November 20th, 2018

Bogotá, Colombia

Dear members of the Academic Surgical Congress,

My name is Claudia Echeverri, I am a PGY4 resident of general surgery at Bogotá, Colombia. Our abstract was accepted for quick shot presentation, it´s titled “Design and evaluation of a synthetic tissue for suturing and knot tying in laparoscopy training”.

My teacher, Dr. Liliana Cuevas and I developed this project by ourselves, since I was a PGY1 resident; the idea came up from our simulation laboratory, in which we found there were no affordable materials for us to learn how to manipulate tissues in laparoscopic training. We designed a semisynthetic tissue meant for training residents of general surgery in tying nots and suturing in laparoscopy. In Colombia, it´s difficult to have access to synthetic commercial tissues and most of them are very expensive; so our homemade tissue provides an economic, easy access and replicable material that helps residents gain laparoscopic abilities.

Here in Colombia, residents are forced to pay a tuition and do not receive any wage or payment for the contributions we make to our Hospital. We are not allowed to have a job during our training years. My parents are both retired and I have a loan for paying for my residency program. Because of this I have no economic resources to cover the expenses related to travelling abroad to attend to this event, so an economic aid would be very helpful for me.

Thank you for your time,

Claudia Echeverri

Hospital Universitario San Ignacio

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Bogotá, Colombia