

SURGICAL OUTCOMES CLUB



Quarterly Newsletter - July 2017

Surgical Outcomes Club (SOC) is a consortium of surgeons and scientists interested in advancing health services and outcomes research in surgery. SOC provides a virtual and real meeting place for investigators addressing some of the most pressing clinical and policy issues facing the surgical profession today. This quarterly newsletter is meant to be a forum through which SOC members can communicate items of interest to fellow members.

SAVE THE DATE!

2017 Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 22nd
8 am – 3:00 pm (PT)
Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Location: San Diego, CA

Venue: The Hard Rock Hotel
207 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Annual Meeting Updates

Early Registration

Early Registration Deadline: August 13, 2017. After Sunday, August 13, the cost of membership dues will increase to \$50 for trainees and \$275 for physicians and non-physicians. **Remember that membership dues include the cost of registering and attending the meeting.**

Panel Speakers have been identified

Global Surgery Research. A growing body of surgical research is being conducted in low and middle income countries, including health services research and the epidemiology of surgical conditions. This panel will cover recent developments in global surgical research methods and issues unique to research in these settings. Our three panelists will discuss the methodology of surgical needs assessment, sustainability of surgical safety research, and the ethics of conducting surgical research in low income countries.

Catherine Juillard, MD; University of California San Francisco

Alex Haynes, MD; Massachusetts General Hospital

Benedict C. Nwomeh, MD; The Ohio State University

Health Information Technology: an opportunity for innovation and improvement in surgical care delivery.

Health information technology (health IT) is a broad concept that encompasses an array of technologies to store, share, and analyze health information. Increasingly, health care providers are using health IT to improve patient care. The SOC is honored to have 3 national leaders in Health IT Health Services Research share their academic journeys to funded research projects, and visions to put information technology to work in transforming health care.

Gretchen Jackson, MD; Vanderbilt University

Genevieve B. Melton-Meauz, MD, PhD; University of Minnesota

Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, MBA; The Ohio State University

2017 John R. Clarke Keynote Speaker



JOHN BIRKMEYER, MD

*Chief Clinical Officer
Sound Physicians*

John Birkmeyer, MD is Chief Clinical Officer at Sound Physicians, a national physician organization specializing in acute care medicine and performance

management. It comprises over 2,500 physicians practicing at approximately 250 hospitals nationwide. In this role, he is responsible for driving excellence in clinical quality, safety, patient experience and cost-efficiency and helping hospital partners succeed under value-based payment models. Before joining Sound, he was Executive Vice President of Integrated Delivery Systems and Chief Academic Officer at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health.

A graduate of Boston College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Birkmeyer completed his general surgery residency and medical informatics fellowship at Dartmouth. He joined its faculty in 1996 and was subsequently appointed Chief of General Surgery. In 2004, he moved to University of Michigan, where he served as Director of the Center for Healthcare Outcomes & Policy and founding Director of the Michigan Value Collaborative, a payer-funded improvement collaborative involving over 50 hospitals across the state. In 2001 he founded ArborMetrix, an analytics company focused on helping hospitals and providers succeed under new payment models.

An elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine), Dr. Birkmeyer is an internationally-recognized health services researcher. His research has focused on understanding variation in hospital and provider performance, scalable strategies for improvement, and value-based reimbursement. He has authored over 250 peer-reviewed studies, which have appeared regularly in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, and *Health Affairs*.

Dr. Birkmeyer is no stranger to the Surgical Outcomes Club. In the late 1990s, Dr. Birkmeyer was part of a small group of motivated surgeon-health services researchers who organized a dinner with Dr. John Clarke each year, in conjunction with the annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. SOC as it exists today held its first Annual Scientific Session in 2005 in San Francisco, CA – which was sponsored by Dr. Michael Zinner and the Center for Surgery and Public

Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and organized by Drs. Caprice Greenberg (then Caprice Christian), John Clarke, John Birkmeyer, and Selwyn Rogers.

SOC organizers sought to structure the club similar to that of other small, but successful, surgical organizations. To that end, initial bylaws were created and a leadership committee with a Secretary and Treasurer established at the first business meeting. Dr. Birkmeyer was elected as the first Secretary and served as the leader for SOC.

In the following years, SOC instituted the payment of "membership dues" for its participants as a means to offset costs associated with holding the Annual Scientific Session. Since that time, SOC has continued to provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, facilitate networking among researchers, and help develop the surgical outcomes researcher leaders of the future.

Since then, there has been several people that have served in the leadership roles to continue what was started by Dr Birkmeyer and Dr. Clarke.



The Board had an official meeting in Las Vegas at the Academic Surgical Congress Annual Meeting this past February. (from left to right) Arden Morris, Stanford University; Amir Ghaferi, Michigan Medicine; Rachel Kelz; Hospital of Pennsylvania; Karl Bilimoria, Northwestern University; Ben Brooke, University of Utah; Thomas Varghese; University of Utah, Melinda Maggard-Gibbons, UCLA; Luke Selby, University of Colorado; Joel Weissman, Harvard University

Board of Directors Positions

The Board of Directors are soliciting nominations for individuals to fill two vacancies, including one at-large member and one resident member position. Board members serve three-year terms and may be re-elected for a second term. The resident member serves a two-year term, and the term must coincide with a two-year research fellowship (or other non-clinical roles).

To submit a nomination, please contact the SOC Administrator for the appropriate forms. Nominees must be an active member and confirm their willingness to serve prior to submitting the nomination. **Deadline Extended to Friday, August 4, 2017**

Nominations will be vetted by the SOC Board of Directors, and all active members will vote on the election of the new Board Members at the SOC Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 22nd.

Membership Renewal

The growth and success of our organization relies on expertise and participation from its members, including you. The SOC currently has over 200 active members, which is the largest membership since its inception back in 2005. To renew or become a member in the SOC, please visit our website www.surgicaloutcomesclub.org

Surgical Outcomes Initiatives

Relationship with JAMA Surgery

As official journal of the Surgical Outcomes Club, JAMA Surgery provides SOC members with free access to high-quality articles, multimedia, and learning tools. Visit the [JAMA Surgery](#) section of our website for more information.

Check out this publication from the 2016 Annual Meeting & Scientific Session:

- Smith AB, Schwarze ML. Translating Patient-Reported Outcomes from Surgical Research to Clinical Care. *JAMA Surgery*, Epub ahead of print, 2017.
- Weissman JS, Kelz RR, Lee CN. Appropriateness, Health Care Reform, and the Surgeon: Perspectives from the Surgical Outcomes Club. *JAMA Surgery*, Epub ahead of print, 2017.
- Spertus JA, Ghaferi AA. Transforming the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program to the Delivery of Precision Medicine to Improve the Value of Surgical Care: Summary of the John R. Clarke Keynote Address for the Surgical Outcomes Club 2016 Annual Meeting. *JAMA Surgery*, Epub ahead of print, 2017.

AcademyHealth Travel Scholarship

The Surgical Outcomes Club AcademyHealth Travel Scholarship is to provide an avenue for young investigators to attend the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting and gain experience and knowledge in the fields of surgical outcomes and health services research.

We received several applications from many qualified individuals across the United States, and applications were reviewed by the Board of Directors. Below you will find the applicants selected for this year's AcademyHealth Travel Scholarship.



Kathryn Engelhardt, MD

Northwestern University



Ravinder Kang, MD

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center



In the next newsletter, look for updates on Drs. Engelhardt and Kang's experience at AcademyHealth.

Twitter Journal Club

This past January, the SOC held its inaugural Twitter Journal Club. Moderated by Dr. Thomas Varghese and joined by author Dr. Andrew Ibrahim, two articles on design and innovation in surgery (provided open access) were discussed. Since then, two additional tweet chats were held in April and June, the first focusing on stakeholder engagement in surgery and the latter on surgical resident operative autonomy. Authors of featured articles (Drs. Danielle Lavalley, Rebecca Minter, and Gurjit Sandhu) joined the discussion, offering important perspectives and interesting commentary. Across the last three tweet chats, **2,172 tweets from 334 participants generated over 8.5 million impressions** (analytics from June Journal Club noted below). Future twitter journal clubs will be announced on our [website](#). If you have suggestions for future topics, please let us know!



New Opportunities

The opportunities page on the website is dedicated to posting of faculty and leadership positions, fellowship opportunities, and analyst recruitments. To post an ad on this page, please contact the SOC Administrator, Ashley Duby.

Fully Funded Outcomes & Health Services Research Fellowship through the Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center (SOQIC)

Northwestern University's [Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center \(SOQIC\)](#) is offering a funded two-year onsite fellowship in surgical outcomes, health services, and health care policy research for surgical residents to pursue during their research years. The goal of the research fellowship is to help prepare surgical residents for a successful career in academic surgery by developing an expertise in surgical health services and outcomes research. Research fellows will spend a minimum of two years with the SOQIC research team conducting research, taking advanced degree courses, and working on developing a robust, meaningful research agenda. Research fellows will earn a Master's or PhD degree that best suits their needs through one of the programs offered at Northwestern. Strong preference will be given to candidates with prior research experience. One-year fellowships will not be considered. To apply contact, Remi Love remi-love@northwestern.edu

Postdoctoral Research Position at The Ohio State University

Job Description: Conduct research to understand and improve patient and provider decision making about surgical treatments, especially breast cancer treatments. The research involves qualitative methods, survey research methods, preference elicitation, and the development and testing of decision support interventions. We collaborate closely with investigators in psychology, behavioral economics, systems engineering, sociology, communications, and clinical epidemiology. Most of the research involves primary data collection in cancer patients and providers, with some experimental investigation in healthy subjects. Responsibilities include developing grant proposals, performing data analyses, writing reports, supervision of research assistants and students, and the development of independent and collaborative presentations and publications. Additional opportunities exist for teaching, developing new studies, and collaborating on other ongoing studies. The scholar will be given the opportunity to develop their own projects based on specific interest as long as they are related to the broader research of the supervisor. **Educational Requirements:** Applicants must have a doctoral degree in psychology, economics, clinical investigation, health services research, or related field. **Required Experience:** The successful candidate must have evidence of training and research productivity in behavioral, clinical, or health services research. Experience with primary data collection and strong analytical and writing skills are required. As the work involves collaboration with clinicians and investigators at multiple sites, effective team-building and interpersonal skills are essential.

For more information on how to apply for the Postdoctoral Research Position at The Ohio State University. If you have any question, please contact Amanda Grady at amanda.grady@osumc.edu or Dr. Clara Lee at clara.lee@osumc.edu

Michigan Mixed Methods Research and Scholarship Program, 2017 Mixed Methods Workshops

The University of Michigan has a mixed methods research program called the Michigan Mixed Methods Research and Scholarship Program (M³RSP). This is an interdisciplinary program bringing together several scholars at Michigan with national/international expertise in mixed methods.

The following workshop will be held in Ann Arbor:

- **July 13 & July 14, 2017** "Designing and Conducting a Mixed Methods Dissertation or Thesis"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Vicki Plano Clark, University of Cincinnati **Limited seats available.**
- **November 1 – November 3, 2017** "Designing a Mixed Methods Research Project: Interactive Workshop"

For more information, please visit www.mixedmethods.org