

John F. Sweeney, MD

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Biography: Before joining Emory as chief of the division of general and gastrointestinal surgery in September 2007, Dr. Sweeney directed the division of general surgery, the bariatric surgery program, and the Michael E. DeBakey Minimally Invasive Surgery Center of Excellence of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine. Prior to that, he served as chief of surgery at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center and director of minimally invasive surgery at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Sweeney served as chief quality officer for the Emory Department of Surgery from 2008-2016, and helped its participation in the University Healthcare Consortium Quality and Accountability Program (UHC QAP), American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS/NSQIP), Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP), and Best Practices for Better Care (BPBC). In 2014, UHC ranked Emory University Hospital (combined with Emory University Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital) eighth and Emory University Hospital Midtown 22nd in the 2014 UHC Quality Leadership Awards. This was the fourth consecutive year that Emory University Hospital (EUH) was ranked in the top 10 for demonstrating superior performance in delivering high-quality care and safety excellence. The intensive efforts of Dr. Sweeney's quality team contributed to achieving these rankings.

Dr. Sweeney's quality research includes two studies he is conducting with James C. Cox, PhD, director of the Experimental Economics Center (ExCEN) of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. For "Uptake of Comparative Effectiveness Research: Implications for Discharge Decision," funded by the National Institute on Aging of the NIH, the team is focusing on hospital length of stay and discharge decisions as central factors in the complex interplay between quality of health care delivery and medical costs, and experimenting with alternative choices and new applications of information technology designed to increase physicians' effectiveness in identifying when to discharge a patient. In their study "Surgical Discharge Model," funded by the Georgia Research Alliance, Dr. Sweeney and Dr. Cox are investigating the commercial viability of a surgical discharge model developed jointly by ExCEN and Emory aimed at increasing a physician's effectiveness in identifying the optimal time to discharge a patient. The model has the important potential to reduce the risk of re-admission within 30 days following hospital discharge after surgery.

When former chair Dr. Chris Larsen was named dean of the Emory University School of Medicine in January 2013, Dr. Sweeney began serving as interim chair of the Department of Surgery. He was appointed Joseph B. Whitehead Chair of the Department in 2015.

Education:

- MD, Rush Medical College, Chicago, IL, Class of 1988
- General Surgery Internship and Residency, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 1988-1995
- Surgery Immunology Research Fellowship, University of South Florida, 1991-1993