



# Benefits of ACS membership to specialty surgeons

by  
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**M**any of you know that the theme for my year as President of the American College of Surgeons has been one of unity in surgery. As the fifth neurosurgeon to become President of this marvelous organization, I am particularly sensitive to the issues of surgical specialty representation within the College. While we are all proud of the expertise that exists in the various specialties and subspecialties, we must remember that we all have similar roots in general surgery. We acknowledge our debt to the discipline of surgery, its basic concepts, techniques, and rewards, and the common infrastructure of surgical science. Currently we enjoy an atmosphere of collegiality and teamwork, which are essential aspects of successful operative procedures and successful patient care. We all share a focus on the patient and the inspiring challenge of confronting and correcting disease.

The American College of Surgeons provides a collegial forum in which to share goals and frustrations. It offers support for medical students, interns, and residents in every area of surgery. The College's list of benefits, accomplishments, and resources is lengthy, but I would like to highlight certain aspects of access to the College for

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young surgeons and resources that exist in the College for all of surgery, including the specialties.

### **Access for young surgeons**

- Medical Student Program at the Clinical Congress.
- Resident Membership and Associate Fellow Membership in the ACS.
- Local representation in ACS chapters.
- Organizational representation through the young surgeons and the ACS Governors who represent all specialties in surgery.
- Participation in the Surgical Forum.
- Attendance at the Clinical Congress, Spring Meeting, and ACS courses in practice management, surgical techniques, surgical education, leadership, clinical trials, and Advanced Trauma Life Support.<sup>®</sup>
- Self-assessment and continuing education opportunities, exemplified by the Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program, the Clinical Congress, and the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.
- Multispecialty aspects of the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* and the *ACS Bulletin*.
- ACS Web site and upcoming Web portal.
- Participation in the development of evidence-based surgery, patient safety initiatives, and quality and outcome improvement programs.

### **ACS resources**

- Local, state, and federal advocacy activities mediated by the Washington Office and the American College of Surgeons Professional Association and the chapters.
- Verification and standard-setting activities, including cancer programs and the National Cancer Database; trauma programs and the National Trauma Data Bank<sup>™</sup>; and the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group for clinical trials in the treatment of surgical oncological disease.
- American College of Surgeons publications.
- Public relations programs of the American College of Surgeons.
- Scholarships and fellowships for residents and young surgeons.

It is evident that the American College of Surgeons works diligently and with great vigor to provide young surgeons with a large variety of career development opportunities. We hope young surgeons appreciate these activities and become involved in them for the advancement of patient care and for enhancement of the goals of surgery for all of us who practice the art and science of our challenging discipline. 

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