



Course Title: Surgical Ethics: Revealing the Ethics of the Operating Suite in Developed and Developing Countries

Course Instructor: Dr. Candice Carpenter

Course Description:

The edict of the Hippocratic oath for both medical doctors and surgeons is “primum non nocere”, or “do no harm”. Patently, surgical technical performance cannot be the sole aim of surgery, as considerations of surgical futility and/or financial considerations of procedures, safety of new technological innovations, patient procedural literacy, and more must be considered. And in terms of global surgery, several ethical questions emerge: what is the true relevance and urgency of surgical missions? Can long-term patient care exist for global surgical undertakings, especially in severely under-resourced and under-staffed surgical contexts? If global surgical practitioners fail to not standardize care, who is responsible for the liabilities and negative consequences? In the course, Surgical Ethics: Revealing the Ethics of the Operating Suite in Developed and Developing Countries will explore a side of surgery that is oft-left unexplored and undiscussed. To paraphrase a quote by Ali Rae, “In order to tackle the global surgical disease burden, we must restructure our institutions to empower a generation of leaders in global surgery with lenses of equity and ethicality.”