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# **Mentoring Program**

**Connecticut Chapter of the  
American College of Surgeons, Inc.**

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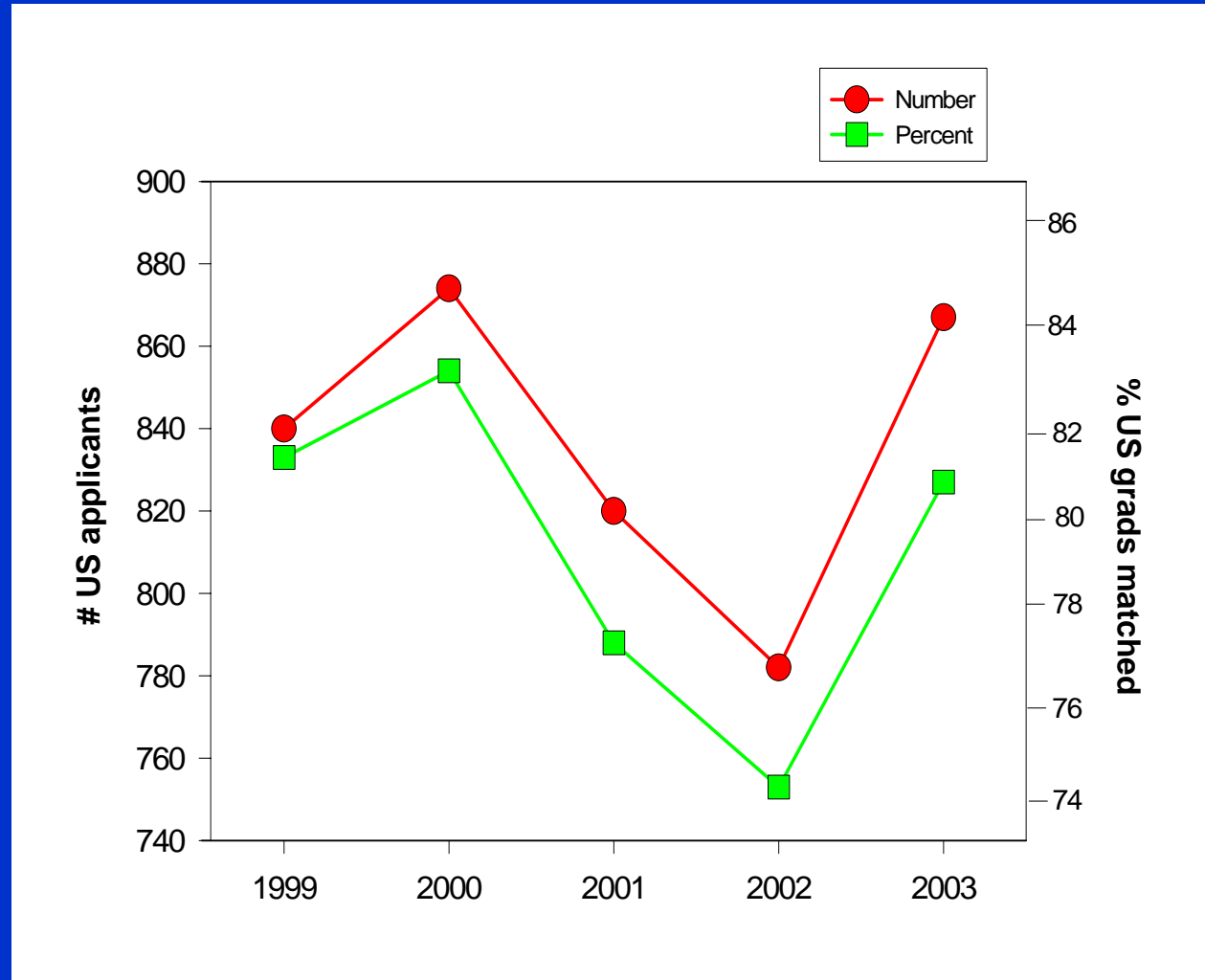
# MENTOR PROGRAM

- Piloted in 2003
- Response to the dramatic decrease in medical students choosing general surgery as their career
- Gives first and second year medical students first hand exposure to surgeons in practice

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# APPLICANTS vs GRADS MATCHED

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# 1999 STEPS ? FORWARD

1. Insinuate surgeons in years I and II
2. Volunteer for exposure to I & II, counselors, welcoming events, etc.
3. Encourage surgery research summers
4. Workforce issues in positive light
5. III year lifestyle exposure
6. Pay attention to basic curriculum
7. Surgery clubs for I & II

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# THE 2003 PILOT

In the Spring of 2003:

- 10** First and Second year University of Connecticut Medical Students  
**were mentored by**
- 3** Surgeons in private practice
- 1** Surgeon at Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- 1** Surgeon at the University of Connecticut Medical School

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# THE 2004 EXPERIENCE

- 13 First and Second year University of Connecticut Medical Students  
**were mentored by**
- 7 Surgeons in private practice
- 1 Surgeon at Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- 1 Surgeon at the University of Connecticut Medical School

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## INCREASED DIVERSITY OF SURGEONS PARTICIPATING IN 2004

Broad geographic distribution across the state:

- 2 Rural general surgeons
- 2 Suburban general surgeons
- 1 Inner city general surgeon
- 1 Hand surgeon
- 1 Pediatric surgeons
- 1 General surgeon in Martha's Vineyard
- 1 University general surgeon at University of Connecticut Medical School



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# STUDENT'S RESPONSE

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“Shadowing a general surgeon not only gave me an introduction to the field of surgery, but let me glimpse the daily life of a surgeon. These are both invaluable to any junior medical student possibly interested in surgery.....The uniqueness of the ACS program is that it gives interested students a structured way to find shadowing experiences. I feel that the program should definitely be continued next year.....My only thoughts on improving the program are to recruit more surgeons willing to accept junior medical students.”

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# STUDENT'S RESPONSE

A second student who has been considering oncology as a career found her experience shadowing a general surgeon has given her pause to now consider general surgery instead. She will be continuing to shadow and meet with women surgical faculty and residents to further explore her choices.

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# MENTORS RESPONSE

“I found working with these students a very pleasant and fulfilling experience, and would certainly be happy to do it again in the future.”

“My partners and I have really enjoyed having medical students with us this past year. All of us agree that their presence has a positive influence on us. Having students with you definitely makes you focus on the positive, medical aspect of your practice (as opposed to concerns about malpractice insurance, credentialing, etc) .....Overall, sharing our time and expertise with the students is a benefit to both the students and the physicians. We look forward to more interactions with the medical students.”

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# A WIN-WIN FOR ALL INVOLVED

- Medical students have a broader opportunity to look at options earlier in their careers
- Participating surgeons are reminded of the positive aspects of their careers by mentoring students

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# NEXT STEPS – 2005 PROGRAM

1. Recruit more surgeons
2. Continue to introduce the program to medical students in their first year
3. Engage Yale Medical School students to discuss their interest (with need of private practicing surgeons in the New Haven area)

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**INTERESTED?**

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**or**

**860-679-2290**

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