

David C. Leach, MD Award Recipients

Kyla Terhune, MD

General Surgery

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Project: *Intern clinical orientation (boot camp), intern skills session, resident teaching conferences*



Nominators had this to say:

Our general surgery residents normally take two years in the middle of their training to do research. With her interest in medical education, however, and future aspirations to be a program director, Kyla chose to spend the second of those two years focusing on medical education issues, and in particular to improving how we standardize our processes in two particular areas – 1) basic clinical skills expected of incoming first year house staff, and 2) use of simulation training for core skills expected of interns. Her efforts in the first area, affectionately dubbed “Intern Boot Camp,” provided multidisciplinary clinical orientation for surgery and anesthesia interns, particularly in basic skills such as vascular access, airway management, and fluid management.

The success of the program has led to its expansion to include all of the medicine interns (doubling the number of trainees from 50 to almost 100). As an institution, we are considering it as a model for how we can provide core training during orientation to all incoming PGY-1s across all programs, ensuring that all new residents have the appropriate competencies to begin their training. In this way, I think Kyla has strongly fostered innovation and improvement, not only in the learning environment of her own program, but also that of anesthesiology (and now internal medicine). Her efforts also have served to improve collaboration across programs and departments, for which I am grateful for her.

Her second focus area, using simulation training for teaching core intern skills, has allowed her to lead the effort of her program to use our Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment to innovate in teaching core skills. The fact that the interns have begun making suggestions for future sessions and have participated with enthusiasm in the program highlights Kyla’s ability to innovate, while at the same time standardizing how we teach certain core skills across a program. What is most remarkable is that both of these efforts were products of Kyla’s own initiative, and she accomplished them because of her ability to bring together different groups for a common goal. As she has presented her work nationally, I believe her achievements also have the ability to influence national work in this area.