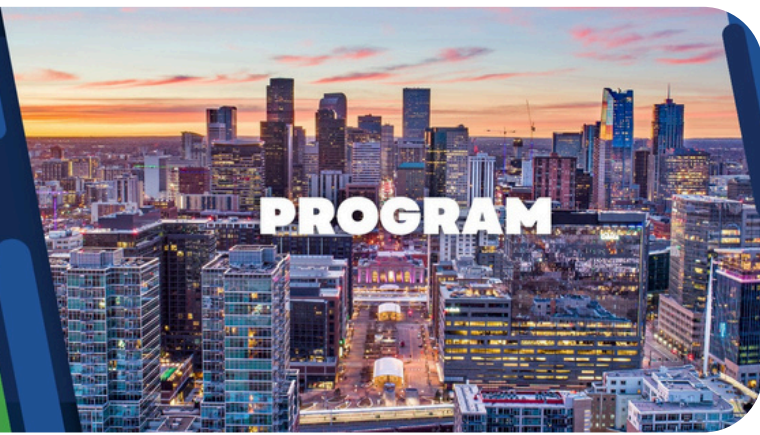




# 8TH ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SUMMIT

February 21-22, 2026



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

6:30 AM Registration & Breakfast

7:35 AM Opening Remarks Michael Rosen, MD

### Session 1

#### A Patient First Approach

Session Moderators: Bryan Ellis, DO & Christina Harsant, MD

7:45 AM *2025 ACHQC Resident & Fellow Research Grant*  
Evaluating the Effects of Surgical Site Infections on Patients with Different Socioeconomic Statuses: A Mixed Method Study Nancy Ly, MD

8:00 AM Measuring What Matters: Patient Outcomes, Experiences and Voices Courtney Collins, MD, MS

8:15 AM My Perspective on the ACHQC and Hernia Care Today David Anderson, MSEngr

8:30 AM Break

### Session 2

#### Optimizing Outcomes in Hernia Repair

Session Moderators: Megan Melland-Smith, MD & Jonathan Yunis, MD

8:50 AM Comparative Outcomes of Barrier-coated and Uncoated Mesh in CDC Class II-III Ventral Hernia Repairs Nancy Ly, MD

9:05 AM What Factors Predict Poor Outcomes in Complex Ventral Hernia Repairs? Randal Zhou, MD

9:20 AM Anxiety and Depression Effect on Inguinal and Ventral Hernia Repair Outcomes Sergio Mazzola Poli de Figueiredo, MD

9:35 AM Incidence of Inguinal Hernia Repair in the US Rabbit Hole Erika Schmidt, MD

9:50 AM Evaluating the Relationship Between Abdominal Core Rehabilitation PT and Functional Tests and Hernia Defect Size W. Taylor Head, MD

10:05 AM Break

### Session 3 Break Out Groups

Session Moderators: Pedro Amaral, MD & Matthew Goldblatt, MD

10:25 AM	Group Discussions <i>Attendees join one of the three groups listed below for discussion</i>	
11:10 AM	<u>Group 1</u> Moving the Science of Hernia Surgery Forward: What's Next?	Benjamin Miller, MD
11:25 AM	<u>Group 2</u> Measuring What Matters: Enhancing PROs in Foregut Surgery	Mazen Al-Mansour, MBBS
11:40 AM	<u>Group 3</u> Hernia Surgery Training: Where Can the ACHQC Make the Biggest Impact?	Megan Melland-Smith, MD
12:00 PM	Lunch	

### Session 4

#### Tackling Tough Cases: "How I Do It" from the Experts

Session Moderators: Ivy Haskins, MD & Benjamin Miller, MD

1:00 PM	Parastomal Hernia Repairs	Lucas Beffa, MD
1:15 PM	Paraesophageal Hernias	André Brandalise, MD
1:30 PM	Flank Hernias	Samuel Zolin, MD

### Session 5

#### Billing

Session Moderators: Chike Chukumah, MD & Anthony Iacco, MD

1:45 PM	An Interrupted Time Series Analysis of 2023 Hernia CPT Revisions and Differential Effects on Private Practice versus Academic Surgeons	Krishay Sridalla, BS
2:00 PM	Making Sense of Chaos: How Should We Bill for Our Hernia Repairs in 2026?	Flavio Malcher, MD, MSc
2:15 PM	Beyond Hernias: Leveraging the ACHQC for Sustainability and Environmental Exposure Research	Ali Alipouriani, MD
2:30 PM	Break	

### Session 6

#### HERnias

Session Moderators: Kaela Blake, MD & Courtney Collins, MD, MS

2:50 PM	Introduction to HERnia Surgeon Alliance (HERSA): Who We Are and Our Mission	Charlotte Horne, MD
3:05 PM	Adherence to MIS Guidelines for Inguinal Hernia Repair in Females	Sarah Budney, MD
3:20 PM	HerQLes and EuraHS: What Matters to Patients Based on Sex?	Alisa Khomutova, MD
3:35 PM	Comparing the Incidence of Mental Health Disorders Between Males and Females Undergoing Ventral Hernia Repair	Josephine Fuller, BA
3:50 PM	Round Ligament Management in Female Patients Undergoing Inguinal Hernia Repair: Should We Divide or Preserve?	W. Taylor Head, MD
4:05 PM	Break	

Session 7  
**Maximizing Data Entry and the OBERD Platform**  
 Session Moderators: Arielle Perez, MD & Joshua Trussell, MD

4:25 PM	EMR Integration: Lessons Learned	Clayton Petro, MD
4:40 PM	Wearables	Jeremy Warren, MD
4:55 PM	Prefilled Forms	Benjamin Poulouse, MD, MPH
5:10 PM	Version 2: What to Expect	Andrea Wood
6:00 PM	Networking Reception & Dinner	

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

6:30 AM	Breakfast	
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Session 8  
**Inguinal Hernias: Data Driven Outcomes**  
 Session Moderators: Todd Harris, MD & Joshua Trussell, MD

7:30 AM	Long-term Outcomes of Shouldice Inguinal Hernia Repairs	Marguerite Mainprize, MSc, CCRP
7:45 AM	Predicting Decreased Quality of Life After Inguinal and Ventral Hernia Repair	Courtney Collins, MD, MS
8:00 AM	Anatomic Versus Flat Mesh for MIS Inguinal Hernia Repair	Ayesha Siddiq, MD

Session 9  
**Committee Break Out Groups**  
 Session Moderators: David Krpata, MD & Richard Pierce, MD, PhD

8:15 AM	Committee Group Discussion <i>Attendees join one of the two committee groups listed below for discussion</i>	
9:00 AM	Quality Improvement Committee	Lucas Beffa, MD
9:15 AM	Patient Engagement & Advocacy Committee	Bryan Ellis, DO
9:30 AM	Break	

Session 10  
**An Overview of the QC and How to Maximize Usage**  
 Session Moderators: Rana Higgins, MD & Hany Takla, MD

9:50 AM	Patient Optimization and Equitable Care	Megan Melland-Smith, MD
10:05 AM	ACHQC from AWR Fellowship to Practice	Aldo Fafaj, MD
10:20 AM	Outcomes of NO OPIOIDS Embedded Registry Study	Noah Tocci, MD
10:35AM	Break	

### Session 11

## Key Technical Considerations In Inguinal Hernia Surgery

Session Moderators: Robert Yates, MD & Jonathan Yunis, MD

10:55 AM	Inguinal Hernia Defect Closure: Should We?	Sergio Mazzola Poli de Figueiredo, MD
11:10 AM	Abandon the Sac?	Flavio Malcher, MD, MSc
11:25 AM	Technical Considerations to Prevent Post Op Pain in Inguinal Hernia Surgery	Wes Love, MD
11:40 AM	My Mesh Hurts, Now What?	David Krpata, MD
12:00 PM	Working Lunch	

### Session 12

## Getting to the Core of the Problem

Session Moderators: Courtney Collins, MD, MS & Megan Melland-Smith, MD

12:10 PM	Post Op Pathways and Physical Rehab	W. Taylor Head, MD
12:25 PM	Effect of Prehabilitation on Hernia Repair Outcomes	Randal Zhou, MD
12:40 PM	Long-term Outcomes of Heavyweight Versus Medium-weight Mesh in VHR	William Bennett, MD
12:55 PM	Urologic Outcomes After Urostomy Parastomal Hernia Repair	Joseph Edwards, MD
1:10 PM	Closing Remarks	Michael Rosen, MD

### CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville designates this live activity for a maximum of *13 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.