
Report of the 2008 Oweida Scholar:

Experiences at Clinical Congress

by Timothy A. Breon, MD, FACS

As I report on my experiences at the 2008 Clinical Congress in San Francisco, CA, which convened in October 2008, I reflect on how the Nizar N. Oweida, MD, FACS, Scholarship provided educational opportunities and financial support, enhanced collegial relationships, and made the meeting a positive influence on my surgical practice. I have attended the Clinical Congress several times in the past, but the Nizar N. Oweida scholarship made this particular meeting most memorable.

My educational expectations were well met. Scientific programs were arranged so that I was able to maximize my experience while not feeling as if I was missing out on other coinciding sessions. The sessions I chose provided relevant information that will enhance my practice of general surgery for years to come. Once again, I am encouraged to practice with increased confidence, knowing the decisions I make in practice with my patients in rural Iowa are in line with the standards of the Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons.

Financial support provided through the scholarship allowed me to attend skills-oriented postgraduate courses. At past Clinical Congresses, I rarely attended postgraduate courses because of their cost and conflicts with other sessions. Being able to at-



Dr. Breon (left) with Stephen E. Olson, MD, FACS, Chair of the Rural Surgery Subcommittee of the Advisory Council for General Surgery.

tend the entire Clinical Congress this year provided the additional time needed to select courses and scientific programs that complemented one another, making this an exceptional experience.

The Clinical Congress always provides an avenue to renew relationships with colleagues from my training program at Wright State University in Dayton, OH. In addition, the meetings provide ample opportunities to establish and nurture relationships with colleagues that will be valued for years to come. Specifically, these were enhanced through the Scholarship Program luncheon and the rural surgeons meeting.

My surgical practice always receives a boost when I am able to attend the Clinical Congress.

The scholarship provided the financial freedom and flexibility of time that helped make this meeting exceptional. Hopefully, my patients, partners, and employees are also reaping benefits from my receipt of the scholarship and attendance at the meeting.

The Nizar N. Oweida Scholarship has been very beneficial to me. I am grateful to the Oweida family for their continued scholarship support and to the ACS for administering it. I also wish to encourage other qualified surgeons to submit their applications for this scholarship in the future.

Dr. Breon is cofounder and director of Iowa Rural Surgical Associates, Oskaloosa, IA.