



FORUM DISCUSSION

“To Err is Human.... Or Is It?”

Friday, April 21, 2006

10:30AM – 12:00PM, Essex Ballroom, Westin Copley Place

Moderator: Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD; University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA

“Nature and Inevitability of Human Error”

Sir Alfred Cuschieri, MD; Scuola Superiore S’Anna di Studi Universitari, Pisa, Italy

“When Good Docs Go Bad: A Systems Problem”

Lucian L. Leape, MD; Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

“Building Safer Surgical Systems”

Lawrence W. Way, MD; University of California, San Francisco, CA

“ACS Efforts—Error Prevention and Patient Safety”

Thomas R. Russell, MD; American College of Surgeons, Chicago, IL

OBJECTIVES

This session will enable attendees to:

- Identify the genesis and the origin of errors in the practice of surgery, including specific pre-dispositions in the human mind.
- Describe how aging and other performance variables affect the commission of errors.
- Understand how to create systems that prevent or minimize the occurrence of errors.
- Discuss the practical information the American College of Surgeons provides to surgeons to decrease the number of errors in their practice.

Surgeons who implement this information on understanding the nature of human error should be able to develop strategies directed to decreasing the number of errors in their practices.