

**Award: Promising Medical Student Surgery Education Research : Entry # 18628****Basic Information****Your name:**

Elisabeth Tracy MD

**Your title:**

Program Director, General Surgery Residency

**Your institution**

Duke

**Your email address:**[elisabeth.tracy@duke.edu](mailto:elisabeth.tracy@duke.edu)**Nominee Information****Name of nominee:**

Steven Thornton

**Nominee's institution**

Duke Medical school

**Nominee's title**

Medical Student

**Nominee's email address:**[steven.thornton@duke.edu](mailto:steven.thornton@duke.edu)**Eligibility****Has the nominee completed at least two years of medical school?**

Yes

**Has the nominee been an author on a peer-reviewed manuscript or curricular project in surgical education?**

Yes

**Has the nominee held a leadership role in a course or group related to surgery or surgical education?**

Yes

**Is the nominee planning to do surgical residency (any specialty)?**

Yes

**Short Essays**

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### **Why do you think the nominee deserves this award?**

Steven has demonstrated a tireless commitment to surgical education during his time at Duke. He is an outstanding candidate for the ASE Promising Medical Student Award and is expected to become a leader in surgical education during his career.

As a former high school teacher, he came to Duke with a track record of success in this domain and quickly began honing his skill set as a medical educator. He has co-led multiple courses for junior medical students and facilitated many educational programs through his involvement with the General Surgery Interest Group, Advanced Anatomy Interest Group, and Pediatric Surgery Outcomes Group. His ability to sustain and advance such efforts was particularly impressive as he became a leader in those organizations at a time when the medical school was transitioning to virtual learning due to the COVID pandemic. Still, the groups were energized by Steven's involvement and he contributed to the growth of them all in that challenging setting. Steven has also shown a commitment to surgical education research which has resulted in multiple presentations and publications, with several more forthcoming.

Most recently, as a sub-intern in thoracic surgery, Steven demonstrated his exceptional ability to mentor and educate near-peers. There were three junior medical students assigned to his service and he was noted to take impressive responsibility for their learning and success. He helped them to prepare for cases, develop their suturing and knot-tying skills, prepared lessons on common post-operative problems, and facilitated debriefs after difficult patient outcomes.

### **How has the nominee demonstrated passion and enthusiasm for surgery and surgical education research?**

During Steven's time at Duke, he has demonstrated impressive passion and enthusiasm for surgery and surgical education research.

Focusing first on his commitment to surgery, he has been broadly involved in the general surgery community at Duke. He has completed rotations in surgical oncology, colorectal surgery, pediatric surgery, thoracic surgery, and cardiac surgery. He has received strong clinical evaluation which highlighted his clinical acumen, dedication to empathic patient care, and collegiality. He has been described as having an "insatiable taste for the operating room" and is always pushing himself to grow from a technical perspective at the student level. This is reflected in his earning of the Bradley Collins Surgical Skills Award for the medical student with the best surgical skills on his clerkship.

He has spearheaded our pediatric trauma resuscitation education curriculum which was fully in its nascency when he became involved. As a result of his initiative, it is now a monthly program that has resulted in multiple conference presentations and a published manuscript with more of each to come. Steven is staying heavily involved, even now that he has returned to clinical responsibility, by mentoring other students who have engaged with the project. He remains committed to our ultimate goal of implementing video reviews of the simulation curriculum.

On multiple occasions, he has also demonstrated his initiative and independence as a surgical education scholar. The first example of this is his involvement with the school's Advanced Anatomy Interest Group where he presented our Surgical Education Research Group with an idea for studying the impact of the student organization on perceptions of careers in surgery. This work was ultimately presented as a podium presentation at ASE and later published in Global Surgical Education. Another fine example of this is when he approached us with an idea to publish an editorial calling for increased diversity, equity, and inclusion in the surgical workforce which was ultimately published in JAMA Surgery.

### **Additional Information**

**Please list the nominee's peer-reviewed manuscripts related to surgical education.**

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Education Research : Entry # 18628**

- 1) Thornton S, Schaps D, Leraas H, Greenwald E, Tracy L. "Use of a structured observation tool to facilitate medical student engagement in trauma resuscitation." Journal of Surgical Education. June 2022
- 2) Thornton S, Leraas H, Tracy L. "Taking Steps to Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Surgical Workforce: Rejecting Credit Scores for Evaluation of Residency and Fellowship Applicants." JAMA Surgery. July 2022
- 3) Thornton S, Prabhu N, Jeffs S, Jimenez F, Frisco N, Gilmore B, Migaly J, Leraas H, Tracy L. "Student Led Anatomy Seminars Improve Knowledge of Surgical Anatomy & Promote Mentorship." Global Surgical Education. August 2022
- 4) Leraas H, Rhodin K, Chang D, Cerullo M, Thornton S, Gilmore B, Migaly J, Tracy E. "Financial Burden of the General Surgery Residency Application Process: The Costs Don't 'Match.'" Submitted to Global Surgical Education

**Please list any education or teaching awards the nominee has received.**

Our institution does not have any education or teaching awards for which medical students are eligible. If we did, Steven's dedication to education and teaching would make him a natural recipient of such recognition. Similarly, he is well deserving of this award from the Association of Surgical Education.

**Please list the nominee's education-related activities (e.g., lectures, programs, presentations, curricula, innovations for teaching or assessment, education-related research).**

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Invited lectures and Education Workshops:

- 1) Thornton S, Overton D, Karns L, Weisinger S. "Successfully Transitioning to a Large University as an Undergraduate from Rural, Eastern North Carolina" Camden County High School Senior Night, May 2015, Camden, NC. Invited Talk.
- 2) Mabry N, Senior P, Thornton S. "Engineering Your Future" Lenoir County Public Schools, November 2018, Kinston, NC. Interactive Workshop.
- 3) Thornton S, Leraas H, Tracy L. "An Introduction to Basic Statistical Analysis for Biomedical Research" Pediatric Surgery Outcomes Group. June 2021, Durham NC. Invited talk.
- 4) Tan A, Bowen M, Thornton S. "Pursuing a career in medicine: the non-traditional pathway" Johns Hopkins University. October 2021, April 2022. Baltimore, MD. Invited Talk, Recurring.
- 5) Thornton S, Greenwald E, Tracy L, Vatsaas C. "An Introduction to Trauma Resuscitation for the Medical Student Surgery Clerkship. Duke University School of Medicine. November 2021, March 2022, Durham NC. Invited talk, Recurring.
- 6) Thornton S, Leraas H, Tracy L. "An Introduction to Study Design in Biomedical Research" Duke University Pediatric Surgery Outcomes Group. February 2022, Durham NC. Invited talk.
- 7) Leraas H, Chang D, Rhodin K, Nash A, Gilmore B, Thornton S, Migaly J, Tracy L. "Residents at Risk: Identifying areas of resident vulnerability & developing supportive strategies to increase wellbeing" Association for Surgical Education, May 2022, San Antonio TX. Interactive workshop.
- 8) Thornton S, Morris M, DeLaura I, Venkatraman V. "Introduction to the General Surgery clerkship." Duke University School of Medicine. August 2022. Durham, NC. Interactive workshop
- 9) Thornton S, Hertz J, Mantri S, Lee. "Professional Identity Formation During Medical School." Duke University School of Medicine. August 2022. Durham, NC. Interactive workshop.
- 10) Thornton S. "Surgical Education in the United States: The Development of a Scientific Discipline." Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. October 2022. Baltimore, NC. Invited talk.
- 11) Thornton S, Bowen M, Tan A. "How to Study Like a Medical Student." Johns Hopkins University Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program. November 2022. Baltimore, MD. Interactive workshop.

Conference presentations:

- 1) Thornton S, Schaps D, Leraas H, Greenwald E, Tracy L "Comparison of General Surgery Trainee Experience with Pediatric and Adult Trauma Activations." Duke Trauma Day Research Symposium, April 2022, Durham NC. Podium
- 2) Thornton S, Leraas H, Schaps D, Vatsaas C, Greenwald E, Tracy L. "Structured Observation Tool Promotes Medical Student Engagement in Trauma Resuscitation." Duke Trauma Research Symposium, April 2022, Durham NC. Podium
- 3) Schaps D, Thornton S, Leraas H, Greenwald E, Tracy L. "Comparison of General Surgery Trainee Experience with Pediatric and Adult Trauma Activations." Duke Surgery Research Symposium, April 2022, Durham NC. Poster
- 4) Thornton S, Schaps D, Leraas H, Greenwald E, Tracy L. "Comparison of General Surgery Trainee Experience with Pediatric and Adult Trauma Activations." Duke Pediatrics Research Symposium, April 2022, Durham NC. Poster
- 5) Thornton S, Schaps D, Leraas H, Greenwald E, Tracy L. "Comparison of General Surgery Trainee Experience with Pediatric and Adult Trauma Activations." Association for Surgical Education, May 2022, San Antonio TX. Poster
- 6) Thornton S, Leraas H, Schaps D, Vatsaas C, Greenwald E, Tracy L. "Structured Observation Tool to Promote Medical Student Engagement in Trauma Resuscitation." Association for Surgical Education, May 2022, San Antonio TX. Poster
- 7) Thornton S, Prabhu N, Jeffs S, Jimenez F, Frisco N, Gilmore B, Migaly J, Leraas H, Tracy L. "Student Led Anatomy Seminars Improve Knowledge of Surgical Anatomy & Promote Mentorship." Association for Surgical Education, May 2022, San Antonio TX. Podium
- 8) Leraas H, Rhodin K, Chang D, Cerullo M, Thornton S, Gilmore B, Migaly J, Tracy L. "Financial Burden of the General Surgery Residency Application Process." Association for Surgical Education, May 2022, San Antonio TX. Podium

**Please list the nominee's leadership roles in courses or groups related to surgery and surgical education.**

## Award: Promising Medical Student Surgery Education Research : Entry # 18628

- Gross Anatomy and Physiology Tutor, Duke University School of Medicine 2020 – Present
- Planned and facilitated small group review sessions for MS1 students in anatomy and physiology
- Advanced Anatomy Interest Group Co-Chair, Duke University School of Medicine 2020 – Present
- Plan and lead surgical anatomy talks for students interested in surgery and anatomy
- Clinical Skills Foundation Student Leader, Duke University School of Medicine 2021 – Present
- Supervise MS1 interactions with surgical patients to provide feedback on interview skills
- Clinical Skills Course Student Leader, Duke University School of Medicine 2021 – Present
- Co-lead an MS2 course focused on differential building, decision-making, and lab interpretation
  - Facilitated surgical skills sessions for students on the General Surgery clerkship
- Trauma Resuscitation Quality Improvement Committee, Duke University Hospitals 2021 – Present
- Serve as a student representative for quality improvement in trauma care and trauma education
- Pediatric Surgery Outcomes Group Co-Chair, Duke University School of Medicine 2021 – Present
- Plan and lead monthly meetings with students, trainees, and faculty in pediatric surgery
- General Surgery Interest Group Education Co-Chair, Duke University School of Medicine 2020 – 2021
- Plan and lead monthly talks and journal clubs for students interested in general surgery
- General Surgery Interest Group Education Co-President, Duke University School of Medicine 2021 – 2022
- Plan the Department of Surgery Social, Research Mixer, and facilitate a peer mentor program

### File Uploads

Please upload the nominee's CV.

- [Thor-CV.pdf](#)

### Personal Statement

- [Thor-ASE-Personal-Statement.pdf](#)

### Notes



#### Admin Notification (ID: 5ba969832d2f1)

added October 28, 2022 at 1:17 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.