

# Chapter news

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

To report your chapter's news, contact Rhonda Peebles toll-free at 888/857-7545, or via e-mail at [rpeebles@facs.org](mailto:rpeebles@facs.org).

## San Diego Chapter honors Dr. Sanchez

At its 2002 Spring Meeting, which took place April 15, H. R. Bohman, MD, FACS, President of the San Diego Chapter, presented the chapter's first Meritorious Service Award to Edward R. Sanchez, MD, FACS (see photo, right). The award recognizes Dr. Sanchez's many years of service and leadership to the chapter and the College. In addition to serving as a chapter officer, Dr. Sanchez also served as a Governor for the chapter and on the California Medical Association's council on legislation.

After the award presentation, Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, ACS Executive Director, provided the chapter members with an update on College activities.



San Diego Chapter: Dr. Sanchez (left) receives his chapter's Meritorious Service Award from Dr. Bohman.

## Tracking state legislation

The American College of Surgeons has gone "live" on its Web site with a page devoted to state legislative issues. As reported last January, Fellows and College chapters may keep track of proposed state legislation and regulations via this page's database at <http://www.facs.org/dept/hpa/state.html>. The data bank includes the dates of a state's legislative session, a link to each state legislature's Web site, and bills and regulations of particular interest to surgeons. Users may access this information by state, issue, word (text search), or date of last update.

This database is a work in progress, and some states may have very few listings because of slower regulatory/legislative processes or just-released actions currently under consideration. For more information or assistance with this new service, contact Jon Sutton, State Affairs Associate in the Division of Advocacy and Health Policy, at 312/202-5358, or via e-mail at [jsutton@facs.org](mailto:jsutton@facs.org).

## Fewer chapters have AWS reps

Nearly five years ago, the Governors' Committee on Chapter Activities recommended that U.S. chapters include a representative of the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) on their chapter councils. The Governors reasoned that AWS representatives would be helpful in identifying women surgeons who could serve on committees, as chapter leaders, or as faculty at education programs. In 2000, AWS representatives served on 28 chapter councils. As of April 2002, however, that number declined to 19. Currently, the chapters that have AWS representation include: Connecticut, Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana-Wyoming, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Western New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Central Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, North Texas, South Texas, and Washington State.

For more information about the benefits of having an AWS representative on your chapter council or to identify an AWS member for your chapter, please contact the Association of Women Surgeons at 414 Plaza Dr., Ste. 209, Westmont, IL 60559; tel. 630/655-0392, fax 630/655-0391, or e-mail [info@womensurgeons.org](mailto:info@womensurgeons.org).

## Chapter anniversaries

Month	Chapter	Years
May	Colorado	45
	Maryland	45
June	Alberta, Canada	12
	Arkansas	27
	Connecticut	35
	Metropolitan Washington (DC)	28

Month	Chapter	Years
June (contd.)	Ecuador	35
	Germany	12
	Greece	16
	Idaho	52
	Ireland	19
	Israel	5
	Maine	51
	Mexico—Northeast	27
	Mexico—Nor-Occidental	31
	Minnesota	31
	New Mexico	17
	Upstate New York	36
	Western New York	47
	North Dakota	46
	Oregon	37
	Philippines	31
	Spain	19
Wisconsin	31	

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surgical procedures is down, malpractice premiums are up, and the ability to care for one's patients without constant interference from managed care organizations has sapped much of the joy out of patient care. The biomedical research arena is one of the few areas that can boast increased funding. The NIH has experienced budget increases from \$17.8 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2000 to \$20.3 billion in FY 2001, with a recommended FY 2002 budget of \$23.7 billion. This represents increases of 14 percent and 16.5 percent. Veterans Affairs research, similarly, has increased from \$321 million in FY 2000 to \$350 million in FY 2001, with a recommended FY 2002 budget of \$395 million. These figures represent increases of 9.1 percent and 12.8 percent respectively. There is financial benefit in the pursuit of scientific questions.

### ***Surgeon involvement necessary***

Finally, we do not want to yield control of surgical research to nonsurgically trained investigators. We must continue to develop and support our own

surgical investigators. Who better to answer the pressing questions on the cutting edge of surgical care? If residencies forsake research as a valuable part of training surgeons, then we relinquish another bit of control, and sacrifice the opportunity to shape the careers of specific individuals and the future face of surgery.

All of these goals, including research exposure in a streamlined general surgery residency paradigm, can be accomplished without negatively affecting residency training. It is, in fact, part of our program requirement to encourage residents in their pursuit of scientific inquiry. We must take this charge seriously. It is from our current pool of residents that the future Regents and Directors of the College will be chosen. The goals of surgical training—to produce safe, conscientious, technically superior surgeons with well-developed interpersonal and critical thinking skills—can be accomplished in a timely fashion without sacrificing the pursuit of scientific endeavors. Scientific inquiry should, in fact, must, remain an integral part of surgical training. □