A national evaluation of how prepared and confident medical students and foundation year doctors feel prior to starting their surgical jobs.

Lawrence Tan, William Mullins, Jessica Shea, Alice Gargan, Jennifer Townsend, Kate Gargan, James Brice, Claire Jang, Shivani Shukla, Aqua Asif, Monty Fricker, Midhun Mohan, Arjun Nathan

Presented by: Jessie Shea and Lawrence Tan
Introduction

- Anecdotal evidence suggests FY doctors are less confident going into surgical rotations than medical rotations
- Our study aimed to evaluate confidence and self-reported preparedness for surgical rotations
Methods

- Online questionnaire distributed nationally
- Demographic data, previous surgical experience, interest in surgery and attitudes concerning participants’ confidence in surgery were collected
Results

- 491 participants (65% female, 35% male) completed our questionnaire
  - 84% from 36 UK medical schools
  - 16% foundation doctors
- 80% were likely to pursue a career in surgery
- Internal reliability in measuring attitudes towards confidence in surgery ($\alpha=0.939$) was high.
How satisfied are you with the quality of surgical teaching you have experienced at medical school?

My medical school surgery placements have prepared me well to manage common tasks faced by surgical foundation doctors.
Confidence in Starting a First Surgical Job

Number of Candidates

1 (Not at all confident)  2  3  4  5 (Very confident)

Confidence Scale
Assessing common surgical presentations, in specialties such as general surgery, urology, ENT and orthopaedics

Knowing which investigations are most appropriate when encountering a surgical presentation as a Foundation Year 1 doctor

Carrying out initial management of surgical conditions that could be expected from a Foundation Year 1 doctor
Managing common on-call tasks faced by surgical foundation doctors, such as common bleeps and knowing when to escalate to a senior.
Caring for patients pre- and post-operatively as a Foundation Year 1 doctor on a surgical ward, including common complications that may occur.
Discussion

Key Points:
- Medical students and FY doctors lack confidence and preparation for surgical jobs

Hypothesis:
- Lack of confidence could be due to a lack of teaching on practical aspects of surgical jobs, including ward jobs and escalation
Conclusion

What Next?

● National Surgical Teaching Society
  ○ Website: www.nsts-ed.com
● Future research into the effectiveness of these courses