



Cara A. Liebert, MD, FACS

Clinical Assistant Professor, Surgery - General Surgery

Bio

BIO

Dr. Liebert is a board-certified General Surgeon with fellowship training in Minimally Invasive Surgery. Her clinical practice focuses on robotic ventral hernia repair, abdominal wall reconstruction, and metabolic/bariatric surgery. Dr. Liebert works as faculty at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Stanford School of Medicine.

Dr. Liebert graduated with Highest Distinction with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill. She obtained her MD degree and completed General Surgery Residency at Stanford University School of Medicine. She completed an American College of Surgeons-Educations Institute Surgical Education Fellowship at Stanford and an Advanced GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at VA Palo Alto.

Her research focuses on competency-based medical education, assessment, entrustable professional activities (EPAs), and global surgical education.

Dr. Liebert holds several leadership roles in surgical education and is the Associate Chair of Education in the Department of Surgery. She is an Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program, Associate Site Director for the General Surgery Residency Program at VA Palo Alto, Director of the Balance in Life Program, and Associate Program Director for the Advanced GI/MIS Fellowship at VA Palo Alto.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Assistant Professor, Surgery - General Surgery

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Chair of Education, Department of Surgery, (2023- present)
- Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program, (2022- present)
- Associate Program Director, VA Palo Alto Advanced GI/MIS Fellowship, (2022- present)
- Co-Director of Professional Development, General Surgery Residency Program, (2021-2023)
- Associate Site Director, VA Palo Alto, General Surgery Residency Program, (2020- present)
- Director, Balance in Life Program, Department of Surgery, (2020- present)
- Assistant Surgery Clerkship Director, Stanford School of Medicine, (2020-2023)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Scientific Forum Excellence in Research Award, American College of Surgeons (2021)
- Mark Freidell Research Grant, Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS) (2020-2022)
- Arthur L. Bloomfield Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Clinical Medicine, Stanford School of Medicine (2020)

- Samuel L. Kountz Humanitarian Award, Stanford Department of Surgery (2018)
- Outstanding Resident Teacher Award, Association for Surgical Education (2015)
- Finalist, Resident Award for Exemplary Teaching, American College of Surgeons (2014, 2015)
- Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Stanford School of Medicine (2014)
- Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award, Arnold P. Gold Foundation (2014)
- Postgraduate Research Award, Alpha Omega Alpha (2014)
- Alan and Ruth Borenstein Medical Scholarship, Stanford School of Medicine (2010)
- MacKenzie Foundation Scholarship, MacKenzie Foundation (2008-2010)
- Medical Scholars Research Fellowship, Stanford School of Medicine (2008-2009)
- James M. Johnston Distinguished Senior, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (2006)
- Class of 1938 Summer Study Abroad Fellowship (Tokyo, Japan), University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (2005)
- Neumann Fellowship, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (2005)
- Phi Beta Kappa, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (2005)
- Smallwood Foundation Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (2004)
- James M. Johnston Scholarship, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (2002-2006)
- United States Presidential Scholar, White House (2002)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Pacific Coast Surgical Association (2023 - present)
- Member, Association of VA Surgeons (2023 - present)
- Member, Western Surgical Association (2023 - present)
- Member, Association of Program Directors in Surgery (2023 - present)
- Fellow, American College of Surgeons (2020 - present)
- Member, Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) (2018 - present)
- Member, Association for Academic Surgery (2014 - present)
- Member, Gold Humanism Honor Society (2014 - present)
- Member, Alpha Omega Alpha (2014 - present)
- Member, Association of Women Surgeons (2011 - present)
- Member, Association for Surgical Education (2011 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- MHPE, University of Illinois- Chicago , Masters of Health Professions Education
- Fellow, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System , Advanced GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery (2021)
- Board Certification, American Board of Surgery , General Surgery (2019)
- Residency, Stanford Hospital and Clinics , General Surgery (2018)
- Fellow, Stanford University School of Medicine , ACS-Accredited Surgical Simulation Fellowship (2015)
- MD, Stanford University School of Medicine , Medicine (2011)
- BS, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill , Biology (2006)

COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL WORK

- Implementation of the ENTRUST Learning and Assessment Platform in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Assessment, Testing and Measurement
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Professional Development

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Current research interests include Surgical Education and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Primary research focus is the development, implementation, and collection of validity evidence for ENTRUST, an online virtual patient simulation platform for assessment of clinical decision-making.

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Introduction to Surgery: SURG 204 (Aut)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Multi-Institutional Analysis of Entrust Performance With Competency-Based Surgical Education Metrics.** *Journal of surgical education*
Lam, N., Tee, M. C., Nembhard, C. E., Son, Y. A., Anand, A., Arnow, K., Tsai, J., Peralta, F. C., Melcer, E. F., Liebert, C. A., Lin, D. T.
2026; 83 (5): 103887
- **The Role of Self-Directed Low-Cost Laparoscopic Simulation in Africa.** *World journal of surgery*
Liebert, C. A., Mwachiro, M. M.
2026
- **Evaluation of the Quality of General Surgery Entrustable Professional Activities Using the EQual Rubric.** *Journal of surgical education*
Seale, S., Gan, C. Y., Liebert, C. A., Kempenich, J. W., Dent, D. L., Spain, D. A., Korndorffer, J. R.
2025: 103747
- **Correlation of Performance on the ENTRUST Assessment Platform With Other Variables in Competency-Based Surgical Education.** *Journal of surgical education*
Wong, L. Y., Lam, N., Son, Y. A., Eddington, H., Arnow, K. D., Tsai, J., Anand, A., Peralta, F. C., Shields, S., Melcer, E. F., Lin, D. T., Liebert, C. A.
2024; 82 (1): 103293
- **Resident-Applicant Buddy Program Increases Applicant Interest and Program Transparency.** *Journal of surgical education*
Shearer, J., Ngongoni, R. F., Yelorda, K., Nobuhara, C., Lin, D. T., Gahagan, J., Dua, M., Spain, D. A., Liebert, C. A.
2024; 81 (11): 1792-1797
- **Usability of ENTRUST as an Assessment Tool for Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs): A Mixed Methods Analysis.** *Journal of surgical education*
Lee, M. C., Melcer, E. F., Merrell, S. B., Wong, L. Y., Shields, S., Eddington, H., Trickey, A. W., Tsai, J., Korndorffer, J. R., Lin, D. T., Liebert, C. A.
2023
- **Correlation of Performance on ENTRUST and Traditional Oral Objective Structured Clinical Examination for High-Stakes Assessment in the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa.** *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*
Liebert, C. A., Melcer, E. F., Eddington, H., Trickey, A., Shields, S., Lee, M., Korndorffer, J. R., Bekele, A., Wren, S. M., Lin, D. T.
2023
- **ENTRUST: A Serious Game-Based Virtual Patient Platform to Assess Entrustable Professional Activities in Graduate Medical Education.** *Journal of graduate medical education*
Lin, D. T., Melcer, E. F., Keehl, O., Eddington, H., Trickey, A. W., Tsai, J., Camacho, F., Merrell, S. B., Korndorffer, J., Liebert, C. A.

2023; 15 (2): 228-236

- **Robotic General Surgery Trends in the Veterans Health Administration, Community Practice, and Academic Centers From 2013 to 2021.** *JAMA surgery*
Mills, J., Liebert, C., Wren, S. M., Pratt, J. S., Earley, M., Eisenberg, D.
2023
- **Validity Evidence for ENTRUST as an Assessment of Surgical Decision-Making for the Inguinal Hernia Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA).** *Journal of surgical education*
Liebert, C. A., Melcer, E. F., Keehl, O., Eddington, H., Trickey, A. W., Lee, M., Tsai, J., Camacho, F., Merrell, S. B., Korndorffer, J. R., Lin, D. T.
2022
- **ENTRUST: A Serious Game-Based Virtual Patient Platform to Assess Entrustable Professional Activities in Surgical Education**
Liebert, C. A., Lin, D. T., Melcer, E. F., Keehl, O. G., Trickey, A., Eddington, H., Merrell, S., Korndorffer, J. R.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2021: S224
- **From Wilderness to the Bedside: Creating Adventurous and Mindful Physicians Entering Residency (CAMPER) by Residents for Residents to Foster Belongingness.** *Journal of surgical education*
Bernard, A., Vogt, E. L., Flaharty, K., Gutterman, S., Gottlieb, R., Shapiro, J., Young, A. T., Johnson-Harwitz, C., Falahee, E., Burrows, H., Alvarez, A., Liebert, C., Tabin, et al
2025; 82 (6): 103510
- **How attending and resident reactions influence medical student specialty selection** *GLOBAL SURGICAL EDUCATION - JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR SURGICAL EDUCATION*
Buchanan, D., Solano, Q. P., Singleterry, M. D., Tubbs, D., Ozuna-Harrison, R., Evans, J., Matusko, N., Liebert, C., Dedhia, P. H., Mazer, L., Sandhu, G.
2023; 3 (1)
- **Perception Is Not Reality: Examining the Quality of Endof-Rotation Evaluations**
Anand, A., Jensen, R., Liebert, C., Korndorffer, J. R.
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2023: S445
- **Using AI and computer vision to analyze technical proficiency in robotic surgery.** *Surgical endoscopy*
Yang, J. H., Goodman, E. D., Dawes, A. J., Gahagan, J. V., Esquivel, M. M., Liebert, C. A., Kin, C., Yeung, S., Gurland, B. H.
2022
- **Complete Telehealth for Multidisciplinary Preoperative Workup Does Not Delay Time to Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: a Pilot Study.** *Obesity surgery*
Mills, J., Liebert, C., Pratt, J., Earley, M., Eisenberg, D.
2022
- **Preventive Health Screening in Veterans Undergoing Bariatric Surgery.** *American journal of preventive medicine*
Stoltz, D. J., Liebert, C. A., Seib, C. D., Bruun, A., Arnow, K. D., Barreto, N. B., Pratt, J. S., Eisenberg, D.
2022
- **Recurrent bilateral cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma arising within pretibial hypertrophic lichen planus with metastasis while on cemiplimab** *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology Case Reports*
Leeolou, M., Burgren, N., Lee, C., Momeni, A., Pinto, H., Johannet, P., Nord, K., Chang, A. S.
2022
- **A protected time policy to improve dental health among resident physicians** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION*
Jun, T., Liebert, C., Esquivel, M., Cox, J., Trockel, M., Katznelson, L.
2019; 150 (5): 362+
- **Authors' response.** *Journal of the American Dental Association (1939)*
Jun, T. W., Liebert, C. A., Esquivel, M. n., Cox, J. A., Trockel, M. n., Katznelson, L. n.
2019; 150 (7): 568–69
- **Social Belonging as a Predictor of Surgical Resident Well-being and Attrition.** *Journal of surgical education*
Salles, A., Wright, R. C., Milam, L., Panni, R. Z., Liebert, C. A., Lau, J. N., Lin, D. T., Mueller, C. M.
2018

- **Perceived Value of a Program to Promote Surgical Resident Well-being.** *Journal of surgical education*
Salles, A., Liebert, C. A., Esquivel, M., Greco, R. S., Henry, R., Mueller, C.
2017
- **Prevalence and predictors of depression among general surgery residents.** *American journal of surgery*
Lin, D. T., Liebert, C. A., Esquivel, M. M., Tran, J., Lau, J. N., Greco, R. S., Mueller, C. M., Salles, A.
2017; 213 (2): 313-317
- **Grit as a predictor of risk of attrition in surgical residency.** *American journal of surgery*
Salles, A., Lin, D., Liebert, C., Esquivel, M., Lau, J. N., Greco, R. S., Mueller, C.
2017; 213 (2): 288-291
- **A Mixed-Methods Analysis of a Novel Mistreatment Program for the Surgery Core Clerkship.** *Academic medicine*
Lau, J. N., Mazer, L. M., Liebert, C. A., Merrell, S. B., Lin, D. T., Harris, I.
2017
- **A Narrative Review and Novel Framework for Application of Team-Based Learning in Graduate Medical Education.** *Journal of graduate medical education*
Poepelman, R. S., Liebert, C. A., Vegas, D. B., Germann, C. A., Volerman, A.
2016; 8 (4): 510-517
- **Belonging, Well-being, and Attrition in General Surgery**
Salles, A., Lin, D. T., Liebert, C. A., Esquivel, M., Mueller, C.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2016: E40-E41
- **Student perceptions of a simulation-based flipped classroom for the surgery clerkship: A mixed-methods study.** *Surgery*
Liebert, C. A., Mazer, L., Berekyei Merrell, S., Lin, D. T., Lau, J. N.
2016; 160 (3): 591-598
- **Novel Use of Google Glass for Procedural Wireless Vital Sign Monitoring.** *Surgical innovation*
Liebert, C. A., Zayed, M. A., Aalami, O., Tran, J., Lau, J. N.
2016; 23 (4): 366-373
- **Emotional Intelligence as a Predictor of Resident Well-Being.** *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*
Lin, D. T., Liebert, C. A., Tran, J., Lau, J. N., Salles, A.
2016; 223 (2): 352-358
- **Effectiveness of the Surgery Core Clerkship Flipped Classroom: a prospective cohort trial** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SURGERY*
Liebert, C. A., Lin, D. T., Mazer, L. M., Berekyei, S., Lau, J. N.
2016; 211 (2): 451-U214
- **Belonging as a Measure of Risk of Attrition**
Salles, A., Liebert, C. A., Lin, D. T.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2015: S49
- **Emotional Intelligence as a Predictor of Resident Wellness**
Lin, D. T., Liebert, C. A., Lau, J. N., Salles, A.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2015: S52
- **Promoting Balance in the Lives of Resident Physicians: A Call to Action.** *JAMA surgery*
Salles, A., Liebert, C. A., Greco, R. S.
2015; 150 (7): 607-608
- **Validity evidence for Surgical Improvement of Clinical Knowledge Ops: a novel gaming platform to assess surgical decision making** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SURGERY*
Lin, D. T., Park, J., Liebert, C. A., Lau, J. N.
2015; 209 (1): 79-85