Dr. Tanya L. Zakrison

Dr. Tanya L. Zakrison is an Associate Professor of Surgery working in the Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon at the University of Chicago Medical Center, the new Level I Trauma Center on the South Side of Chicago.

Dr. Zakrison completed her training at the University of Toronto for General Surgery followed by a fellowship in Adult Critical Care medicine. She then spent a year at the University of Miami for her fellowship in trauma surgery at the Ryder Trauma Center, where she returned to work as Assistant Professor of Surgery. Early in her career she also completed a Masters of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. After 7 years at the University of Miami, she joined the trauma faculty at the University of Chicago under the leadership of Dr. Selwyn Rogers. Dr. Zakrison is the head of critical trauma research focusing her research and that of the section on the triad of clinical outcomes, basic science and structural violence within a lens of critical race theory. The trauma center has a close relationship with multiple community organizations on the South Side and activist groups that are engaged in fighting for structural change for economic and social justice. The clinical work is focused on Trauma-Informed Care. Dr. Zakrison's personal research interests include the intersection of structural violence, hate, trauma and direct violence, surgical illness and trauma of incarcerated individuals, intimate partner violence and homicide in trauma patients, firearm injury and other standard surgical articles. Dr. Zakrison has also been the co-chair of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma's Equity, Quality and Inclusion Ad Hoc Task Force in Trauma Surgery Practice. Now a committee, this group of over 40 trauma surgeons from across the United States and Canada has been focused on issues of equity affecting trauma surgeons, and the role of structural racism leading to preventable injury and death specifically in the Black and Brown communities of this country. Our #EAST4ALL work is available here.