Fellowship Title: Perioperative Quality & Patient Safety

Fellowship Dates:

To be determined. However, there is an application process for the certificate of patient safety and quality improvement course, with the window open from June-August 1st 2020.

Summary of Fellowship:

This fellowship is designed as a 12-month curriculum to develop future academic physician leaders in the field of perioperative quality and patient safety. The fellowship will emphasize the current and future directions of the science behind quality and patient safety initiatives, to promote a systematic, academically rigorous approach to the subject. The curriculum is centered on a selected, high-impact, patient safety and/or quality improvement project aligning with UW Medicine’s mission, and ideally one sharing relevance for the Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine. The fellow serves a leadership role, working closely with UW Medicine leaders to complete this project. Recognizing that the success of any quality/patient safety initiative requires a thorough understanding of the overall health care delivery system, the fellowship integrates many pertinent principles of health economics, health care system management, outcomes measurement, compliance, and health informatics. To gain the needed knowledge and skills to complete the project at the core of the fellowship, the fellow will develop further expertise in quality and patient safety principles by attending essential lecture courses, seminars with faculty, informal faculty discussions, self-study, and participating in key committee meetings across UW Medicine. Candidates may also choose to spend time in our simulation center, WISH, and have the opportunity to integrate quality improvement and simulation by focusing on a perioperative multidisciplinary approach.

Fellowship Objective:

This fellowship will equip the graduate with the fundamental knowledge and skills to develop a career as a national leader on perioperative quality and patient safety. The fellowship graduate will also be prepared to lead quality and patient safety research and initiatives in an academic anesthesiology department and within an academic health system.

Quality Improvement/Patient Safety Project:

To be determined by the fellow and fellowship director in consultation with UW Medicine Patient Safety & Quality leadership. The project should be identified prior to beginning the fellowship and is expected to be completed during the fellowship period. The project should be of sufficient impact and carried out with appropriate scientific rigor to be suitable for publication in a national or international journal.
Curriculum outline:

Health economics

- Relationship of OR to hospital and health care system expenditures and revenues
- Provider-purchaser relationships: economics of health care on national scale, including reimbursement for anesthesia and surgical services (CMS, “surgical home” initiative, private payers)

Management of hospital and health care institutions

- How hospital is organized
- How a health care organization works and how to get things done
- How medical staff relate to hospital
- Contribution of surgical/anesthesia services to hospital operations and patient outcomes
- Operating Room/Ambulatory Surgery management
- Workflow modeling (simulating various staffing arrangements, scheduling models, etc.)
- Organizational process improvement models (e.g. Toyota "Lean" model - Virginia Mason / Seattle Children's)
- Organization and financing
- Motivation and empowerment in health organizations to effect change

Quality/safety of care

- Outcomes metrics
- Tools for measuring outcomes
- External & internal assessments of quality of care, and how these assessments influence hospital operations
- Performance benchmarking
- CQI practices
- Risk management
- Root-cause analysis
- Patient satisfaction
- Relation between reimbursement & quality
- Major entities monitoring/promoting quality & safety: IOM, UHC, AHRQ, APSF
- Adverse events, medical errors, and disclosure
- Cost-benefit analysis & cost-effectiveness analysis
- High-reliability process design

Health informatics

- Available institutional and national data sets: understanding what data is available and how access to data is controlled
• Decision support projects (e.g. the anesthesiology-specific “Smart Anesthesia Manager” intraoperative decision support software developed by UW Medicine)

Lecture Courses:

The curriculum outline above integrates well with the Certificate Program in Patient Safety and Quality, administered by the PCQS Center - https://patientsafety.uw.edu/certificate-program.

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Faculty Seminars:

To be determined; seminars with content experts from within UW Medicine and potentially other experts outside our system; topics may include, for example, health economics and reimbursement for services, outcomes measurement, CQI practices, risk management.

Committee Involvement:

The fellow will attend regular meetings of UW Medicine and hospital-specific committees overseeing patient safety & quality issues, including but not limited to:

• House staff Quality & Safety Council
• Operations Improvement
• Operations Committee
• Medical Quality Improvement Committee

Journal Club & Self-Study:

Reading list to be determined in consultation with content experts in this field and based on the questions arising in the course of the core intellectual curiosity of the fellow.