HELLO AND WELCOME

We are delighted that you are interested in general surgery. Through our programming and this newsletter, we hope to introduce you to the amazing breadth and depth of general surgery and provide you with the resources to succeed in medical school and beyond. Please contact our team at Surgery@snma.org with any questions. We hope you enjoy our first edition of the year!

Yours in SNMA,
GEN SURG SIG TEAM
(Cameron, Ariel, Oyin, Tanisha, and Dino)

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GENERAL SURGERY SIG: MISSION AND VISION

“To educate, equip, and empower the future generation of black surgeons to succeed in medical school, residency, and beyond.”

EDUCATE: Teach students about the diverse and exciting field of general surgery

EQUIP: Provide 1-on-1 mentorship, surgical skills workshops, and rotation, networking, and residency application advice for students interested in general surgery

EMPOWER: Create a strong community of black general surgeons (and future surgeons) interested in supporting and uplifting each other. You can’t be what you can’t see!
Health Disparities in Vascular Surgery

Vascular Surgery, as with many other specialties, faces a diverse patient population with health disparities. A comparative study of patients who had an endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) between 2000-2014 found significant differences in outcomes between races in regards to length of stay, disposition, and total hospital charges. This data was acquired from the that used data from the Florida State Agency for Health Care Administration. The study concluded that there are racial disparities with EVAR treatment mainly in African American and Hispanic populations (Tanious et al, 2019).


Society for Vascular Surgery
https://vascular.org/

Gen Surg Specialities: Vascular Surgery

Vascular Surgery is a specialty based on operative venous and arterial surgery. Vascular surgery is also referred to as Endovascular Surgery or Interventional Vascular Radiology. This specialty evolved from General surgery, cardiac surgery, and interventional radiology.

There are two major routes to becoming a vascular surgeon in the United states. The traditional route includes a 5-year General Surgery residency + 2-year Vascular surgery fellowship. alternatively the Vascular Surgery Integrated residency is a 5 year program that incorporates some General Surgery training and Vascular Surgery training.

Procedure Spotlight

Angioplasty, Atherectomy and Stenting:
- Performed to widen the blocked or narrowed arteries
- During angioplasty, your surgeon inflates a small balloon within the narrowed artery to widen and improve the blood flow.
- A stent is a tiny meshed tube to support the artery wall and keep the artery wide open

Arteriovenous Fistula Creation for Dialysis Access
- Vascular access is a surgically created large vein that provides easy access to the bloodstream and can withstand repeated needle insertions.

Carotid Endarterectomy
- Surgical procedure performed to remove plaque (deposits of fat) from the carotid arteries of the neck; the main blood vessels that supply blood to the brain.
Barriers and Facilitators for Under-Represented in Medicine (URiM) Medical Students Interested in Surgery

Consensus development (nominal group technique)  
N=17 students from Southeastern schools  
Oct 2021 – Apr 2022

Experiences that strengthen enthusiasm of pursuing a career in surgery

- Mentorship & Role Models: 20%
- Demonstrating Grit: 15%
- Lifestyle: 15%
- Patient Interactions: 14%
- Technical Skills: 11%
- Community & Team: 10%
- Intellectual Stimulation: 1%

Experiences that weaken enthusiasm of pursuing a career in surgery

- Minority Experience: 51%
- Quality of Life: 29%
- Toxic Environment: 13%
- Lack of Information: 7%
- Finances: 6%

“The minority experience, toxic environment, perceptions of self-worth, and lifestyle misconceptions perceived by URiM must be addressed to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

E Soto, M Lewis, CA Estrada, et al.

@AmJSurgery

"The minority experience, toxic environment, and assessments of self-worth perceived by URiM must be addressed..."
Dr. Yancey was a general surgeon who achieved many firsts including establishing the first surgical residency program for African Americans in Georgia and becoming the first black faculty member at Emory University School of Medicine in 1964. He held many leadership positions during his impressive career including the Chief of Surgery at the VA Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama from 1948-1958, the Medical Director at Grady Memorial Hospital, and Associate Dean at Emory School of Medicine in 1972.

Notably, Dr. Yancey worked on a modification of the Swenson technique (proctectomy with coloanal anastomosis) for congenital megacolon (Hirschsprung's disease) first in the laboratory. Dr. Yancey described this technique in 1952 in the Journal of the National Medical Association (a journal that was not carried by most predominantly white institutions at the time). 12 years later, Franco Soave, MD, published his surgical series of the modification and the procedure bears his name, the “Soave Technique”.

Recently, consensus has been made to rename the procedure the Yancey-Soave technique, honoring Dr Yancey for his incredible contribution to the surgery community.
MEET THE GSIG TEAM

Cameron Comrie
School: Harvard Medical School, M4
Hometown: Alpharetta, GA
Interest: Abdominal transplant, Health equity Palliative care
Fun Fact: I have a third-degree black belt in Taekwondo

Ariel Vinson
School: Meharry Medical College, M2
Hometown: Highland, CA
Interest: Burn, Trauma, Health equity
Fun fact: I have lived in every region in the US

Dino Fanfan
School: Florida International University HWCOM, Miami Fl, M3
Hometown: Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe
Interest: Pediatric Surgery
Fun Fact: I speak 4 languages and I've lived in 6 countries

Oyin Akinpelu
School: Oakland University William Beaumont M3
Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria
Interest: General Surgery, Thoracic surgery, Trauma surgery
Fun fact: I have a retired racing greyhound

Tanisha Flemming
Hometown: Louisiana State University Health Sciences Shreveport, M3
Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA
Interest: General surgery, Vascular surgery, Breast surgery
Fun Fact: I own a African Red Bellied Parrot
UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY MIXER
DEC 7, 2022 7 PM EST

REGISTER HERE

COMING SOON:

• Why Surgery
• General Surgery Subspecialties Panel
• Post-Match Pearls
• Anything You Want! (let us know at surgery@snma.org)
JOIN US

Email
SURGERY@SNMA.ORG