

**Archives of Surgical Research** | Letter to the Editor

## Re: Utilities of Teaching EPAs: Expanding the Scope of EPAs beyond Clinical Context

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We read with interest a recently published article by Iqbal et al. about the role of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in imparting skills in the medical field. This letter is a critical appraisal of the role of teaching EPAs in training in medicine and healthcare. The authors have detailed well about the utility of the EPAs and delineated the areas where teaching EPAs can be effective in not only training the clinical trainers but also endorsing their role as a trainer. The authors identified components of EPAs that are vital to the effectiveness of the teaching programs i.e., developing a framework of building teaching skills, reinforcing their personality development, and lastly credentialing the trainers. Teaching EPA frameworks can be used to design structured faculty development programs for specific teaching roles. Expanding the concept of EPAs beyond clinical practice is a unique concept that can revolutionize the clinical teaching modalities<sup>1</sup>.

We as surgeons feel that the role of EPAs in surgical training is enormous and the outcomes that can be achieved through implementation can be significant. They can be an important addition to standardized surgical skill transfer<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, they can be also used for faculty development, credentialing of the teachers, and help the administrative bodies with resource allocation and standardized skill transfer<sup>3</sup>. The important aspect that can be added to the topic under discussion is the addition of a program that can mitigate the barriers associated with the identity formation of the clinical teachers<sup>4</sup>. This can enhance their confidence to teach the trainees<sup>5</sup>.

Recently, the American Board of Surgery and Intercollegiate Board in Britain have initiated the exercise to incorporate these EPAs in the surgical training curriculum. We think that the College of Physicians and Surgeons should also take a lead and incorporate these EPAs in surgical training.

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