

## **AOS, INC.-Alabama Orthopaedic Society**

### **Higher Performing Physicians Tend to Learn from Both Success and Failure** **January, 2012**

Higher performing physicians achieve better outcomes by attending to informative failures during training, rather than chasing the reward value of successes, according to a study published online in the journal *PLoS One*. The authors conducted functional magnetic resonance imaging tests on 35 experienced physicians as they learned to choose between two treatments in a series of virtual patient encounters. Higher performers showed small, but equal learning rates for both successes and failures, while low performers showed very large and asymmetric learning rates, learning significantly more from successes than failures—a tendency that led to sub-optimal treatment choices.

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