

Chapter news

by Rhonda Peebles, Chapter Services Manager, Division of Member Services

To report your chapter's news or to share photos of your chapter's events, please contact Rhonda Peebles toll-free at 888/857-7545 or via e-mail at rpeebles@facs.org.

Maine meeting focuses on practice management

Members of the Maine Chapter met June 4-6 to examine various topics related to practice management. The first day of the education program, which was planned by William R. Horner, MD, FACS, Immediate Past-President, focused on coding and financial issues, and the following day included an examination of models for data collection to measure outcomes. Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, ACS Executive Director, updated the chapter on the College's involvement with the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.

Ohio meeting centers on advocacy

The Ohio Chapter's annual meeting, which took place May 4-5, followed a new format and focused on advocacy activities. After briefings on state legislation by ACS staff and the Ohio Chapter's lobbyist, Dan Jones, chapter members headed to their state capitol in Columbus to meet with legislators and their staff. The first day of events concluded with a reception that many state legislators attended. On the second day of the meeting, the Ohio Chapter awarded its Distinguished Service Award to D. Ross Irons, MD, FACS, who has served the chapter in many leadership capacities over the years (see photo, top right).

Sessions during the annual meeting addressed several topics of importance to Ohio Fellows, including:

- The results of a survey of Ohio Fellows showing that some surgeons are partnering with hospitals to help address concerns related to professional liability insurance.
- An update on the chapter's political action committee, which has received contributions to-



Ohio Chapter: Michael S. Nussbaum, MD, FACS (left), presents the chapter's Distinguished Service award to Dr. Irons.



Brooklyn & Long Island Chapter, left to right: Michael O. Bernstein, MD, FACS, Vice-President; Robert F. D'Esposito, MD, FACS, President; Dr. Organ; and James W. Turner, MD, FACS, Secretary-Treasurer.

taling more than \$14,000 during its first year of operation.

- Plans to conduct a study to examine the extent to which surgical residents leave the state after training.
- Endorsement of a protocol to ensure correct site surgery, which was developed by the Ohio Patient Safety Institute.
- Election of the following new officers: Michael

E. Stark, MD, FACS, President; Gary B. Williams, MD, FACS, President-Elect; and John A. Howington, MD, FACS, Secretary.

Brooklyn-Long Island conducts young surgeons' dinner

The Brooklyn-Long Island Chapter conducted its 32nd Young Surgeons' Dinner, which was held in conjunction with the chapter's 2004 annual meeting. Claude H. Organ, Jr., MD, FACS, ACS President, represented the College at the event (see photo, opposite page).

Chapter anniversaries

Month	Chapter	Years
July	Southwest Missouri	52
	New Jersey	53
	Keystone (PA)	52
	West Virginia	54
August	Georgia	54
	Hawaii	53
	Illinois	54
	Brooklyn-Long Island, NY	54
	Northwest Pennsylvania	54
	Rhode Island	52

New York continues advocacy agenda

In May, the New York Chapter wrote to Gov. George Pataki (R), urging him to apply for a 2005 grant from the hospital preparedness program to support the state's trauma system and registry. Then in June, the chapter convened a group of program directors to hear presentations from the New York State Department of Health and Regulations, and from the New York State Council on Graduate Medical Education. John D. Nicholson, MD, FACS, the Immediate Past-President of the chapter, noted that this new Program Directors Committee would provide opportunities to frame problems related to work-hour restrictions and to work on solutions together.

Finally, the New York Chapter is conducting a survey related to premiums for professional liability insurance. The survey is a joint effort sponsored

Education activities strengthen surgery in the Dakotas

by Mark O. Jensen, MD, FACS, Fargo, ND

The education programs presented jointly by the North Dakota Chapter and South Dakota Chapter of the College have helped to strengthen surgery in both states by:

- Analyzing what local surgeons are doing in their ORs. Despite grand rounds and morbidity and mortality conferences, the procedures being performed locally and regionally may surprise some surgeons and will define their communities' "standards of care."
- Providing a venue for community surgeons and academic surgeons to report on unique aspects of their practices. Surgeons in private practice often lead the way in technology applications and new procedures.
- Mentoring residents and medical students. Since the North Dakota Chapter began to focus its activities on these two groups of young surgeons, the University of North Dakota has increased its match rate in surgery and other surgical specialties by 30 percent.

by several statewide medical and surgical professional societies representing ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopaedic surgery, thoracic surgery, emergency medicine, and internal medicine, as well as the Medical Society of the State of New York. For more information on the survey, or to participate, contact the New York Chapter at 518/433-0397.

Dakota chapters unite

The North Dakota and the South Dakota Chapters met April 30-May 2. These two chapters have been meeting jointly and sharing education program planning responsibilities since 1997. This year, Keith Lillemoe, MD, FACS, served as the visiting professor, and during the joint social event, Miles E. Tieszen, MD, FACS, delivered a stunning presentation on his experiences in Iraq. In addition, the South Dakota Chapter recognized several

Past-Presidents (all Fellows of the College): Samir Abu-Ghazaleh, Terry Alstiel, Mary Milroy, Gary Timmerman, Peter Andreone, Edward J. S. Picardi, Gregg Tobin, and Greg Schultz.

Illinois contributes to PAC

Subsequent to the 2004 Leadership Conference, which was held May 16-18, in Washington, DC,

the Illinois Chapter contributed \$2,500 to the American College of Surgeons Professional Association's SurgeonsPAC (political action committee). Under the leadership of Lorin D. Whittaker, Jr., MD, FACS, Immediate Past-President, the Illinois Chapter is the first to make such a contribution. Additionally, the Illinois Chapter became a Life Member of the Fellows Leadership Society in 2003.

Next month in *JACS*

The September issue of the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* will feature:

Original Scientific Articles

- New Transanal Excision for Rectal Tumors
- Open vs. Closed Sphincterotomy for Anal Fissure
- Fatalities Associated with Surgical Staplers

Collective Review

- Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation

What's New in Surgery

- General Surgery: Endocrine Surgery
- Urology

