and cultural responsiveness training.

Course Credit

Students who register for this course will be eligible to receive a transcript notation.

Attendance

To gain the most benefit from participation in Operation Equity, attendance for registered students is mandatory for each session. However, we understand there may be occasional scheduling conflicts. In the case that a course must be missed each student is required to give written notice in advance to the course leads (Hanna and Mariah). In order to receive credit for a missed session each student must make up for the course by viewing the recorded session and completing pre and post session quizzes in Canvas. These quizzes will mirror the in-session questions for that session.

Session Structure

Pre-Session

Surgical outcomes and research engagement with the material generally begins prior to each session with pre-assigned readings, videos, or surveys. This primer will conclude in a pre-course quiz to assess comfort with the material before hearing from the speaker(s).

In-Session

Within each 1.5 hour-long session, a combination of presentations, discussions, and break-out sessions will be used to dive into the material. Each session will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7 – 8:30 PM EST beginning in Spring 2023. The first and final session will be in-person, and only open to registered students who plan to receive transcript credit for the course. Sessions two through nine will be open to anyone associated with Penn who would like to attend, and will be held virtually on Zoom.

Post-Session

At the end of each session, students will participate in a post-course quiz. This will focus on insights from the session and opportunity for reflection on at least one thought or action that they will do differently moving forward. Summaries and recordings of each session will be made available for students to revisit lectures via Canvas.

Rules of Engagement

To encourage the most optimal learning environment, rules of engagement based on a culture of intentionality, confidentiality, and thoughtful language will be laid out prior to the first session (see below). These principles serve to protect the safety of both participants and the under-resourced communities we serve. At the conclusion of the final module, students will be asked to produce a paper on their experience throughout the program, their community engagement project, key takeaways regarding surgery and the concept of surgical equity. Please find these rules below:

1. Respect

- a. Respect all individuals, including those not present. These might be your current and/or future classmates, coworkers, and patients!
- b. Consider an individual's rights rather than their educational or economic value.
- c. Frame discussion in terms of the value of all humans.

2. Intentionality

- a. Trust intent, name impact. If someone says or does something that is hurtful or inappropriate, tell them in a respectful way trusting that they did not mean harm.
- b. Challenge ideas, not people
- c. Consider when to call in, rather than call out* (See [note](#) for more information)

3. Confidentiality

- a. Facilitators may change the topic or move a specific conversation offline to ensure that small group conversations remain productive.
- b. Topics, thoughts, and experiences discussed during class should remain confidential unless explicit permission is obtained.

4. Language

- a. Use "I" statements – speak for yourself, not for groups; avoid tokenism
- b. Avoid pejorative terms (e.g. use "undocumented" instead of "alien")
- c. Use people-first language (e.g. use "person experiencing homelessness instead of "homeless person")
- d. Provide context and definitions for buzzwords to encourage mutual understanding among individuals with different knowledge levels.

COURSE LOGISTICS

Course Schedule 2022 – 2023

Speaker(s)	Session #	Session Title	Date	Location	Audience
All sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM					
Matt Goldshore	1	The Fundamentals of Surgical Health: A Primer on Surgical Equity	1/3/23	In-Person JMEC + Law Auditorium	Open – Limited Capacity
Lola Fayanju	2	The Intersection of Race and Surgery: A commentary on Research, Patient Protocols, and Outcomes for Minority Patients	1/17/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Andrea Roe, Nahla Khalek, Marissa Weiss	3	A Panel Exploring Disparities in Access and Outcomes for Abortion Services, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility in a Post-Dobbs Society	1/31/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Gaines Blasdel	4	Dignity in the Operating Room – Surgery & Gender-Affirming Care	2/7/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Julia Glaser	5	Important Considerations for Patients Experiencing Homelessness w/ Vascular Surgical Conditions	2/21/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Veena Graff	6	Stamping out Stigma: Postoperative Pain Management for Patients w/ Substance Use Disorders	3/21/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Kara Janssen	7	Surgery for Incarcerated Persons and Potential for Advocacy and Progress	4/4/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Dan Eisenberg	8	Inequitable Access to Nutrition: A Conversation on Obesity, Surgical Outcomes, and Food Insecurity	4/18/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Anushree Vichare	9	Access (Barriers) to Quality Care for the Un(der)insured and the Implications of Class, Mobility, and History	5/2/23	Virtual via Zoom	Open
Adora Moneme	10	Cultural Responsiveness Training and a Toolkit for Socially-Minded Care	5/16/23	In-Person JMEC	Closed – Registered Students Only

Lecture Details

1. The Fundamentals of Surgical Health: A Primer on Surgical Equity

- a. Speaker: Matt Goldshore, MD, MPH, PhD
- b. Speaker Bio: Chief Resident, Penn Surgery; co-founder, Center for Surgical Health
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Identify the potential for more socially minded care throughout the perioperative continuum
- Examine the intersection between surgical disparities and patient identity.
- Define key terms associated with surgical equity and surgical justice.

2. The Intersection of Race and Surgery: A Commentary on Research, Patient Protocols, and Outcomes for Minority Patients

- a. Speaker: Lola Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS, FACS
- b. Speaker Bio: Chief, Division of Breast Surgery at Penn Medicine
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Identify racial disparities in screening, treatment and surgical outcomes for patients with breast cancer.
- Explore underlying causes of surgical disparities based on race.

3. A Panel Exploring Disparities in Access and Outcomes for Abortion Services, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility in a Post-Dobbs Society

- a. Speaker(s): Andrea Roe, MD, MPH; Nahla Khalek, MD, MPH, FACOG; Marissa Weiss, MD, MSCE
- b. Speaker Bios:
 - i. Andrea Roe – Assistant Professor of OBGYN at Pennsylvania Hospital
 - ii. Nahla Khalek – Assistant Professor of Clinical OBGYN at PSOM; Director, Prenatal Diagnosis and Therapy Fellowship Program at CHOP
 - iii. Marissa Weiss – Assistant Professor of OBGYN at HUP
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Describe the correlation between access to quality OBGYN services and outcomes.
- Outline the connection between research and policy when it comes to issues surrounding access to care.
- Facilitate patient-centric care that accounts for each person's lived experience and definition of dignity.

4. Dignity in the Operating Room – A Discussion on Gender, Sexuality, and Affirming Care

- a. Speaker: Gaines Blasdel
- b. Speaker Bio: gender affirming surgery researcher, NYU Langone; M1, University of Michigan School of Medicine

- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Describe disparities in access to care and surgical outcomes for transgender and non-binary patients.
- Describe the lived experiences of transgender and non-binary patients when interfacing with the healthcare system throughout the perioperative continuum.
- Define dignifying behaviors for non-binary and transgender patients with a surgical condition throughout the perioperative continuum.

5. Important Considerations for Patients Experiencing Homelessness w/ Vascular Surgical Conditions

- a. Speaker: Julia Glaser, MD
- b. Speaker Bio: Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery

- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Define dignifying behaviors that reinforce the humanity of each patient that presents for care.
- Discuss the important considerations of a safe discharge for patients experiencing homelessness.
- Facilitate conversations surrounding referral to social needs response teams for patients with an indicated need.

6. Stamping out Stigma: Postoperative Pain Management for Patients w/ Substance Use Disorders

- a. Speaker: Veena Graff, MD
- b. Speaker Bio: Co-Chair, Penn Medicine Opioid Task Force; Division Chief, Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine at Penn Medicine

- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Identify disparities in pain management outcomes for patients with a substance use disorder.
- Define post-operative pain management considerations and approach for patients with a substance use disorder.
- Describe dignity preserving behaviors for patients with a substance use disorder.

7. Surgery for Incarcerated Persons and Potential for Advocacy and Progress

- a. Speaker: Kara Janssen
- b. Speaker Bio: Smart Justice Campaign Organizer, ACLU of Arizona
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Describe differences in surgical care delivery for free v. incarcerated persons.
- Identify dangerous or compromising aspects of surgical care delivery, and potential points of intervention.
- Facilitate conversation about prison health advocacy, and solutions to the disparities in access, quality, and outcomes of care.

8. Inequitable Access to Nutrition: A Conversation on Obesity, Surgical Outcomes, and Food Insecurity

- a. Speaker: Dan Eisenberg, MD, MS
- b. Speaker Bio: Associate Professor of Surgery, Stanford Health Care
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Delineate the importance of proper nutrition and health pre and postoperatively for outcomes and recovery.
- Discuss interventions for patients with barriers to access to healthy food options.

9. Access (Barriers) to Quality Care for the Un(der)insured and the Implications of Class, Mobility, and History

- a. Speaker: Anushree Vichare, MD, PhD
- b. Speaker Bio: Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management at George Washington University
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- Outline public and private insurance structures in the state of Pennsylvania, including Medicare, Medicaid, EMA, and CHIP.
- Identify the demographics of the patients who are uninsured and underinsured.
- Discuss the federal and state policies that contribute to disparities in surgical access and outcomes.

10. Cultural Responsiveness Training: A Toolkit for Socially-Minded Care

- a. Speaker: Adora Moneme
- b. Speaker Bio: M4, Perelman School of Medicine
- c. Learning Objectives

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- To recognize their personal biases

- To distinguish between cultural competency and cultural responsiveness
- To apply strategies for mitigating identified biases to achieve cultural responsiveness

*For more on “calling in vs calling out” (from the “Rules of Engagement”):

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/17/opinion/sunday/cancel-culture-call-out.html>
- <https://www.ifwhenhow.org/calling-in-versus-calling-out-throwing-out-my-activist-armchair/>
- “Calling-out describes the act of publicly naming instances of oppressive language and behavior. What makes calling-out toxic is the nature and performance of the act. Calling someone “out” is typically a public performance in which a person self-righteously demonstrates their superior knowledge, shaming an individual for their oppressive behavior. Despite the fact that a person may utilize calling-out with the intention of engaging in social change or justice, calling-out is itself a form of oppressive behavior.”
- “Calling-in is a proposed alternative to call-out culture that entails having a private, personal conversation with an individual who has used oppressive language or behavior in order to address the behavior without making a spectacle out of it. Calling-in recognizes that people are multi-faceted and that an instance of oppressive behavior does not define the totality of who we are.