

## David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997 – 2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.



### **Shawna R. Kleban, MD**

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#### **About the project:**

“The project was designed as a quality improvement project to enable nurses to better care for patients after free flap surgery. While transplanted organs are monitored by organ function and laboratory values, free flaps are monitored externally by physical exam. It became evident to the team, that the nurses we worked with had different levels of knowledge in how to monitor a patient post-surgery for a free tissue transfer procedure. Based on these observations we engaged the nursing supervisors in the units in which our patients receive care, and developed a course to standardize their knowledge and communication with the residents about post-operative free flap patients”

“The original survey successfully identified gaps in knowledge identified, which were improved after resident-led teaching. Data shows statistically significant improvement in knowledge. The course training was met with such positive review by nursing staff, that the clinical supervisors independently decided to integrate it as a mandatory yearly training program for ICU nurses. Our microsurgical team is expanding to private, community hospitals, and the model that has been designed will be implemented and analyzed in these new settings. The improvement in education and patient care is clear, and the course model is simple enough for practical implementation.”