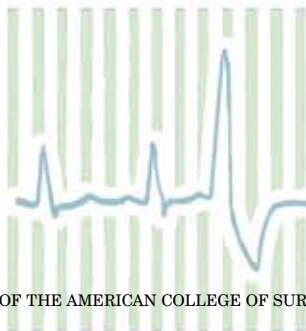




The COT's Resident Papers Competition: *Promoting careers in trauma surgery*

by Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD, FACS, Seattle, WA



Since 1978, the Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgeons has held an annual Resident Papers Competition. Henry C. Cleveland, MD, FACS, founded the competition during the tenure of C. Thomas Thompson, MD, FACS, as Chairman of the COT. Dr. Cleveland was joined by Charles C. Wolferth, MD, FACS, in 1981 in sponsoring the competition; they ran the competition from 1978 to 1990, when Ernest E. Moore, MD, FACS, then Chair of the Regional Committees, took on this responsibility. Since 1990, the Chair of the Regional Committees has enjoyed the responsibility of managing the Resident Papers Competition.

Throughout its existence, the Resident Papers Competition has encouraged scientific exploration, fostered collegial exchange, and promoted careers in trauma surgery for residents and fellows across the U.S., Canada, and Latin America, and it has now expanded its reach to all parts of the world.

The process starts with a local competition at the state, province, or international level, with the winners advancing to a regional competition. At the regional competition, the best basic science paper and a best clinical paper are selected to represent the region. A panel of judges from the COT then selects only one paper to represent each region at the national competition, striving to maintain a balance between basic science and clinical research, yet providing each region with representation at the annual program.

Although originally numbered with Roman numerals, the regions are now listed with Arabic numbers. The U.S. is composed of 10 regions (1–10); Canada has two regions (11 and 12); and the military has one region (13), which includes the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Veterans Administration. In 2003, the Canadian Military Committee was added to Region 13.

From 1978 until 1987, there was no international region in the COT, although there was an Inter-America Region consisting of Panama, Western Mexico, and Colombia. No international papers were presented during these early years. In 1988, Region 14 was created, consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama, with Ricardo Sonneborn, MD, FACS, of Santiago, Chile, appointed as Region Chief.

That year saw the first international presenter, Tomasso Bochicchio, MD, of Mexico, who presented Crush Syndrome—Urinary Ortholidine Reaction and a Clinical Injury Index As Predictors of Acute Renal Failure, which took second place in the clinical research category.

Venezuela (1988), Peru (1989), Ecuador (1994), and Panama (1999) were subsequently added to the Latin American Region 14 as they developed COTs. In 1995, Region 14 was renamed the International Region but still consisted entirely of Latin American countries until 2000, when Israel was added. However, participation by the International Region in the Resident Papers Competition has waned in part due to the lack of a region chief.

Because the Resident Papers Competition begins with a local chapter of the COT sponsoring, encouraging, and supporting resident and fellow investigations, the role of the chair of state and provincial and international COTs is crucial. The “Blue Book” of the COT provides a detailed guide to the organization, activities, and responsibilities of these and other ACS COT members (see <http://www.facs.org/trauma/publications/bluebook2005.pdf>).

In an effort to be consistent with the rapidly expanding international activities of the Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) subcommittee, and to encourage and promote international trauma care activities and education, two new international regions were added in 2006. The international regions of the COT now consist of Regions 14, 15 (Europe-Middle East-Africa), and 16 (Australasia). Each of these three regions is to have a region chief who will be appointed by the COT’s Medical Director—currently J. Wayne Meredith, MD, FACS—in a process similar to any state chair or other region chief. The chief of an international region must be a member of the College, but it is not essential that he or she be from a country with an ACS chapter. Residents within each of the three international regions can participate in the annual Resident Papers Competition, with the same rules and rewards applied as with all other regions. This arrangement of countries and their regional affiliation is best considered a work in progress, as regional political and historical influences might better define how

best to exchange ideas and educational activities. The ACS Web site also provides up-to-date information on ACS chapters (visit <http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/index.html>)

Eligible participants in the paper competition are general surgery residents, surgical specialty residents, and trauma fellows in the U.S., Canada, and international regions. Medical students are not eligible. Residents or fellows in the military must submit their abstracts via the military region (Region 13) regardless of where the work was done. To be eligible for competition at the national level, papers submitted may have been presented but may not have been published (except in the Surgical Forum) before the annual meeting of the COT convenes, usually in March.

The presentations are judged on scientific merit, relevance, and importance to trauma; originality and individual work; the quality of the presentation; the ability of the presenter to answer questions about the presentation; and the quality of the submitted three-page abstract or manuscript. Further details on eligibility and the timeline for submission can be found at <http://www.facs.org/trauma/traumapapers.html>.

In his review of the first 16 years of the papers competition, which was published in the *Bulletin* (1994;79[9]:24-28), Ernest E. Moore, MD, FACS, detailed the 53 papers from the Resident Papers Competition between 1978 and 1994 that were published in a wide array of journals. Authors are encouraged to publish their papers, but until this year, there had been no official publishing journal. But Timothy Eberlein, MD, FACS, the current Editor of the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, has offered to publish the two winning papers, beginning with the papers that were se-



At the 2006 Trauma Banquet, Dr. Cleveland (left) accepted an award from John J. Fildes, MD, FACS, Chair of the COT. The COT honored Dr. Cleveland as founder of the Resident Trauma Papers Competition to mark the occasion of the competition's 30th year.

lected at this year's COT annual meeting.

At the COT meeting, the Resident Papers Competition occupies an important half-day segment of the annual meeting and follows with a reception in honor of the presenters, providing an opportunity for socializing with each other and members of the COT. All regional representatives and their spouses/guests have expenses paid by the COT to attend the entire annual meeting, although the international regions are asked, but not required, to help with those expenses. Monetary awards are given for Best Basic Science and Best Clinical Papers, as well as to runners-up for both categories, with total award money varying between \$8,000 to \$9,500 over the past five years. Total expenses of the Resident Papers Competition have ranged from \$23,000 to \$28,000 over the past five years.

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Past winners of the Resident Papers Competition

Following is a list of the winners of the ACS COT annual Resident Papers Competition since its inception in 1978 through 2006.

1978	1st Place	John A. Weigelt, MD
	Runner-Up	Mary H. McGrath, MD
1979	1st Place	Joseph V. Boykin, MD
	Runners-Up	Christopher C. Baker, MD Frank D. Manart, MD
1980	1st Place	Robert Tranbaugh, MD
	Runners-Up	Gary M. Gartsman, MD John B. Moore, MD
1981	1st Place	Kenneth Kollmeyer, MD
	Runners-Up	Kenneth A. Kudsk, MD James Hammesfahr, MD
1982	1st Place	Raj K. Narayan, MD
	Runners-Up	George S. Fortner, MD Hani Shennib, MD
1983	1st Place	Mark DeGroot, MD
	Runners-Up	Gregory Luna, MD Mercedes Dullum, MD
1984	1st Place	Ronald B. O'Gorman, MD
	Runners-Up	Louis Ostrow, MD Frederick A. Moore, MD
1985	1st Place	Lawrence Reed, MD
	Runners-Up	Frank Shannon, MD M. Rebot, MD
1986	1st Place	Richard S. Downey, MD
	Runners-Up	Richard Kiplovic, MD Wiley W. Souba, MD
1987	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	Nicholas B. Vedder, MD
	2nd Place	B. Timothy Baxter, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Eric DeMaria, MD
	2nd Place	John D. S. Reid, MD
1988	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	Gary Fantini, MD
	2nd Place	David H. Livingston, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Christoph Kaufmann, MD
	2nd Place	Tomasso Bochicchio, MD

1989	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	David K. Magnuson, MD
	2nd Place	Matthew L. Cooper, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Bradley Reeves, MD
	2nd Place	Danielle Desloges, MD
1990	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	William J. Mileski, MD
	2nd Place (tie)	Gary A. Gelfand, MD
	2nd Place (tie)	Jon C. Walsh, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Miguel Lopez Viego, MD
1991	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	Roy W. Hong, MD
	2nd Place	Benjamin O. Anderson, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Karl Illig, MD
	2nd Place	Carson Agee, MD
1992	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	Michael O'Reilly, MD
	2nd Place	David Bensard, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	William S. Hoff, MD
	2nd Place	Juan Manuel Sarmiento-Martinez, MD
1993	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	Thomas T. Sato, MD
	2nd Place (tie)	Paul A. Taheri, MD
	2nd Place (tie)	Alastair C. J. Windsor, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Patricia I. Yugueros, MD
1994	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	James T. Wilson, MD
	2nd Place	Robert F. Noel, Jr., MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Stefan J. Konasiewicz, MD
	2nd Place	Paul J. Gagne, MD
1995	Basic Laboratory Science	
	1st Place	Donald W. Pate, MD
	2nd Place	Carol J. Cornejo, MD
	Clinical Research	
	1st Place	Russell R. Lonser, MD
	2nd Place	John J. Keleman, MD

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Past winners of the Resident Papers Competition (continued)


- 1996 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Jenneth E. Drazan, MD
 2nd Place Carlton C. Barnett, Jr., MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Peter D. Wearden, MD
 2nd Place Nicholas Namias, MD
- 1997 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Randy J. Irwin, MD
 2nd Place Molly M. Buzdon, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Preston R. Miller, MD
 2nd Place Katharina Pellegrin J., MD
- 1998 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Geoffrey Manley, MD
 2nd Place Gregory J. McKenna, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place E. Lynne Henderson, MD
 2nd Place Juan P. Carbonell, MD
- 1999 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Andrew Kramer, MD
 2nd Place D. Kirk Lawlor, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Garrett Zallen, MD
 2nd Place Avery B. Nathens, MD
- 2000 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Philip P. Narini, MD
 2nd Place George D. Oreopoulos, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Joseph T. Rabban, MD
 2nd Place Avery B. Nathens, MD
- 2001 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Deepa Soni, MD
 2nd Place Daron C. Hitt, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place John-Paul Veri, MD
 2nd Place Moishe Lieberman, MD
- 2002 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Jonas Gopez, MD
 2nd Place Steven Casha, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Ram Nirula, MD
 2nd Place Seong K. Lee, MD

- 2003 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Eve C. Tsai, MD
 2nd Place Katherine Barsness, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Steven Fox, MD
 2nd Place David J. Schultz, MD
- 2004 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Rachel G. Khadaroo, MD
 2nd Place Manuel B. Torres, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Matthew Rosengart, MD
 2nd Place Carlos V. R. Brown, MD
- 2005 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place John M. Hwang, MD
 2nd Place Aaron M. Cheng, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Felicia Ivascu, MD
 2nd Place Stephanie P. Acierno, MD
- 2006 Basic Laboratory Science**
 1st Place Preya Ananthkrishman, MD
 2nd Place Jessica Deree, MD
Clinical Research
 1st Place Alexander Eastman, MD
 2nd Place David Francis, MD

Chairs of the Regional Committees of the COT

Richard J. Field, MD, FACS, 1978–1982
 Gerald O. Strauch, MD, FACS, 1982–1986
 Kimball I. Maull, MD, FACS, 1986–1990
 Ernest E. Moore, MD, FACS, 1990–1994
 Charles F. Rinker II, MD, FACS, 1994–1998
 L. D. Britt, MD, FACS, 1998–2002
 Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD, FACS, 2002–2006
 M. Margaret Knudson, MD, FACS, 2006–present

Financial support for the competition has largely come from the three COT-sponsored trauma education courses: the Region 7 Advances in Trauma Course (Kansas City); the Trauma, Critical Care, Acute Care Surgery Course (Las Vegas); and the Eastern States Point/Counterpoint Course (Atlantic City). Frank L. Mitchell, Jr., MD, FACS, initiated the Kansas City course 29 years ago and chaired it for almost 20 years. It subsequently has been chaired by the following Region 7 Chiefs: Frank Mitchell III, MD, FACS; Bob Coscia, MD, FACS; Mike Metzler, MD, FACS; and Steven Smith, MD, FACS, the current Chair. Drs. Cleveland and Wolferth were the originators of the Western States (Las Vegas) and Eastern States (Atlantic City) postgraduate courses, now directed by Kenneth Mattox, MD, FACS, and Kimball I. Maull, MD, FACS, respectively. It is from the funds generated by these courses that the Resident Papers Competition could be launched. Additional support has come from the American College of Surgeons, and corporate support is currently being provided by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Participation in the competition is highly respected by the trauma community, and the presenters are valued for their important role in shaping the future of trauma care. Many of the previous awardees (see sidebar on pages 33-34) are currently internationally recognized for their ongoing contribution to education, training, and research in the field of trauma. Their presentations are an important and well-attended component of the COT's annual meeting. Presenting residents and fellows are encouraged to attend all COT activities and events during the annual meeting, with the winners announced at the annual black-tie banquet. Camaraderie with fellow presenters is readily established, and sets the stage for a lifelong career in trauma care and participation in other activities of the American College of Surgeons. 

Acknowledgment

The author acknowledges the individuals who have served as Chairs of the Regional Committees of the ACS COT since the Resident Papers Competition

began in 1978 (see sidebar inset on page 34 for a list of the Chairs).

The author also wishes to thank Carol Williams and Irvine Hughes of the ACS Trauma Programs for their help with this article.

Dr. Jurkovich is professor of surgery, University of Washington, and chief of trauma, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA. He is Immediate Past-Vice-Chair and Chair of Regional Committees of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

