Here is a primer on some of the surgical instruments you will be using during the semester:

**Hemostatic forceps (ring forceps):** Hinged (locking) Forceps. Many hemostatic forceps bear the name of the designer (Kelly, Holstead, Crile). They are used to clamp and hold blood vessels.

**Classification by size and shape and size of tips**

- Hemostatic forceps (hemostats) may be curved or straight.

**Kelly Hemostatic Forceps and Mosquito Hemostats**

- Both are transversely serrated.
- Mosquito hemostats (A) are more delicate than Kelly hemostatic forceps (B).

**Comparison of Kelly and Mosquito tips**

- Mosquito hemostats (A) have a smaller, finer tip.
**Thumb Forceps:** consist of two tines held together at one end with a spring device that holds the tines open. Forceps can be either tissue or dressing forceps. Dressing forceps have smooth or smoothly serrated tips. Tissue forceps have teeth to grip tissue. Many forceps bear the name of the originator of the design, such as Adson tissue forceps.

**Rat Tooth: A Tissue Forceps**

- Interdigitating teeth hold tissue without slipping.
- Used to hold skin/dense tissue.

**Adson Tissue Forceps**

- Small serrated teeth on edge of tips.
- The Adsons tissue forceps has delicate serrated tips designed for light, careful handling of tissue.

**Allis: An Intestinal Tissue Forceps**

- Interdigitating short teeth to grasp and hold bowel or tissue.
- Slightly traumatic, use to hold intestine, fascia and skin.
Handling of Scissors, Hemostats, and Scalpel:

- The thumb and ring finger are inserted into the rings of the scissors while the index and middle finger are used to guide the instrument.

- The instrument should remain at the tips of the fingers for maximum control.

- This is the **wrong** way to hold the scissors. The ring finger should be inserted into the ring.

- This is also the **wrong** way to hold the scissors. The tips of the scissors should be pointing upwards.
Thumb Forceps:

- Thumb forceps are held like a pencil.
- Thumb Forceps are **not** called 'tweezers'.
- Thumb Forceps are **not** held like a knife.

Scalpels:

- The scalpel is held with thumb, middle and ring finger while the index finger is placed on the upper edge to help guide the scalpel.
- Long gentle cutting strokes are less traumatic to tissue than short chopping motions.
The scalpel should never be used in a "stabbing" motion.

Senn Retractor

- Blades at each end.
- Blades can be blunt (delicate) or sharp (more traumatic, used for fascia).