Garth Harrison Utter, M.D., M.Sc.

Clinical Interests Dr. Utter has clinical expertise in the fields of trauma surgery, emergency general surgery, and critical care. He has active research interests in the optimal circumstances for chest tube removal, the effectiveness of counseling techniques in reducing problematic drinking behavior, the survival of donor blood cells following transfusion (called "micro chimerism"), the influence of blood transfusion on outcomes from traumatic brain injury, and indicators of the quality of health care. He has participated in extramurally funded projects on the topics of alcohol-related counseling (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), microchimerism (National Institutes of Health), and quality of care indicators (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality).

Title Associate Professor of Surgery

Specialty Surgery - Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care

Department Surgery

Division Trauma Surgery

Center/Program Affiliation Trauma Program

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Education M.D., UC San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, California, 1997
A.B., UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California, 1992

Internships UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, California, 1998

Residency UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, California, 2003

Fellowships Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 2005

Board Certifications American Board of Surgery, 2004
American Board of Surgery, Surgical Critical Care, 2005

Professional Memberships American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American Society of Hematology

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Association of Academic Surgeons
Pacific Coast Surgical Association
Surgical Outcomes Club
UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research

Honors and Awards

Scott Murphy Lecture, Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion Collaborative, 2007
2nd place (clinical category), Region IX Resident Paper Competition, 2001
2nd place (clinical category), Region IX Resident Paper Competition, 2000

Select Recent Publications

Young JB, Utter GH, Yang Y, Schermer CR, Galante JM, Phan HH, Anderson BA, Scherer LA. Normal saline versus Plasma-Lyte A in initial resuscitation of trauma patients: a randomized controlled trial. Ann Surg. 2014

Yang Y, Young JB, Schermer CR, Utter GH. Use of ketorolac is associated with decreased likelihood of pneumonia following rib fractures. Am J Surg. 2013.

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Zrelak PA, Romano PS, Tancredi DJ, Geppert JJ, Utter GH. Validity of the AHRQ. Patient Safety Indicator for Postoperative Physiologic and Metabolic Derangement based on a national sample of medical records. Med Care. 2013;51:806–811.

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