
2009 COT award winners announced

The Committee on Trauma (COT) honored two of its members for their exceptional service at the COT banquet, held March 20th.

John B. Kortbeek, MD, FACS, FRCSC, received the 2009 Meritorious Achievement Award for state/provincial chairs. This award recognizes a member of the Regional COTs for outstanding contributions to the care of the injured patient. Each year, the 16 Chiefs of the Regional Committees select nominees for this award by ballot poll, and the winner is subsequently approved and confirmed by the COT Executive Committee.

Dr. Kortbeek is professor of surgery and critical care at Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, AB. He has served on the COT for many years: first as Chair of the ACS Alberta Committee on Trauma, 1996–1999, and then as Chief of COT Region 11 (Western Canada), 1999–2006. Since 2006, he has been Chair of the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) subcommittee, and his leadership is generally recognized to have been key to the revision and launch of the 8th edition of ATLS, which incorporates significant improvements to the course materials.

David G. Burris, MD, FACS, received the 2009 ATLS Meritorious Achievement Award, which honors the recipient for unselfish commitment and dedication to ATLS. The ATLS subcommittee is charged with nominating and voting on



Dr. Kortbeek (left) with John J. Fildes, MD, FACS, Chair, ACS Committee on Trauma, at the COT banquet.

this award every year, and the person receiving the highest number of votes is presented to the COT Executive Committee for approval.

Dr. Burris is interim chair and professor of surgery in the Norman Rich Department of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS), in Bethesda, MD, which presented him with the USUHS Meritorious Service Award in 2001. He has served abroad in Germany, Turkey, Honduras, and most recently, in Iraq with the 912th Forward Surgical Team in Baghdad. Dr. Burris has been active in teaching ATLS since 1989, and has personally



Dr. Burris

trained thousands of doctors. In addition, he was also a major supporter and contributor to the 8th edition revisions, generating many of the ideas for streamlining course delivery and management.

The ACS COT membership is pleased to have this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the many important contributions to trauma care made by Dr. Burris and Dr. Kortbeek during their long and selfless service on the COT.