

## **The Mobile Surgical Simulator: Views of Junior Surgical Trainees**

**Introduction and Objective:** Total training time for surgeons is falling, and in response, a variety of novel training methods are evolving, including the use of simulation. It is often perceived that significant training time is “lost” between cases on operating lists. The views of trainees on the use of simulation to maximise training between cases has not been described.

**Materials and Methods:** An anonymous questionnaire was sent to junior surgical trainees (Post graduate years 2-4) to explore their views on their current surgical exposure and the use of the mobile surgical simulator, a laparoscopic and open surgical simulator, within theatres.

**Results:** A total of 14 trainees responded to the questionnaire. They reported between 12 – 20 hours per week of allocated theatre time. Of this time an average of 4 hours was “lost” between cases. All reported that they would use the mobile surgical simulator during this “lost” time and felt it would be beneficial.

**Conclusions:** “Lost” theatre time represents a significant hidden reduction in available surgical training. The provision of a mobile surgical simulator within the theatre department is one solution to this problem supported by trainees. The mobile surgical simulator can be a beneficial resource for trainees to reduce the impact of “lost” theatre time on training.