Disciplinary actions taken

The following disciplinary actions were taken by the Board of Regents at its February 12 meeting:

• A general surgeon from Houston, TX, was censured. This action was taken following a complaint to the College about this surgeon's testimony as an expert witness in a medical malpractice lawsuit alleging that the testimony violated the ACS Statement on the Physician Acting As an Expert Witness and the ACS *Bylaws,* Article VII, Section 1(i).

• Jeffrey C. Hamm, MD, FACS, a plastic surgeon from Hollywood, FL, had his Fellowship status placed on probation with conditions for reinstatement. This action was taken following disciplinary action by the State of Florida after he was charged with failing to meet the standard of care in his treatment of a patient, and for failure to keep legible medical records that justified his course of treatment.

Definition of terms

Following are the disciplinary actions that may be imposed for violations of the principles of the College.

Admonition: A written notification, warning, or serious rebuke.

Censure: A written judgment, condemning the Fellow or member's actions as wrong. This is a firm reprimand.

Probation: A punitive action for a stated period of time, during which the member (a) loses the rights to hold office and to participate as a leader in College programs; (b) retains other privileges and obligations of membership; (c) will be reconsidered by the Central Judiciary Committee periodically and at the end of the stated term.

Suspension: A severe punitive action for a period of time, during which the Fellow or member, according to the membership status, (a) loses the rights to attend and vote at College meetings, to hold office, and to participate as a leader, speaker, or panelist in College programs; (b) is subject to the removal of the member's name from the Yearbook and from the mailing list of the College; (c) surrenders his or her Fellowship certificate to the College, and no longer explicitly or implicitly claims to be a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons; (d) pays the visitor's registration fee when attending College programs; (e) is not subject to the payment of annual dues. When the suspension is lifted, the Fellow or member is returned to full privileges and obligations of fellowship.

Expulsion: The certificate of Fellowship and all other indicia of Fellowship or membership previously issued by the College must be forthwith returned to the College. The surgeon thereafter shall not explicitly or implicitly claim to be a Fellow or member of the American College of Surgeons and may not participate as a leader, speaker, or panelist in College programs.