

Creating Master Surgeons

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I would recommend that the Department as a whole increase support of the efforts of faculty to become ever better teachers and coaches. I think the Department's educational programs would benefit from systematic training of faculty in adult learning methods. Some will become coaches and all will become better teachers. Not everyone, not even great clinicians, are destined to be great coaches. But we need to identify, cultivate and develop those with the passion and grit for education to become great teachers and coaches. We don't do enough of this; we don't do it systematically.

EV: The Department needs to help create the environment for a growth mindset to be unafraid to continually evaluate our commitment to our teaching mission. We need to continue to, systematically and structurally, incentivize behaviors and activities that will move it forward. We need to actively engage in actions that advance the science of education, because it is a Science (as well as an art). And we need to give our education mission the academic weight that has traditionally been held for our research mission.

SS: We have read "[The Elite Athlete, the Master Surgeon](#)." At the end of the speech/article you state that we need to change the conversation and then follow with a number of considerations that would get and keep the conversation going. We would invite everyone to read those considerations, but in closing, can you tell us what you think is the most important of these consideration?

EV: I guess my final thought would be that time waits for no one and change is very difficult (especially for surgeons). But training of the next generation of surgeons who ultimately become better than ourselves has to be our overriding goal as educators. With a growth mindset, internal grit, deliberate practice and coaching, that goal is obtainable.

THE HARKINS' CORNER

Dear UW Surgical Community,

Dr. **Nicole Zern**, Harkins Society Treasurer, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, and I are thrilled to be starting another academic year as the Harkins Society Leadership team! We just finished out a beautiful Seattle Summer including the graduation receptions for our many finishing trainees. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!



Dr. Greta Bernier

As the weather turns cooler, we are focusing all our attention to our upcoming Autumn events—The 69th Annual Harkins Symposium for resident education and the UW Department of Surgery reception at the American College of Surgeons.

- **October 12th– 69th Annual Harkins Symposium** to be held at Alder Auditorium 7:00 am–2:30 pm (on UW campus). This all-day symposium highlights the pearls of practice of our Department of Surgery faculty, concluding with the **Annual Alfred A. Strauss Lecture** given this year by Dr. Jonathan Woodson. We are honored to recognize the Harkins Distinguished Alumnus at this event, which will be followed by the **Annual Harkins Society Banquet Dinner**. All Harkins Members and current faculty are invited to attend! This year the dinner will be held on board the MV Skansonia, a historic ferryboat permanently docked at the south end of South Lake Union. Please see our website www.harkinssociety.org to become a member and/or register for the dinner.
- **October 23rd – UW Department of Surgery/Harkins Society Reception at the American College of Surgeons.** This event is one of the most highly attended each year and is always a great time to catch up with colleagues from across the country and world! This year's reception will be held at Legal Harborside in the Boston Seaport District at 6:30 pm. We are looking forward to seeing you all there for drinks and appetizers!

As always, we encourage you to join the Harkins Society at any time using our website www.harkinssociety.org. If you have any questions, please contact us at uwHarkins@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. **Greta Bernier**
Harkins Society President