Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to describe the development and implementation of a collaborative, transdisciplinary staff education series focused on safe patient handling strategies to improve patient outcomes, decrease staff injuries and improve the patient experience.

Description: The Acute Care Physical Therapy (PT) team noted a trend that patients status-post orthopedic surgery were likely to experience an orthostatic event limiting their participation during the initial PT evaluation. It was hypothesized that one of the reasons for these occurrences was that the nursing staff would not mobilize patients until after the initial PT evaluation due to a lack of confidence in the early postoperative phase. A transdisciplinary task force was created to investigate the reasons for limited patient mobility. An online pre-implementation survey was distributed to all levels of nursing staff (patient care technicians, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse educators and managers) which assessed nursing confidence in transferring patients on postoperative day (POD) zero and one, and their confidence in transferring patients requiring varying levels of assistance. The results indicated that the nursing staff reported a low level of confidence when transferring patients on POD zero and one, who required moderate to maximal level of physical assistance.

Summary of Use: The transdisciplinary team created a train-the-trainer educational series consisting of 4 phases. Phase one consisted of training the PT champions who would be leading the nursing education sessions. During phase two, the nursing champions received one hour of didactic and two hours of hands-on lab with return demonstration from the PT champions. Phase
three involved training of the nursing staff by the nursing and PT champions with one hour of didactic and two hours of hands-on lab with return demonstration. In phase four, the nursing staff shadowed the PT champions during Acute Care PT evaluations and treatment sessions. Over 130 nursing staff members completed the training. An online post-implementation survey was conducted to reassess the confidence level of the nursing staff. The confidence level in transferring patients on POD one increased from 71% to 92%. The nursing department then created annual staff competencies based on the educational content of these series. In addition, PT has become more involved in the clinical training of all new nursing staff members. The hospital is expanding the program to the inpatient adult and pediatric rehabilitation units.

**Importance to Members:** By actively working with the nursing team to increase nursing confidence with mobilizing patients, the Acute Care PT team can focus on providing skilled interventions thereby improving the patient experience, increasing clinical outcomes and decreasing length of stay after orthopedic surgery.