

“Ask the Surgeon”

What do pre-clinical students want to know about surgeons and the practice of surgery?

Susan Chaudoir, PhD(c)

Dr. Jonathan White

Department of Surgery, University of Alberta

chaudoir@ualberta.ca

BACKGROUND

Why don't students
want to do surgery
any more?

PURPOSE / OUR QUESTION

What do medical students want to know about surgeons and the practice of surgery?



MAJOR THEMES

- ① **Life as a Surgeon**
- ② **Experiences in the OR**
- ③ **Memorable Operations**
- ④ **Dealing with Difficulty**
- ⑤ **Career Choice & Advice**
- ⑥ **Relationships with Patients**
- ⑦ **Residency**

MAJOR THEMES

③ Memorable Operations

- First, longest, scariest
- Most: exciting/cool/bizarre
- Complicated/difficult

“What was the coolest surgery you’ve done?”

“How long do your longest operations take?”

“What was your experience like during the first surgery in which you were the most responsible physician?”

MAJOR THEMES

⑥ Career Choice & Advice

- How/when/why?
- Regrets, alternatives, age, gender, requirements

“What convinced you surgery was right for you?”

⑦ Residency

- Competition, lifestyle, work-hours, good/bad, opportunities

“Are there surgical shadowing opportunities in years one or two?”

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Adapt surgery session to address 7 themes
- Build student-centered learning pedagogies:
 - *Informed decision-making*
- Move and develop curriculum with student's inquiry

