



by Thomas R. Gadacz, MD, FACS

The 2007 Board of Governors' Committee on Socioeconomic Issues has 38 members, including four ex-officio members. A recent change has been made to the terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair, allowing for renewal. This adjustment should help to maintain the continuity of the activities of the committee.

The ex-officio members include Chairs of the Health Policy Steering Committee, General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee, the Political Action Committee Board, and the Director of Operation Giving Back. Liaison members from the Resident and Associate Society and the Committee on Young Surgeons are also included on the committee.

#### **Committee goals**

The goals of the Committee on Socioeconomic Issues are as follows:

1. Promote educational programs regarding health care policy issues. The committee would not advocate for one health care issue or another

but bring to the College and its membership points of view of health care policy and how it will affect the care of the surgical patient and the practice of surgery.

2. Continue to promote the Surgical Volunteerism Award and the newly established Humanitarian Award. Promote, support, and educate members about volunteer and humanitarian activities and ACS awards. This work is coordinated with Operation Giving Back under the direction of Kathleen M. Casey, MD, FACS.

#### **Ongoing programs**

- *Volunteerism and humanitarian awards.* Beginning in 2003, the American College of Surgeons, along with the generous support of the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative beginning in 2004, has selected members of the College to be recognized and honored with an award for surgical volunteerism. Because many members contribute in other ways, a humanitarian award was established this year.

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## Members of the Governors' Committee on Socioeconomic Issues

Thomas R. Gadacz, MD, FACS, Chair  
Robert M. Zwolak, MD, FACS, Vice-Chair  
Gabriel S. Aldea, MD, FACS  
Kathleen M. Casey, MD, FACS  
Joseph A. Corrado, MD, FACS  
Michael C. Dalsing, MD, FACS  
Alan S. Davis, MD, FACS  
James K. Elsey, MD, FACS  
Charles M. Ferguson, MD, FACS  
Robert C. Flanigan, MD, FACS  
Timothy C. Flynn, MD, FACS  
Paul J. Gagne, MD, FACS  
John W. Hammon, Jr., MD, FACS  
Daniel P. Harley, MD, FACS  
Verne L. Hoshal, Jr., MD, FACS  
Daniel A. Leary, MD, FACS  
Sheila G. Lindley, MD, FACS  
Charles D. Mabry, MD, FACS  
R. Russell Martin, MD, FACS

Stephen D. McBride, MD, FACS  
John E. McDermott, MD, FACS  
Charles T. McHugh, MD, FACS  
Mary J. Milroy, MD, FACS  
Gerhard H. Munding, Jr., MD, FACS  
Edward W. Nelson, MD, FACS  
Sanjay Rajendra Parikh, MD, FACS  
E. Phillips Polack, MD, FACS  
Anathea Carlson Powell, MD  
Mark A. Praeger, MD, FACS  
John Thomas Preskitt, MD, FACS  
Terence M. Quigley, MD, FACS  
Robert V. Rege, MD, FACS  
Peter P. Rojas, MD, FACS  
David J. Schoetz, Jr., MD, FACS  
Joseph J. Sferra, MD, FACS  
Peter K. Smith, MD, FACS  
Andrew L. Warshaw, MD, FACS  
W. Lynn Weaver, MD, FACS

*Surgical Volunteerism Award.* The Surgical Volunteerism Award is given “In recognition of those surgeons committed to giving something of themselves back to society by making significant contributions to surgical care through organized volunteer activities.” For purposes of this award, volunteer work must be performed while the candidate is or was engaged in full-time or nearly full-time practice of surgery (as an adjunct to the full-time practice). In any given year, the Surgical Volunteerism Award may be given in any or all of three categories: domestic volunteer work, international volunteer work, and volunteer work while on active military duty.

*Surgical Humanitarian Award.* The Surgical Humanitarian Award is given “In recognition of those surgeons who have dedicated a substantial portion of their career to ensuring the provision of surgical care to underserved populations without the expectation of commensurate reimbursement.” This award is given to recognize the exemplary contribution of a surgeon who has dedicated a significant portion of his or her surgical career to full or nearly full-time humanitarian

efforts rather than standard surgical practice. This is distinguished from volunteerism, which focuses on episodic donated care above and beyond a surgeon’s day-to-day practice.

The committee is revising the guidelines, application forms, and evaluation methods for these awards. The committee members have been *continued on page 68*

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impressed with the number of members engaged in giving back and the amount of contributions these members have made. Despite some of the problems in the practice of surgery, the rewards and gratification these individuals receive from giving back make surgery a bright and promising career for the future.

### *Programs current and proposed*

The Committee on Socioeconomic issues is sponsoring the following general session at Clinical Congress in New Orleans, LA: Update on Pay for Performance, moderated by William A. Rough, MD, FACS, and convened Monday, October 8, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. In addition, Surgical Volunteerism in the U.S. and Abroad, sponsored by Operation Giving Back and moder-

ated by Dr. Casey, will convene Monday, October 8, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Proposed for 2008 Clinical Congress: A session entitled Current and Future Stakeholders in Health Care Policy has been proposed for the 2008 Clinical Congress in San Francisco, CA. The session has been envisioned to address the following topics:

- Health care policy (or “theory”) expert: What are the organizational options?
- Health care political expert: What are the political options and realities?
- Someone representing the patient’s perspective: What do consumer groups desire?
- Someone representing the employer’s perspective: What is the capacity of government and employers to finance health care? Ω