

Surgical Excellence The Lawrence Way Effect

Sunil Bhojrul, MD FACS
Fellow in Laparoscopic
Surgery, UCSF 1993-
1996

My surgical training

Residency in England
(FRCS) 1989-93

Apprentice under Dr.
Way 1993-96

Residency in the US
(FACS) 1996-2000

1.(in Hinduism and Buddhism) a spiritual teacher, especially one who imparts initiation.

Guru

synonyms:

spiritual teacher, [teacher](#), [tutor](#), [sage](#), [mentor](#), spiritual leader, [leader](#), [master](#);



I made Dr.
Lawrence W. Way
my guru

In pursuit of excellence



Excellence

ex·cel·lence

'eks(ə)ləns/

noun

the quality of being outstanding or extremely good.

Excellence

The noblest search
is the search for
excellence
Lyndon B. Johnson

Excellence is more
fun than mediocrity
Leonard Berry



Why is Dr.
Way
excellent?

Excellence according to Shakespeare

- **Try new things** “Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, By fearing to attempt.” – *Measure for Measure*
- **Be humble** "Have more than thou showest, Speak less than thou knowest." -- *King Lear*
- **Know your weaknesses** “The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.” – *As You Like It*

4 lessons I
learnt from
Dr. Way (my
guru)

Speak / write clearly and simply

Details matter

Embrace your ignorance

Do your best

| Speak / write
| simply

Communication is his
hallmark

Bad English is an
automatic foul

The best communicator
I have ever met

LWW & the English language

- It is incorrect to attribute the following actions to the patient
 - Patients cannot drop their hct, normalize their wbc or perforate an ulcer!
- The disease can be ruled out, not the patient
- An outside hospital is a hospital without walls
- Do not “visualize” when you can “see”
- The patient was nauseated not nauseous!
- A careful dissection – as opposed to a careless one?
- Inadvertent means careless and inattentive!
- Male or Female human?? Say man or woman



Details Matter

- Stick to the facts
- Find out who has the best experience
- Facts always trump opinions



Embrace your ignorance

I don't know

Find the
person who
knows

Challenge the
knower!

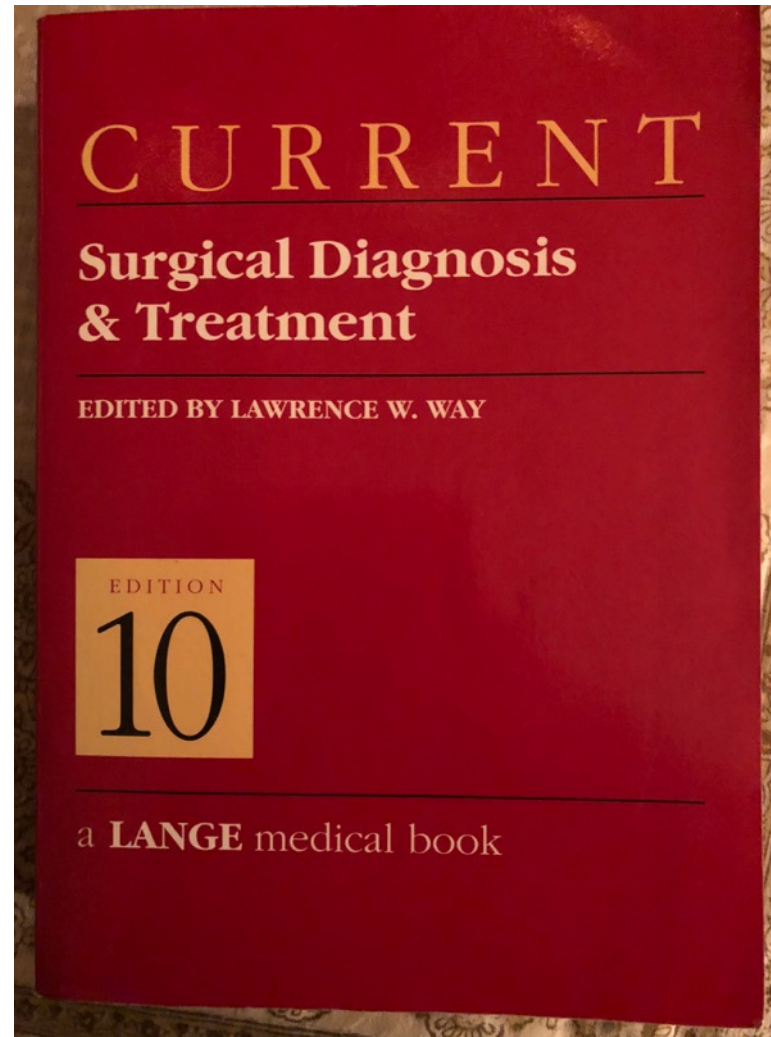
Do your best

Quality and sincerity trumps
quantity

Best in everything you attempt
(surgery, family, photography,
growing orchids)

Never fear failure

Excellence



Video Presentation

Laparoscopic Revision Gastric Bypass

40 yr old woman

- Gastric bypass 10 years ago
- Modest weight loss
- Persistent severe obesity
- Large stomach pouch, dilated gastrojejunostomy, normal (100cm) roux limb

The Lawrence Way effect on me

- We wrote a book
- I will always walk in Dr. Way's shadow
- I will never accept the status quo

