**Response to Scientific Peer Review by Dr. Sharon Cushing -** Please see the highlighted sections where specific recommendations were added.

**Recommendation 1:** In participant recruitment it was initially unclear to me that the PI would be a participant - I was having a hard time adding it up to 5 (3 HSC surgeons + 1 TGH surgeon + PI)

**Response 1:** The highlighted line below shows the sentence that was **added** to the “Participation Recruitment” section of the protocol to state that the PI as well as three SickKids surgeons and one Toronto General Hospital surgeon would be the surgeon participants. This line was added as a response to this recommendation.

Excerpt from protocol page 4:

*Participant Recruitment*

The PI’s colleagues in otolaryngology are interested in this project and would also like to improve their experience with TEES. Three additional surgeons from SickKids and one from Toronto General Hospital have expressed interest in participating in this study.

*Inclusion criteria*

Patient participants: 40 surgical patients, who require cholesteatoma surgery or tympanoplasty (surgical repair of perforated ear drum).

Surgeon participants: 5 surgeons with more than one year of experience in endoscopic ear surgery.The PI, three additional surgeons from SickKids and one surgeon from Toronto General Hospital will be asked to participate.

**Recommendation 2:** Recommend clarifying the role of training in the study is the intention to have the studied surgeons performing the whole operation from start to finish for the designated study surgeries or could residents/fellows participate but metrics just wouldn't be counted during that timeframe where a trainee was operating

**Response 2:** The highlighted section below shows the **change** that was made to the “Study Intervention” section of the protocol in order to clarify that **only experienced surgeons** will be participants in the study. This line was changed as a response to this recommendation.

Excerpt from protocol page 5:

Previous version prior to science review:

*Study intervention*

Each surgeon will be observed and recorded performing ten operations. The time and number of instruments changed will be recorded for the steps outlined in the Data Collection Form, included in Appendix B.

Updated version after response to science review recommendation:

*Study intervention*

Each surgeon will be observed and recorded performing ten operations. The steps that are recorded will be performed by the experienced surgeon who has given consent for the study. The time and number of instruments changed will be recorded for the steps outlined in the Data Collection Form, included in the *Data Collection Form* document.