



**MULTIDISCIPLINARY PLENARY SESSIONS
September 11 – 12, 2025**

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

A Robot in Every OR: Myth or Reality

7:45am – 8:45am

Director: Sharona Ross, MD

The vision of a robot in every operating room is becoming more tangible as surgical robotics continue to evolve. This session will provide a comprehensive look at the factors shaping the future of robotic surgery and its widespread adoption. Experts will explore the practicalities of robotic integration and address the economic realities, logistics, system interoperability, and factors that influence the acquisition and use of these technologies, including: What capabilities are essential, and how do institutions determine which platforms to adopt? How will the challenges of training and credentialing across multiple robotic systems be addressed? What is the role of consensus standards in shaping robotic training programs? Is a robot in every OR our inevitable future—or an enduring myth?



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What's New in Simulation and Using Simulation Without a SIM Center

8:45am – 9:45am

Co-Directors: Ian A. Hodgdon, MD, Mireille Truong, MD

Faculty: John E. Morrison, MD, Lauren Siff, MD

This session explores the evolving landscape of simulation in surgical training across surgical specialties.

Objectives: The objectives of the session will be to discuss current strategies for effective simulation and examine emerging trends such as virtual reality and how this is transforming surgical training. Attendees will gain valuable insights into adapting simulation to resource-limited environments, optimizing learner engagement, and integrating simulation into curriculum planning. By the end of the session, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of both foundational and cutting-edge approaches to simulation.



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Artificial Intelligence in Surgery

7:45am – 9:00am

Director: Paul Toomey, MD, FACS

Faculty: Brad Bichey, MD, MPH

Artur Horimoto

Hassan Tetteh, MD, MBA, MPA

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming surgery—not just in automating administrative processes but in enhancing patient care, improving clinical decision-making, and optimizing surgical workflows. From preoperative risk stratification to AI-assisted post-surgical monitoring, AI is increasingly being integrated into surgical practice to support better patient outcomes, reduce cognitive overload, and streamline clinical workflows. This session will focus on real-world applications of AI in perioperative care, patient selection, surgical risk prediction, and workflow efficiency. Experts will discuss how AI is currently being used to augment decision-making, improve care coordination, and enhance the patient experience. Additionally, we will examine how military medicine has pioneered AI-driven solutions in high-stakes environments, optimizing triage, surgical logistics, and patient management—offering valuable lessons for civilian healthcare.



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Wellbeing and the Surgeon

9:00am – 10:00 am

Director: Juan L. Salgado-Morales, MD

Co-Director: John E. Morrison, MD

Faculty: Cara King MD, Thiers Soares Raymundo, MD

Description:

The well-being of surgeons is critical, yet often overlooked, as they face immense psychological challenges, including the emotional impact of surgical complications and impostor syndrome. Complications, even when unavoidable, can lead to feelings of guilt, shame, and diminished confidence, affecting performance and mental health. This emotional toll is compounded by the persistent self-doubt many surgeons experience due to impostor syndrome, where despite their expertise, they fear being exposed as inadequate. Without proper support, these factors can contribute to burnout and decreased effectiveness. Prioritizing mental health resources and fostering a supportive surgical culture are essential for improving both surgeon well-being and patient outcomes. **This session will explore key contributors to burnout, including workplace stress, workload management, and emotional fatigue. It will also provide evidence-based strategies and actionable techniques to help participants mitigate or reduce burnout, fostering improved well-being and productivity.**"