Professional identity formation of surgical residents in their first year of postgraduate training

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DISCLOSURE

We have no conflicts of interest – financial or otherwise – to report in relation to the content of this presentation.
WHAT IS PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY?

“the internalized values of a profession as a representation of the self”

(Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, 2019)
WHY IS PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY IMPORTANT?

“Professional identity formation means becoming aware of what matters most in practice, what values and interests shape decision making.” (Trede et al., 2012)
1. How do incoming surgical residents understand what it means to be a medical professional, and what experiences have led them to this understanding?

2. How does this understanding change over their first year of postgraduate training?
METHODOLOGY

Interview  Transcription  Coding  Themes
RESULTS

- Patient-Centric Care
- Relationships With Other Professionals
- Role Of The Self
- Holistic Professional Identity
“But I don’t want to fail the expectations of my patients because I think that’s the number one part of the job...they have pretty minimal expectations to be honest in general. And if we can’t rise to that then it’s pretty disappointing.” (Participant 10)
"I think the closer you are with staff, even if they share things in their personal lives and stuff like that that may be impacting their work, I think you build a very strong bond with them. And they are able to direct you in life... And I think it makes you a better surgeon in the end because you know you have support at work." (Participant 11)
“I hate to say it because I don’t want to feel like I’m indebted to the profession... You know normally I don’t normally think I would think that, I feel most responsible to myself and to family and stuff, but I guess as time moves on the profession takes a larger role in my life.” (Participant 07)
“Yeah, I think when I first answered it, I was like very CanMEDS roles, and now I really feel like it’s like trying to truly understand your part of the bigger job and making sure that its done and that everyone else is doing their part as well. So now I think that it is more like really seeing what is needed like a holistic picture of what’s needed for patients and then making sure that that’s done.” (Participant 10)
DISCUSSION

How will professional identity continue to develop as residents progress through their postgraduate training and into independent practice?
DISCUSSION

How might a competency-based medical education framework impact professional identity formation in postgraduate surgical training programs?
DISCUSSION

How can postgraduate training programs continue to support the professional identity formation of students?
THANK YOU

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(Kegan, 1982)
Figure 1. Information power—Items and dimensions.

(Malterud et al., 2016)
TRUSTWORTHINESSNESS (LINCOLN & GUBA, 1985)

• CREDIBILITY (truth value)
• TRANSFERABILITY (applicability)
• DEPENDABILITY (consistency)
• CONFIRMABILITY (neutrality)