

September 18, 2019

## PPA Meeting

Speaker: Ralph Abalo

Perfusionist

### Description:

Due to the nature of the cardiac surgery, the surgeon needs to work on a still heart, and it is necessary to temporarily replace the patient's circulatory and respiratory function. It is the responsibility of the perfusionist, a specialized healthcare professional, to assume the function of the heart and/or lungs during these medical procedures. Operating the Heart-Lung Machine, a perfusionist spends 90% of their time in the OR suite but their role is beginning to be associated with the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CIVICU).

### Education:

4-6 years

### Programs in the Midwest:

Rush University Perfusion Program, Chicago, Illinois

University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics Perfusion Technology Program, Iowa City, Iowa

Vanderbilt University Medical Center Perfusion Program, Nashville, Tennessee

Milwaukee School of Engineering Perfusion Program, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

University of Nebraska Medical Center Perfusion Program, Omaha, Nebraska

Cleveland Clinic Foundation School of Perfusion, Cleveland, Ohio

Average Salary: 65,000 – 135,000 --- (The typical salary is going to be much higher today due to the lack of Perfusionists. At the time of Ralph's presentation, there were over 100 job openings in the U.S. for Perfusionists. Ralph's comment was "I just had to name my price ... " tjp)

Outlook: strongly positive

Jawaun Valentine, PPA Secretary