

**Title of Program:** Quality and Patient Safety Research

**Dept/Center/Lab:** Quality

**Principal Mentor:** Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FACS, FASMBS  
Surgical and Research Director, Carolinas Simulation Center  
Associate Professor of Surgery, Carolinas HealthCare System  
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, University of North Carolina  
Faculty, Department of General Surgery

**Other Faculty:** Brittany L. Anderson-Montoya, PhD  
Human Factors Specialist  
Patient Safety, Quality Division  
Carolinas HealthCare System

**Summary Description:**

The division of patient safety and quality and Carolinas Simulation Center have teamed up to create this summer research scholarship that will expose the qualified applicant to patient safety and quality research. The student will work closely with Dr. Stefanidis and Dr. Anderson-Montoya who have a strong interest in patient safety research and have conducted studies on coaching surgeons and other healthcare professionals for performance improvement and to minimize performance related patient complications. Knowledge on the creation and use of assessment tools and checklists will be acquired and their value for patient safety explored. Human factors affecting patient and doctor behavior will also be assessed.

**Expectations and Role of Student:**

The successful student should have passion for learning, inquisitiveness, and interest in teaching others and should be hard working and a good team player. A great deal of independence is given to the student so it is important to be self-driven and responsible; participation in weekly meetings with faculty mentors is also required. The student will be expected to learn how to conduct hypothesis-driven research on patient safety and quality, to become familiar with approaches to improve patient safety, and how to apply lessons from human factors research to patient safety. The student will present oral and written summaries of research and will be required to prepare and present an abstract and paper summarizing findings.