

**Award: Distinguished Mid-Career Award Application :
Entry # 18596****I am nominating:**

A colleague

Basic Information**Your Name**

Carol Thrush EdD

Your Title:

Professor, Departments of Surgery, Medicine, and Graduate Medical Education

Your Institution

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Your Emailthrushcarolr@uams.edu**Nominee Information****Name of Nominee:**

Mary Katherine Kimbrough

Nominee's institution:

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Nominee's Title:

Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Education, Department of Surgery, Program Director, General Surgery Residency & Surgical Critical Care Fellowship,

Nominee's email address

MKKimbrough@uams.edu

Short Essays**Please describe the nominee's approach to teaching (their personal philosophy of teaching).**

Dr. Mary Katherine (Katie) Kimbrough is a physician and Associate Professor in the Division of Trauma and Critical Care Surgery at UAMS Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Kimbrough is board certified by the American Board of Surgery in both General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. She is an Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Certified Course Director and Instructor, and she specializes in the care of critically ill and/or injured patients, having completed her fellowship training in June, 2011. Education has always been a major interest and focus in Dr. Kimbrough's academic career. She embraces and executes a learner-centered philosophy that focuses on high ethical principles, interprofessional collegiality, and excellence in clinical education. She lives by the 3 A's of medicine—available, affable, able: Available—meaning she keeps an “open door” policy always making herself personally available to speak with students, residents, fellows, and other faculty. If her door is open, anyone can feel comfortable coming in to talk. She considers these interactions and the mentorship provided during these sessions to be a huge aspect of her role as an educator. Affable—meaning she believes that being likable and approachable is

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important to being an effective teacher. It means putting learners at ease, remembering their names, and being a good listener as well as setting a good example for future physicians in terms of how to treat patients and other more junior learners. Able—meaning she believes being a capable and knowledgeable physician is essential as a medical educator, but availability and affability must come first. No one knows about your abilities unless you are available to them and they like you well enough to trust you with their issues, whether those issues are health-related as a patient or academic-related as a medical student or resident. Being able as a surgeon to Dr. Kimbrough also means staying technically competent and confident, and staying up-to-date on the latest standards of care and practicing evidence-based medicine. She encourages life-long learning in others and in herself by trying to learn something new every day, whether it is from a student, a resident, a colleague, or a patient. She truly believes we all have something to learn from each other. She also believes one of the best ways to learn something is to teach it, so she encourages teaching with all levels of learners she encounters. She is always eager to prepare lectures and teaching sessions for other learners, not only because she enjoys it, but also because she sees these as opportunities to gain a better understanding of challenging topics. She is also quite adept at creating and building educational programs and venues to reach multiple levels of learners. When asked to share words of wisdom for young women who want to become surgeons Dr. Kimbrough's response provides great insight into her personal philosophy of teaching: "Always strive to make the next generation...students, residents, surgeons...better than you. Be kind, compassionate, and respectful to everyone...treat the CEO of the hospital the same way you treat the janitor of the hospital. Be resilient...resilience is the strength of understanding your own vulnerability. Your compassion is not a weakness, it is your strength. I was once told I was 'too nice to be a surgeon'...I hope I can successfully show you that YOU CAN BE BOTH!!" – Dr. Katie Kimbrough, MD

Please describe something the nominee learned as a result of one of the educational development programs (such as the annual Surgical Education Week, Surgeons as Educators, or other programs) that they have attended that has changed the way they teach.

Dr. Kimbrough was selected into the prestigious Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF) fellowship through the Association of Surgical Education (ASE) in 2017. This is a one year, home-site fellowship designed to equip investigators with the skills and knowledge needed to plan, implement and report research studies in the field of surgical education. Following acceptance into the SERF program, she was matched by the program's faculty with a SERF Advisor, a respected and knowledgeable researcher, John Falcone, who served as her mentor and consultant for an MOE research project. Her SERF project entitled "Video-Recorded Mock Oral Examinations for General Surgery Residents Improve First-Time Pass Rate on American Board of Surgery Certifying Exam" evaluated the effectiveness of UAMS's novel mock oral exam (MOE) curriculum by comparing first-time certifying exam (CE) pass rates of graduates both before and after the implementation of the MOE program. It is through experiences like these, that Dr. Kimbrough is always updating and incorporating sound educational practices into the training programs she leads.

Please describe the nominee's scholarly work in surgical education including: teaching activities, curricular development, evaluation and assessment innovations, research, etc.

In the 11 years since Dr. Kimbrough completed fellowship training, she has demonstrated an astonishing array of involvement and excellence in scholarly work in surgical education. The following list indicates highlights of this work which includes teaching, curriculum development, evaluation and assessment innovations, faculty development and educational and clinical research:

- 36 peer reviewed publications focusing primarily on surgical education and clinical surgery topics
- 39 peer reviewed presentations, posters, abstracts
- Junior Faculty Mentoring Program - Founding member of UAMS Department of Surgery working group to create and direct UAMS Surgery Faculty Onboarding And mentoring Program (SOAP) (November 2020 – present).
- Director and Co-creator of UAMS Summer in Surgery Program for M1 medical students (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019): 4-week program allows medical students the opportunity to gain clinical experience by shadowing surgeons, gain research experience by participating in various selected research projects, and enhance presentation/public speaking skills by presenting throughout the course on their clinical and research activities.
- UAMS Mock Oral Exam Program (Implemented in 2014 and currently direct/oversee): Robust, realistic mock oral exam program held for PGY 5 residents twice/year in Clinical Skills Center which allows for video-recording and review of exam performance.
- Faculty advisor for Global Surgery Student Interest Group (Global Surgery Student Alliance – UAMS Chapter), July 2020-present
- "Stop the Bleed" Course Instructor

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- Surgical Education Research Fellowship selected participant (March 2017-May 2018), Association of Surgical Education; SERF project
- Faculty advisor and co-founder of Women in Surgical Education, a UAMS interest group for women interested in surgical careers March 2017-present
- Member of UAMS Department of Surgery ACGME Self-Study Initiative Group, 2016-2017
- Member of UAMS SERWG (Surgery Educational Research Working Group), September 2013-2018, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Department of Surgery.
- Member of UAMS Educators Academy 2015-2019
- UAMS Teaching Scholars Program Graduate 2014-2015

Please describe a rewarding relationship the nominee had with a mentee including what they worked on and why it was gratifying.

One of the most rewarding mentor relationships Dr. Kimbrough has had with a mentee is with Dr. Emily Barrett, currently in her second year of Academic Development Time as a general surgery resident at the University of Michigan. Dr. Kimbrough first met Emily when Emily was on her pediatrics rotation, and she was assigned to care for Dr. Kimbrough's newborn daughter who had just been born. Emily impressed Dr. Kimbrough even from this brief interaction. Emily contacted Dr. Kimbrough several months later and notified her that she had decided to pursue a career in general surgery, and Emily asked Dr. Kimbrough to be her faculty mentor. Dr. Kimbrough got to know Emily very well over that year, as they worked through her application for general surgery residency. Emily is ambitious, and forward-thinking, with great aspirations. Her goal was to match into a high-powered academic surgery program, and her dream program was the University of Michigan. Dr. Kimbrough mentored Emily through the entire application process and helped Emily apply for an away rotation in Michigan. During this time, Dr. Kimbrough also recruited Emily to take on a significant role in one of our surgical education research projects. Dr. Kimbrough attended Emily's match day ceremony with pride and joy as she saw Emily read out that she had indeed matched at her dream program at the University of Michigan for General Surgery. The joy was short lived, as Emily's mother became ill in the months that followed and was hospitalized, and eventually died after a brief illness. Dr. Kimbrough's own mother had passed away while she was in college and her heart broke for Emily. In a time that was supposed to be full of anticipation and excitement in preparation to move to Michigan and start surgery residency, instead Emily was at her family's side, grieving for her mother. Dr. Kimbrough was there for Emily during this time, and they had many talks about surgery, family, life, and loss. Dr. Kimbrough advocated for Emily to take more time to grieve and encouraged her to reach out to her future program director to get more time with her sister and her father before moving to Michigan for the start of residency. Since Emily started surgery residency, and over the years, she and Dr. Kimbrough have kept in close touch. Dr. Kimbrough still serves as a mentor and a sympathetic listening ear to Emily. They call and text frequently and always make plans to visit when Emily is in town. Dr. Kimbrough keeps a photo of her and Emily at match day on her desk in a place of prominence. I am always inspired to hear stories from Dr. Kimbrough about how they still keep in touch. She is so proud of Emily and all she has accomplished. She and Emily talk about the highs and lows of surgical residency, discuss interesting patient cases, and share career goals and dreams with each other. They are friends for life, bonded by their love for surgery and their common experiences of loss.

Additional Information**Please list the education leadership roles (eg, program director, skills lab director, etc) that the nominee has or has had within their own institution.**

Dr. Kimbrough holds multiple leadership roles at UAMS. Her most recent leadership role is appointment as the inaugural Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Surgery. She is Program Director for the General Surgery residency since December 2018, after serving as Associate Program Director beginning in 2014. She is also Program Director for the Surgical Critical Care fellowship program at UAMS. Creating and obtaining ACGME accreditation approval for the implementation of a Surgical Critical Care Fellowship is one of Dr. Kimbrough's proudest accomplishments at UAMS. The fellowship, with its first-year fellow in 2018, brings together Dr. Kimbrough's skills in teaching, administration, research, and clinical care. She started the program, completed the initial ACGME program application, organized and hosted the initial program accreditation site visit, received ACGME approval for the program, and has served as the Fellowship Program Director since its inception. In terms of institutional GME leadership, she serves as a member on the UAMS Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) the primary administrative group of

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educators responsible for oversight and management of all GME activities at UAMS, and the UAMS CLER committee which provides oversight for the clinical learning environment at UAMS. She is an invited member of the UAMS Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Board, and an invited surgeon member the UAMS Surgical Technology Advisory Board. She also provides mentoring leadership serving as the chair of Promotion and Tenure Mentoring Committee for Dr. Jamie Watson, a Clinical Ethicist at UAMS. She is actively involved in medical student and resident education and is a strong advocate for women to pursue careers in surgery serving as the inaugural faculty sponsor and advisor for the UAMS Women in Surgical Education (WISE) interest group since 2017. The WISE group holds events yearly, and she helps coordinate and organize these events with the officers. Dr. Kimbrough has also played an instrumental role in the restoration of the UAMS Surgery Interest Group and has served as a faculty advisor. The Surgery Interest Group holds events yearly, and she helps coordinate and organize these events with the officers. Dr. Kimbrough also brings leadership and service to the local American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) Events serving as an invited speaker and role model for multiple local AMWA events.

Please list the educational leadership roles (chair or co-chair of a committee, other formal leadership title) the nominee has or has had in any national and international education-related organizations.

Dr. Kimbrough's educational leadership roles in national organizations include service in the following capacities:

- Southwestern Surgical Congress, Membership Committee, July 2022-present
- Society for Critical Care Medicine, Simulation and Education Committee, July 2019-present
- Association for Academic Surgery, Committee on Academic Advancement, elected member, September 2017-September 2020
- Association for Surgical Education, Evaluation and Assessment Committee, October 2017-July 2021
- Association of Women Surgeons, Clinical Practice Committee member and Membership Committee member, October 2017-July 2021
- American College of Surgeons Medical Student Roundtable Session 2017
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)/Rural Trauma Team Development Courses (RTTDC): Dr. Kimbrough has served as course director and course instructor for multiple ATLS courses throughout Louisiana and Arkansas annually, 2012-present.

Please list any education awards or honors that the nominee has received.

Dr. Kimbrough is a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. She has received numerous honors and awards for her exemplary commitment to education, clinical service and excellence, including:

- UAMS Red Sash Award 2020 - Selected by the College of Medicine Class of 2020 as exemplary teacher
- UAMS Red Sash Award 2018 - Selected by the College of Medicine Class of 2018 as exemplary teacher
- UAMS Red Sash Award 2016 - Selected by the College of Medicine Class of 2016 as exemplary teacher
- UAMS Outstanding Teaching Attending of the Year Award in Surgery as selected by UAMS PGY 1-5 Surgery Residents in 2013-14
- 2019 Rising Star Clinical Faculty Award – UAMS – In 2019, the rising star clinical faculty award was presented by the College of Medicine leadership to Dr. Kimbrough noting that: "Dr. Kimbrough has accomplished an astonishing amount in her time at UAMS, much to the benefit of her patients, medical students, residents, and fellow attending surgeons. She is an incredible asset to UAMS. Dr. Kimbrough created an ACGME-Accredited Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at UAMS. This is the first of its kind in the State of Arkansas and brings an important service to this state given the dearth of Critical Care-boarded surgeons in Arkansas."
- 2022 Residency Educator Award – Program Director, UAMS – In 2022, Dr. Kimbrough was selected for this prestigious award from the UAMS Graduate Medical Education department presented to a single program director each year (selected from among 65 residency and fellowship programs). The announcement for this award noted: Her contributions to graduate medical education are immense –she developed and continues to lead a Surgery Residency Leadership Council, she established and facilitates a weekly Residency Reading Club, and she has been instrumental in the Surgery On-Boarding and mentoring Program (SOAP) for junior faculty professional development.

File uploads:

CV

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- [MaryKatherineKimbrough.CV_.doc.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter of nomination by a resident, faculty, education administrator, or anyone else with knowledge of the nominee's teaching and educational scholarship.

- [Nomination-Letter_Kimbrough-ASE-Mid-Career-Award_2022.pdf](#)

Please upload no more than 2 letter(s) of support from leaders in education-related national/international organizations to demonstrate nominee's impact on surgical education.

- [EdLeaders-Support-Letters_MKKimbrough.pdf](#)

Please upload no more than 2 letter(s) of support from individuals mentored by the nominee.

- [Mentee-Support-Letters_Barrett_Osborn_for-Kimbrough.pdf](#)

Please upload documentation of teaching excellence in the form of an aggregate evaluation report (from MedHub, New Innovations, etc) from learners over the past 6 - 12 months.

- [Kimbrough-Teaching-Excellence_Evals-from-Residents-Students.pdf](#)