

From the art of teamwork to the science of team performance in the operating room

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In the past few years, teamwork and team skills in surgery have been attracting significant attention. A number of interventions aimed at improving teamwork in operating room and several assessment tools have been developed and reported in the surgical and anaesthetic literatures.

In this talk, I will first provide a background to these developments, highlighting their ori-

gins, and rationale. I will then present the current state of the art, including evidence of effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving teamwork in the peri-operative setting and ongoing large trials of some of them. To conclude, a framework for integrating the various aspects of team performance in the operating room will be presented, to be discussed with the audience.