

Chapter news

by Rhonda Peebles, Division of Member Services

To report your chapter's news, contact Rhonda Peebles at 888/857-7545, or via e-mail at rpeebles@facs.org.

Nebraska contributes to mentoring program for first-year med students

In response to a request from the medical school at the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska Chapter surveyed its members and identified eight rural surgery sites where first-year medical students can have a practice rotation. According to Chapter President Ronald L. Ernst, MD, FACS, in the past, medical students were required to obtain a three-week, rural "experience" with a family practice rotation. Now the first-year medical students will have the option of completing a rural surgery rotation. Thus far, the new mentoring has been well received by the medical students, and approximately 35 medical students have signed up for the rotation. For more information, contact Dr. Ernst at 402/564-5333, or via e-mail at ronernst@neb.rr.com.

Ohio Chapter seeking volunteers

Gary B. Williams, MD, FACS, Chapter President, is seeking volunteers to serve on various chapter-level committees, including Bylaws, Carrier Advisory Representative, Cancer, Communications, Community Hospital, Delegate (and Alternate) to Ohio State Medical Association, Distinguished Service Award, Health Policy and Advocacy, Medical Education/Program, Membership, Resident Education, Resident Essay Contest, Trauma, Young Surgeons, and Association of Women Surgeons Representative.

In addition, the Ohio Chapter will begin implementing its grassroots/advocacy plan, the "KeyMD" program, which is designed to further enhance the relationships of surgeons and the Ohio Chapter with the Ohio General Assembly.

To volunteer for the KeyMD program, or to obtain a committee assignment, contact the executive office at 877/677-3227, or via e-mail at ocacs@ohiofacs.org.



South Florida Chapter: Drs. Cole and Carneiro.



Brooklyn-Long Island Chapter, left to right: Dr. Turner; Dr. Anderson; Robert F. D'Esposito, MD, FACS, Immediate Past-President; and Dr. Bernstein.

South Florida meets during ACS Spring Meeting

During the ACS Spring Meeting in Hollywood, FL, the South Florida Chapter conducted its 16th Surgical Research Forum on April 18. In all, 13 residents and medical students presented, and cash awards for first, second, and third places were given in two research categories: clinical

and surgical. The first-place winners were Denise M. Carneiro, MD, and Patrick Cole, MD (see photo, page 54).

Brooklyn-Long Island hosts ACS President-Elect and Young Surgeons

On June 2, the Brooklyn-Long Island Chapter conducted its annual Young Surgeons Dinner, and Kathryn D. Anderson, MD, FACS, the College's President-Elect, addressed the group. In addition to the social event, an annual business meeting was conducted and new officers were elected, including Michael O. Bernstein, MD, FACS, President; James W. Turner, MD, FACS, Vice-President; and Charles V. Coren, MD, FACS, Secretary (see photo, page 54).

Virginia focuses on rural surgery

The Virginia Chapter recently completed a rural surgery survey to examine rural surgical services and education needs in Virginia. Noteworthy findings from the 37 survey respondents included the following:

- More than half the respondents practiced in towns with fewer than 30,000 residents.
- For more than one-half of the respondents, two or three general surgeons practice within the same community.
- More than 60 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the amount of on-call coverage they provided.
- On average, nearly three-fourths of the respondents were on-call six to 15 nights per month, and more than 80 percent were able to arrange for

Chapter meetings

For a complete listing of all of the ACS chapter education programs and meetings, please visit the ACS Web site at <http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/index.html>.

(CS) following the chapter name indicates a program cosponsored with the College for Category 1 CME credit.

November		
Date	Chapter	Location/contact information
Nov. 2	Delaware	Location: Bowman Center, Newark, DE Contact: Barbara Coons, 302/658-7596
Nov. 2	Connecticut (CS)	Location: Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Meriden, CT Contact: Christopher Tasik, 203/674-0747
Nov. 19	Massachusetts (CS)	Location: Dedham Hilton Hotel, Dedham, MA Contact: Aurelie Alger, JD, 978/927-8330
Nov. 26	Manitoba (CS)	Location: Theatre "C" Basic Science Building, Winnipeg, MB Contact: Lawrence Tan, MD, FACS, 204/787-3791
December		
Dec. 3	New Jersey (CS)	Location: Westin Princeton Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ Contact: Art Ellenberger, 973/239-2826
Dec. 7	Brooklyn-Long Island (CS)	Location: Long Island Marriott, Uniondale, NY Contact: Teresa Barzyz, 516/741-3887
January		
Jan. 20	South Florida (CS)	Location: Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Resort & Marina Contact: Bill Bouck, 305/687-1367
Jan. 20-22	Southern California (CS)	Location: Four Seasons Biltmore, Santa Barbara, CA Contact: C. James Dowden, 323/937-5514
Jan. 21-22	Louisiana (CS)	Location: Ritz Carlton-New Orleans, New Orleans, LA Contact: Janna Pecquet, 504/569-9516

coverage when pursuing educational and vacation activities.

- In response to a query concerning education needs, slightly more than 80 percent of the respondents indicated they needed “on-site proctor for training in new procedures.”

- More than half the respondents believed that specialty coverage was inadequate; the specialties most lacking were plastic surgery, urology, and vascular surgery.

For more information about the Virginia Chapter’s Rural Surgery Survey, contact Susan McConnell, Executive Director, at 804/643-6631, or via e-mail at smcconnell@ramdocs.org.

October chapter anniversaries

Chapter	Years
Alabama	54
Belgium	6
San Diego (California)	32
Manitoba (Canada)	49
Colombia	39
Delaware	48
Jacksonville (Florida)	48
France	18
Hong Kong	10
India	12
Jamaica	13
Japan	18
Kansas	54

Chapter	Years
Federal District (Mexico)	45
North Carolina	49
Ohio	50
Panama	8
Metropolitan Philadelphia	19
Saudi Arabia	14
South Carolina	55
Switzerland	6
Tennessee	53
North Texas	35
South Texas	35
Thailand	8
Utah	54
Venezuela	39
Vermont	55
Virginia	40

Clarification

The Chapter News column in the August *Bulletin* contained a story (page 47) regarding Philip T. Siegert, MD, FACS, and his work with the College as it updated its standards for office-based and ambulatory surgical facilities. In addition to Dr. Siegert, the following individuals were responsible for the revisions enacted through the efforts of the Committee on Ambulatory Surgical Care of the ACS Board of Governors (all MD, FACS): James W. Large; Peter F. Noyes; Alan Sugar; and Ronald B. Berggren, Chair.

PREVENTION OF RETAINED FOREIGN BODIES, from page 14

The future

Eventually, technological advances in instrument and sponge detection, such as scanners or handheld detectors, may make it easy to account for surgical tools without cumbersome counting procedures. The task of improving patient safety is an exceptional platform for emerging new technologies. There are many companies in various stages of development with innovations to make the surgeon’s job safer. The incorporation of new technology that can facilitate accounting of surgical tools (such as bar-coding instruments or detection systems for sponges including radio-frequency identification and electronic surveillance systems) should be

evaluated and considered for adoption as they become available.

Summary

The goal of this surgical patient initiative is to bring the incidence of retained foreign bodies after surgery to zero. The College encourages every Fellow to adopt the recommendations provided in the ACS Statement on the Prevention of Retained Foreign Bodies after Surgery (see page 15) and to move forward to refine policies and processes of care. With effective perioperative care systems, the surgical patient can be assured that there will be “NoThing Left Behind.” [Q](#)