

The background of the cover is black with a large, stylized 'U' shape formed by numerous thin, parallel teal lines. The lines are more densely packed at the bottom of the 'U' and become sparser towards the top, creating a sense of depth and movement.

# **Surgical First Assistant**

**The Essentials of Practice**

Edited by

**Julie Quick  
Mark Owen**

**WILEY** Blackwell



# Surgical First Assistant



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Edited by

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**WILEY** Blackwell

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# Foreword

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The surgical first assistant (SFA) role has been around for more than a decade but despite this, many students, healthcare professionals and educators remain unclear about the role and their responsibilities. There are multiple reasons for this, for example: (i) staff shortages have resulted in limited access to training, (ii) financial constraints result in limited opportunities and (iii) rigid attitudes toward existing boundaries and scopes of practice have slowed the adoption and utilisation of the role in many regions. Nevertheless, the situation is beginning to change, and there is now greater awareness of the SFA role and how they can positively contribute to the perioperative setting. These benefits are not limited to an individual developing their skills but include increased organisational efficiency and improved patient experience.

Until now, a comprehensive resource that can bring clarity to those unclear about the SFA role, those interested in undertaking training, and the educators responsible for teaching the relevant knowledge and skills has not been available. Fortunately for us, this void has now been filled by Julie Quick and Mark Owen who have created the definitive resource that comprehensively explains the SFA role through contributions from a range of experts. Both authors have been instrumental over the years in shaping the perioperative nursing and ODP professions through their academic and professional body contributions. *Surgical First Assistant: The Essentials of Practice* is a timely, important, and well-written book and one further example of their continued contributions to their professions and perioperative care. I would expect this textbook to be the go-to resource for those interested in the SFA role for the foreseeable future.

Daniel Rodger,  
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# Preface

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It is a privilege and pleasure to introduce you to this book, which is the first to exclusively explore the roles and responsibilities of the surgical first assistant. Defined as an extended member of the surgical team by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the surgical first assistant (SFA) has become widely accepted within the NHS and Independent Healthcare Sector to enhance patient care.

Each chapter is written by contributors who have experience as a surgical assistant in clinical practice and/or are experts in their field. Many have also taught non-medical surgical assistants in higher education. Their contributions reflect their passion for teaching and dedication to improving patient outcomes through skilled surgical assistance.

The book provides you with an up to date and comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities, and skills required for the SFA. It is divided into three parts: Part one provides you with an historical overview of the SFA role in the United Kingdom. A case study approach is then utilised to review some of the legal, ethical and professional considerations of the SFA role, providing you with opportunities for critical reflection.

Part two explores the responsibilities of the SFA role as defined by the Perioperative Care Collaborate: SFA Statement (PCC, 2018). Each chapter moves through each phase of the patient's perioperative journey from preoperative assessment, assisting during surgery to wound care and postoperative pain management.

Part three explores human factors and non-technical skills of the SFA as an extended member of the surgical team helping you to demonstrate the behaviours that will allow you to promote safe and effective care.

Whether you are a registered nurse or ODP undertaking a post-registration SFA module or an ODP student or apprentice studying an undergraduate course, we hope this book will be a trusted companion in your professional development.

Julie Quick and Mark Owen