



MEDICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

## Medical Education Scholarship Forum Proceedings

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### **Assessment of the horizontal integration of anesthesia in general surgery at Memorial University of Newfoundland – a pilot project**

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**Purpose:** Memorial University does not offer a dedicated anesthesia rotation in the clerkship year. A survey of Canadian medical schools found that 80% offered a dedicated rotation (one-two weeks). No schools at the time of the survey offered an integrated, collaborative surgical/anesthesia program where medical students follow patients throughout the perioperative experience. We designed a pilot program to provide anesthesia experience, provide valuable hands-on learning opportunities, and foster collaborative, inter-professional behavior in medical students. **Methods:** Six third-year medical students were recruited while on their general and orthopedic surgical rotations at Memorial. Students joined the anesthetist before, during, and after their operations. Students filled out pre- and post-surveys measuring their perceptions, impressions, and value of their anesthesia experience. In addition to learning hands-on skills, students were also provided with an iPad with teaching modules that they reviewed with the anesthetist. Staff surgeons and anesthetists were surveyed regarding their levels of satisfaction and how to improve the program. **Results:** All students, surgeons, and anesthetists agreed that an integrated program should be introduced during the clerkship year at Memorial. The students' preferred methods of learning were hands-on and one-on-one, which are the primary teaching methods employed in anesthesia. Most students felt iPad modules were helpful in learning core aspects of anesthesia but should be made available on line also. Most students felt the program enhanced their surgical experience. **Conclusions:** The horizontal integration of anesthesia into the surgical program at Memorial was well accepted by all participants and could enhance the new spiral curriculum with integrated learning experiences centered on hands-on and one-on-one teaching.