

CRISIS

Grey's Anatomy



Table of Contents

Chair Message.....	3
I. Background.....	6
II. Current Issues.....	8
III. Key Terms.....	10
IV. Characters.....	12
V. Questions to Consider.....	21
Works Cited.....	22

Dear Delegates,

My name is Charlotte Abellera, and I'm so pleased to be your chair for the Grey's Anatomy crisis committee at MMUNC I! I'm a senior at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek, and this is my fourth year participating in Model UN. I've attended numerous conferences, including a very interesting committee concerning baboons at UCLA's BRUINMUN 33, and some of you may recognize me from my time as a vice chair at Las Lomas' own LLMUNC back in 2025. Shoutout to the Mission Impossible Ad Hoc committee!



Outside of Model UN, I compete in both Mock Trial as well as Speech and Debate for my school, and have truly developed a passion for discourse and debate over the past four years. I think that being able to bridge the gap of knowledge in order to have an intellectual conversation with someone is a skill that everyone needs, and MUN helps us build those abilities.

When I'm not researching for a position paper, drafting a direct examination, or practicing a competition speech, you'll find me at the newest exhibition at some museum or sitting around and talking with my friends over boba. I love human connection and think it's one of the most valuable assets that we have, which is likely why I love Model UN so much. At the end of the day, it's human connection and working together that makes sure our directives pass on time!

As far as this committee goes, I'm looking for delegates who think outside the box. Grey's Anatomy is a long-running show, so don't just rely on canon lore to try and win best delegate.

I'm so excited to see you all in September, and cannot wait to see what you all will do with this committee. Remember, delegates: it's a beautiful day to save lives!

Regards,
Charlotte Abellera
Chair | Grey's Anatomy | MMUNC I

Hello Delegates!

My name is Alyssa Huang and it is my honor to serve as one of the vice chairs of this Grey's Anatomy Crisis Committee! I'm a junior at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek who joined Model UN during freshman year. I've been to conferences including DMUNC, BearMUN and SCVMUN.

I was beyond excited to find out that I'll be chairing this committee, since I hope to major in Kinesiology or Public Health in college. Grey's Anatomy delves deep into concepts covered in both of these majors. For those who are interested in healthcare and in MUN, this could be the committee for you!



Outside of the conference room, I can be found on the lacrosse field, writing an article for journalism, coaching 5-year-olds (and jaded middle schoolers), or attempting to study out of 3 different textbooks simultaneously. Yet I believe that MUN has been one of the most impactful activities that I've been a part of. Because it has taught me how to step outside of my comfort zone: something that can be applied to every aspect of my life. I sincerely hope that it teaches you how to venture into the unknown as well.

Whether this is your first year in MUN or you're a veteran, I encourage every one of you to set a small goal for yourself to complete over the course of this crisis committee. Your goal could be to meet and get to know a delegate you may not know yet, or it could be to not bring up notes with you for your next speech. Regardless of what it is, completing this goal will bring you so much confidence; confidence that will carry you far in MUN.

Happy Researching!

Alyssa Huang

Vice Chair | Grey's Anatomy | MMUNC I

Welcome Delegates!

My name is Van Sun and I am so excited to be one of your vice chairs for the Grey's Anatomy Crisis Committee. I am a senior from Davis Senior High School, where I lead our club to compete at conferences like DMUNC and BEARMUN. This will be my third year participating in Model UN.

As an aspiring pre-med, I can't wait to work with a group of delegates that are just as passionate about medicine and ethical dilemmas as I am. Grey's Anatomy, while a fictional show, well encapsulates the delicate balance between personal motives and professional duty in the healthcare world. Every individual has a different approach to complex questions like these, which I am looking forward to seeing in all your unique approaches to this committee.



In my free time, I like to snowboard, write prose, watch soccer, and eat good food. I will always be open to a good conversation about superb seafood or the latest World Cup match! One of my lifelong interests has been history and geopolitics, which inspired me to join Model UN in the first place.

My biggest advice for delegates is to accept the new, uncomfortable, and silly parts of Model UN with open arms. While crisis committees can be a disorienting, unpredictable experience, I assure you that if you approach with an open mind and a willingness to learn, you will leave the conference a better delegate and a more confident person than before.

Best,

Van Sun

Vice Chair | Grey's Anatomy | MMUNC I

I. Background

Grey's Anatomy is a popular fictional TV show of 22 seasons that has won 4 Primetime Emmys. The show follows the journey of five surgical interns, Dr. Meredith Grey, Dr. Izzie Stevens, Dr. George O'Malley, Dr. Cristina Yang, and Dr. Alex Karev at Seattle Grace Hospital. This committee zeroes in on a specific scandal in season two concerning the heart transplant of Denny Duquette Jr. and the ethicality of Dr. Izzie Stevens' involvement with obtaining the organ.

At 7:32 P.M. on May 14, 2006, a blood clot formed in the suture of Denny Duquette Jr. 's newly transplanted heart, resulting in a CVA with a brainstem herniation, leading to his death. Yet what might seem merely like a heart-wrenching and largely innocent death was twisted into one of Seattle Grace Hospital's most controversial cases.

Prior to his transplant, Mr. Duquette was diagnosed with viral cardiomyopathy, a rare heart condition. His left ventricle became enlarged and was unable to pump blood through the typical oxygenating cycle of the heart. It is strongly suggested that the instigator of his case of viral cardiomyopathy was Coxsackievirus B, an illness that shares symptoms with the common flu, including shortness of breath and chest pain.

For over a year under the care of Dr. Preston Burke, head of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Seattle Grace Hospital, Denny awaited a heart transplant. Surgical intern Dr. Izzie Stevens was then assigned to Denny's care, and their relationship became increasingly intimate. When Denny's condition worsened, he went through surgery and was put onto a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) to facilitate blood flow and engineer the pumping of blood through his body. Although Duquette was originally unsure if he wanted to have this surgery, Dr. Stevens was ultimately the one that convinced him to go through with it. This procedure was completed successfully as bridge-to-surgery therapy. After the implementation of the LVAD, Denny was not

able to leave the hospital until he got a heart transplant, and understood this before he went into surgery. As Dr. Stevens spent more time with Denny, she began to recognize the risks of delaying his transplant and the detrimental impact it had on both his mental and physical health.

When Denny signed a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) form, Izzie realized just how dire the circumstances were, and learned that there was a heart available at another hospital. However, Michael Norris, a patient of Mercy West Medical Center Dr. Erica Hahn, was higher on the donor priority list. Izzie realized that in order for Denny to get the heart, he had to be the priority 1A status, which he was not. While Dr. Burke was debating Dr. Hahn over which patient ought to get the heart, Dr. Stevens called Dr. Burke and fabricated a story about Denny's condition worsening. After lying to Dr. Burke concerning Denny's actual status, Izzie realized that she had to produce labs in order to match her story, and decided to slice through Denny's LVAD wire with a pair of surgical Mayo scissors. Izzie then manually pumped Denny's heart until he was able to enter surgery.

Realizing that she required assistance to try and get the results she needed, Izzie called on a few of her fellow interns: Dr. Meredith Grey, Dr. George O'Malley, and Dr. Cristina Yang. Though Dr. Stevens received some initial protest, the four interns ran an echocardiogram, an EKG, a chest x-ray, and other labs in order to make Denny's status verifiable. However, the interns lacked the experience with independently running such labs, as well as with providing care for a patient with a condition of this degree. In addition to this, Denny asked Dr. Stevens to marry him, and she hesitates to answer amidst the chaos.

Due to a complication, Dr. Erica Hahn from Mercy West Medical Center came to Seattle Grace to perform the surgery on Mr. Duquette. The transplant was successful. After the surgery, Dr. Izzie Stevens agreed to marry Denny, and all seemed well. Denny was stable in his room

post-operation, but that same night, a blood clot formed near the suture line. The blood clot broke off, traveled up to his brain, and he suffered a severe stroke. Denny Duquette Jr. died on May 14, 2006 at 7:42 PM.

II. Current Issues

This committee starts off directly after Denny Duquette's death. Currently, the actions of Dr. Stevens and other individuals involved with the scandal at Seattle Grace Hospital are being investigated—both internally and externally. As new information comes to light, two sides begin to form.

Many argue that Dr. Stevens' actions were performed unethically and in violation of codes that she took at the beginning of her medical journey. As Izzie's main goal in cutting the LVAD wire was to move Denny up in the line of patients on the heart transplant list, many critics claim that Izzie acted unfairly toward other patients awaiting organ donations. Others argue that Denny's death very well may have been avoided if Izzie had not put him in a situation that exposed him to trauma without the experienced care of a resident or practicing surgeon. To make matters more heated, stories of Izzie and Denny's romantic entanglement have begun to leak out of the hospital; rumors are starting to spread that Izzie only acted for personal benefit and failed to complete her professional duties.

And yet, some witnesses and reporters believe that what Izzie did was necessary, and that Izzie fulfilled her duty as a surgical intern: try her best to save her patient. Tabloids and reporters seem to be taking the leaked rumors in a different way, instead pushing stories that Izzie acted for true love, and hailing her as a romantic martyr.

Within Seattle Grace Hospital, staff members are split on how to treat Izzie. Some, including her close friends, have started to defend Izzie and cover for her actions, while others are furious and believe that Izzie ought to face dire consequences. Izzie is undoubtedly a gifted intern, but the question now is if her skill and past experiences are enough to save her from harsh punishment.

Outside of the hospital, the rumors of Izzie's infidelity continue to swirl restlessly, and the longer that Izzie's consequences wait to be decided, the more that the media's spotlight falls onto Seattle Grace. To make matters more intense, Seattle Grace's rival teaching hospital is ready to pounce in case Seattle Grace goes down. Mercy West Medical Center has historically competed with Seattle Grace to gain patients and staff, and there are allegations that staff at Mercy West is contributing to the rumor mill in an attempt to ruin the reputation of Seattle Grace.

III. Key Terms

Left Ventricle - The left ventricle is the main pumping chamber of the heart.

LVAD - Stands for “left ventricular assistance device.” This is a pump used to stimulate the hearts of patients who have reached the end stage of heart failure. LVADs are surgically implanted and are battery-operated. It assists the left ventricle in pumping blood to the rest of the body, and can be used as bridge-to-transplant therapy or destination therapy.

Mercy West Medical Center - The rival teaching hospital to Seattle Grace. The two hospitals constantly fight over patients and staff.

DNR - Stands for “do not resuscitate.” DNRs are legal medical orders that are set up by patients and are written by healthcare providers, stating that CPR ought not be performed if the patient’s breathing stops or if their heart stops beating. In short, DNRs stipulate that patients’ lives should not be saved if they are about to pass away.

Declaration of Geneva/Physician’s Pledge - Key clauses include “The health and well-being of my patient will be my first consideration”; and “I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice.” This pledge is not mandatory in order to practice medicine in the United States, yet many choose to take it.

American Medical Association (AMA) Code of Medical Ethics - Taken by doctors with an AMA membership. Key clauses include that “a physician shall uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and strive to report physicians deficient in character or competence, or engaging in fraud or deception, to appropriate entities.”

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) - In partnership with the US federal government, UNOS uses a digital system to create a list of individuals that are prioritized for organ donation. Relevant factors that play into who receives heart donations include medical urgency, the distance from donor to hospital and blood type.

IV. Characters

Dr. Isobel “Izzie” Stevens

Izzie Stevens is a surgical intern at Seattle Grace Hospital at the time she meets Denny. Inspired to pursue medicine by her high school biology teacher, she pays for medical school by ways of modeling, later earning her the nickname “Doctor Model.” She is romantically entangled with fellow surgical intern Alex Karev, but falls for Denny Duquette after being assigned to his care.

Dennison Duquette, Sr.

Dennison Sr. is Denny’s father and the patriarch of a very wealthy family. He became estranged from Denny after his son’s diagnosis, as Denny did not want his family to see him suffer with a lengthy and painful disease. He becomes deeply suspicious of Izzie after learning of her closeness to his son leading up to his death, confronting Izzie at a bar to try to prevent her from inheriting anything from his son. Ultimately, he agrees on giving Izzie the \$8.7 million share that Denny had set aside for her before his death.

Dr. Meredith Grey

Meredith Grey is the daughter of Thatcher Grey and Ellis Grey, the latter being a successful and famed general surgeon. Grey grew up being able to watch her mother perform surgery, and spent her teenage years dealing with her parents’ divorce and her angsty high school experience. Much later, after Meredith’s mom is put into a home for treatment for her Alzheimer’s, Meredith puts up a notice looking for roommates. It is then that some of her co-workers move in, including fellow surgical interns Izzie Stevens

and Cristina Yang. At the time of this committee, Meredith Grey is a surgical intern at Seattle Grace Hospital.

Dr. George O'Malley

George O'Malley is a fellow surgical intern at Seattle Grace Hospital. He was present when Izzie cut the LVAD wire, but failed to stop her actions or report her to higher authority. O'Malley was Izzie's main emotional support throughout the Denny incident, with O'Malley being the one to carry Izzie away from Denny's body. George O'Malley later stands up for Izzie when Chief Webber criticizes her for killing a patient.

Dr. Cristina Yang

Cristina Yang is a talented surgical intern who graduated first in her class from Stanford University. At the time of this committee, she is in a relationship with Dr. Preston Burke. Though Yang was initially hesitant to assist in Izzie's fabrication of labs, her loyalty to her friends won over and she had a role in running the tests necessary to prove the fragility of Denny's condition.

Dr. Alex Karev

Alex Karev is one of Miranda Bailey's surgical interns. Though he was not directly involved in the cutting of Denny's LVAD wire, he was knowledgeable about the unethical behavior of his fellow interns after the incident. As Denny and Izzie's relationship grows, Karev sees Denny negatively since Izzie broke up with him for Denny. Karev often referred to Denny as a "ticking time bomb" or a "dead man walking".

Dr. Richard Webber

As the Chief of Surgery for Seattle Grace Hospital, all surgeons report to the well-respected Richard Webber. Webber has spent his entire career at Seattle Grace, spanning from his internship all the way to his chiefhood. As the Chief, Webber must face the public repercussions from a professional and fair manner.

Dr. Miranda Bailey

Miranda Bailey is a resident for Seattle Grace's general surgery department with five interns: Izzie Stevens, George O'Malley, Cristina Yang, Meredith Grey, and Alex Karev, all of whom she is tough on yet fiercely defensive of. In addition, the mistakes of her interns reflect negatively on her reputation as a surgeon and a teacher.

Dr. Derek Shepherd

The Head of Neurosurgery at Seattle Grace, Dr. Shepherd is currently involved in a scandal between him, his wife Addison Montgomery-Shepherd, and Dr. Meredith Grey. He received his doctorate from Columbia University of Physicians and Surgeons and received his in-field training from presiding Chief of Surgery, Dr. Richard Webber.

Dr. Preston Burke

As the Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Seattle Grace Hospital, Dr. Burke is known as one of the best heart surgeons. He was Denny's doctor and personally witnessed the length of his treatment, however Dr. Burke had no involvement with the engineering of

labs after the LVAD wire was cut. He is in a unique situation: as Denny's doctor, he wants the best for his patient, and as a revered surgeon, he must remain ethical. At the start of the committee, Burke is recovering from a gunshot wound.

Dr. Addison Montgomery-Shepherd

Dr. Montgomery-Shepherd is the Head of OB/GYN at Seattle Grace. As the head of a surgery department, she must view Izzie's actions as a violation of medical ethics. She is married to Dr. Shepherd, Head of Neurosurgery. However, she realizes that next steps must be approached with caution especially since the reputation of Seattle Grace is on the line.

Olivia Jankovic, RN

Olivia Jankovic is a nurse at Seattle Grace Hospital. She was present when Dr. Bailey discovered the interns manually pumping Denny's heart after his separation from his LVAD. As one of the nurses who assisted Denny, post-op, Jankovic saw the hope that he got after receiving a new heart.

Dr. Callie Torres

Dr. Callie Torres is an Orthopedic Surgical Resident at Seattle Grace Hospital, meaning she often performs surgery on patients with tendon, bone, ligament, and joint conditions. Dr. Torres has recently entered a relationship with Dr. George O'Malley, and has a complicated relationship with Isobel Stevens.

Dr. Milton

Dr. Milton is an experienced attending anesthesiologist at Seattle Grace Hospital. While patients are undergoing surgery, anesthesiologists maintain basic organ function and monitor the patient's condition. Due to his occupation, he has worked in a large number of ORs with attendings, residents, and interns.

Dr. Erica Hahn

Erica Hahn is a cardiothoracic surgeon from Mercy West Medical Center who performed Denny's heart transplant. She graduated 2nd in her class at Johns Hopkins Medical School, directly behind Dr. Preston Burke. The heart that Denny eventually received was originally assigned to Michael Norris, but UNOS gave Denny the heart after his condition escalated.

Dr. Kent

Dr. Kent is a general surgeon at Mercy West Medical Center, Seattle Grace's rival teaching hospital. As a coworker to Erica Hahn, whose patient Michael Norris was supposed to receive the heart Denny was given, Kent sees Norris as the rightful recipient of the heart and is angered by Izzie's actions, which he believes were a clear violation of surgeons' principles.

Jillian Mercy

Jillian Mercy is the Chief of Surgery at Mercy West Medical Center, Seattle Grace's rival teaching hospital. She is the superior authority in charge of overseeing staff activities,

enforcing patient safety guidelines, and communicating with hospital administration.

After the outrage over Mercy West patient Michael Norris's heart being assigned to a Seattle Grace patient, she is responsible for organizing Mercy West's unified response.

Dr. Singer

Dr. Singer was Izzie Stevens' high school biology teacher. Formerly an evolutionary biologist, he became a teacher after a family emergency. Dr. Singer was the reason that Izzie chose to become a doctor. Having taught her, Dr. Singer can advocate for Izzie's kindness and genius.

Michael Norris

Michael Norris, Dr. Erica Hahn's patient, was the intended recipient of what became Denny's heart. Married to Elyse Norris, the couple have a 4 and 5-year-old. He was entered onto the UNOS donor list 17 seconds before Denny was, making Norris first on the heart donor list. It was because of this placement that Izzie decided to cut Denny's LVAD wire in order to move Duquette from the 2nd to the 1st spot.

Robbie Stevens

Growing up, Dr. Izzie Stevens' relationship with her mother, Robbie Stevens, was tense. It was as a result of her mother's extravagant spending that Dr. Stevens had to take on her modeling gig and a waitressing job in order to pay off her own medical school debt. During this, the hard work that her daughter committed became apparent to Robbie

Stevens. Despite their current relationship, Robbie Stevens desperately hopes to make amends with her daughter.

Elyse Norris

Elyse Norris is the spouse of Michael Norris. She is incredibly close to her husband and continually visits him in the hospital to check on his condition. Although she is not well-versed in the medical world, she will do anything in her power to ensure that her husband receives the proper care. After receiving news about another patient taking the heart assigned to her husband, she is outraged and demands justice.

Peter Hutchinson (*KOYF 8*)

KOYF 8 is a fictional news channel that is part of the Grey's Anatomy universe. In this committee, reporter Peter Hutchinson works for KOYF 8 and remains neutral on the Denny Duquette incident, believing that only the truth should be reported on, without any bias. Hutchinson is working on reporting the true story of what happened on May 14, and is focusing centrally on uncovering the rumored romance between Izzie Stevens and Denny Duquette before his death.

Rebecca Nicholson (*Seattle Times*)

The Seattle Times is a real-world newspaper company that is part of the Grey's Anatomy universe. In this committee, reporter Rebecca Nicholson works for the Seattle Times and is part of the media shaming Dr. Stevens for the Denny Duquette Incident. Nicholson has

written numerous articles smearing Seattle Grace Hospital and insisting that Dr. Stevens ought to have her medical license taken.

Brett Harrington

As the Interim CEO of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), Brett Harrington has a responsibility to uphold the legality and the morality of the heart donation system.

As the nationwide system managing organ harvesting and transport, it is of utmost importance that UNOS investigates Izzie's actions in depth and ensures that they were in compliance with UNOS rules.

Hannah Murphy (*The Stranger*)

Hannah Murphy is the editor-in-chief of *The Stranger*, a real-life newspaper in Seattle.

She is responsible for organizing and discovering the newest and hottest gossip stories of Seattle. *The Stranger* specializes on opinion pieces, which do not have to conform with all typical journalistic ethics. A scandal piece about a large teaching hospital would generate a sizable profit for the newspaper.

V. Questions to Consider

1. Should caring for patients be stopped when it toes the line of the law?
2. Do hospitals have the obligation to protect their employees when coming under fire?
3. How does HIPAA and other healthcare legalities come into play?
4. How should news agencies and media conduct themselves when reporting on sensitive, confidential scandals?

Works Cited

- "AMA Principles of Medical Ethics." *AMA Code of Medical Ethics*,
code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/principles.
- "American Board of Anesthesiology." *American Board of Medical Specialities*,
www.abms.org/board/american-board-of-anesthesiology/.
- "Denny Duquette, Jr." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Denny_Duquette,_Jr.
- "Derek Shepherd." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Derek_Shepherd#Early_Life.
- "Dilated Cardiomyopathy." *YouTube*, uploaded by HippocraTV, 23 Apr. 2016,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=etYLdPKgh9s&t=2s.
- "Do-not-resuscitate Order." *Medline Plus*, medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000473.htm.
- "Dr. Singer." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Dr._Singer.
- "How We Match Organs." *UNOS*, unos.org/transplant/how-we-match-organs/.
- "An Inconvenient Truth." *The Truth About Nursing*,
www.truthaboutnursing.org/news/2006/may/15_greys.html#gsc.tab=0.
- "Izzie Stevens." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Izzie_Stevens.
- "Left Ventricular Device (LVAD)." *Stanford Medicine Healthcare*,
stanfordhealthcare.org/medical-treatments/l/lvad.html.
- "Mercy West Medical Center." *Fandom*,
greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Mercy_West_Medical_Center.
- "Meredith's House." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Meredith%27s_House.
- "Meredith Grey." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Meredith_Grey.
- "Michael Norris." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Michael_Norris.
- "Miranda Bailey." *Wikipedia*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miranda_Bailey.

"Olivia Jankovic." *Fandom*, greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Olivia_Jankovic#Denny_Duquette.

"Orthopedic Surgery." *UCSF Health*, www.ucsfhealth.org/care/services/orthopedic-surgery.

"Viral Cardiomyopathy: A Review of Clinical Status and Meta-Analysis of Diagnosis and Clinical Management." *Open Access Text*, 26 Apr. 2019, www.oatext.com/viral-cardiomyopathy-a-review-of-clinical-status-and-meta-analysis-of-diagnosis-and-clinical-management.php.

"WMA Declaration of Geneva." *World Medical Association*, www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-geneva/.