

2021–22 Transformational Ideas Initiative Project

Mattering and Character Strength Spotting on the Gynecology and Surgery Medical Student Clerkships



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Project Background

Medical student dissatisfaction with their surgical clerkships, including the third year 8-week Surgery and the 2-week Gynecology rotations, is a long-standing problem for medical schools across the nation. Surgical rotations are unique in that students balance time between wards, clinics, and operating rooms. The exposure to high stress environment in the operating room, and the varying clinical environments, negatively impacts the students' perception of mattering on the team. The concept of mattering, in which another person's behaviors, actions, or words make you feel useful and valued, is important for medical students' satisfaction in a learning environment.

Project Plan

Our project will expand on work from the KINETIC3 program where we explored mattering among Surgery Clerkship Students. This project extension will incorporate Gynecology, from the student perspective, as well as the entire interdisciplinary care team. We hope this project will motivate members of the interdisciplinary care team to recognize strengths in themselves and how to best connect with students, recognizing their value in the care team.