

Chapter news

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.

New York Chapter seeks to restore trauma funding

William H. Marx, DO, FACS, of the New York Chapter, met with representatives of Gov. George Pataki's office in July to discuss the New York Trauma System and Registry. Funding for the trauma system was reduced from \$3 million to \$500,000 in the 2001-2002 state budget. According to Dr. Marx, the trauma system will further decline if funding is not restored quickly. Dr. Marx intends to work on this issue with the Governor's office until a meaningful solution to the problem is found.

Dr. Jones attends Brooklyn-Long Island annual meeting

In early June, the College's President, R. Scott Jones, MD, FACS, attended the annual business meeting of the Brooklyn-Long Island (NY) Chapter (see photo, this page). He updated the chapter members on current College activities.

Florida Chapter honors Dr. Gage

The Florida Chapter presented The Raymond H. Alexander, MD, Award to John O. Gage, MD, FACS, last June. The chapter presents this award to recognize outstanding dedication and service to the medical profession in the field of surgery as exemplified by the devoted and unselfish Dr. Alexander.

Dr. Gage has been a member of the Florida Committee on Trauma since 1981 and is a former chapter officer and ACS Governor. In addition to his leadership activities at the chapter level, Dr. Gage currently serves as Secretary of the College and chairs the ACS General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee.



Brooklyn-Long Island Chapter (left to right): Robert F. D'Esposito, MD, FACS, Secretary; Richard W. Golub, MD, FACS, President-Elect; Anthony Tortolani, MD, FACS, President; and Dr. Jones.

Colorado Chapter hosts competition for residents

During its June 6-8 annual meeting in Breckenridge, the Colorado Chapter hosted a paper competition for residents. The winners included:

First place: C.C. Cothren, MD,* Characteristic Radiographic Findings of Post-Injury Splenic Autotransplantation: Avoiding a Diagnostic Dilemma.

Second place: K. Barsmess, MD,* Hemorrhagic Shock Activates the Endotoxin Receptor.

Third Place: C. Raeburn, MD,* Clinical Accessible Mediators of Sepsis-Induced Cardiac Dysfunction.

Chapter performance benchmarks under review

The Governors Committee on Chapter Activities is reviewing its "best practices" for chapters, which

*Denotes participant in the Candidate Group.

were devised a few years ago. The current best practices include:

1. Chapter meetings are held for the chapter only, or, at most, with state-level surgical societies.

2. Important aspects of successful chapter meetings include: (1) the involvement of surgical residents in the program; (2) presentations on cancer and trauma; and (3) surgical subspecialty program presentations.

3. Special invited scientific speakers, residents paper competitions, and continuing medical education accreditation are important aspects that "draw" Candidates and Fellows to chapter meetings.

4. Strong chapters place greater importance on initiatives for women surgeons and minorities, especially in meeting and program design. This emphasis on diversity results in better participation in chapter activities among Fellows, Associate Fellows, and Candidate Group participants.

5. Accredited continuing medical education is very important.

6. Chapter executive councils meet more than once per year.

7. The chapter should have active committees, programs, or initiatives in cancer, trauma, young surgeons, membership, continuing education, and socioeconomic and legislative issues.

8. Computers and newsletters are used frequently or extensively as a means to facilitate communications.

New Jersey Chapter conducts liability premium survey

In response to a request from the Chapter's Hospital Liaison Representatives, the New Jersey Chapter surveyed members regarding premiums for professional liability insurance. In all, 332 questionnaires were returned, and the responses indicated that: (1) average insurance premiums for general surgeons were \$31,000 per year; (2) average premiums for vascular surgeons were \$40,300 per year; and (3) average premiums for vascular surgeons were \$36,600 per year.

For more information about the New Jersey Chapter liability premium survey, contact Art Ellenberger, Executive Director, at 973/239-2826.

Chapter anniversaries

Month	Chapter	Years
October	Alabama	51
	Belgium	3
	San Diego (California)	29
	Manitoba (Canada)	46
	Colombia	37
	Jacksonville (Florida)	45
	France	15
	Delaware	45
	Hong Kong	7
	India	9
	Kansas	51
	Jamaica	10
	Japan	15
	Federal District (Mexico)	42
	North Carolina	46
	Ohio	46
	Panama	5
	Metropolitan Philadelphia	16
	Saudi Arabia	11
South Carolina	52	
Switzerland	3	
Tennessee	50	
North Texas	32	
South Texas	32	
Thailand	5	
Utah	51	
Virginia	37	
Venezuela	36	
Vermont	52	