



Report on ACSPA/ACS activities

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Chair, ACS Board of Governors

American College of Surgeons Professional Association (ACSPA)

The ACSPA-SurgeonsPAC (political action committee) raised \$609,569 in 2009. Contributions for 2009 among ACSPA leaders were as follows:

- U.S. Regents and Officers: 93 percent, with an average contribution of \$562, for a total contribution of \$14,050
- U.S. Governors: 57 percent, with an average contribution of \$364, for a total contribution of \$44,470

The ACSPA-SurgeonsPAC set a fundraising goal of \$2 million for the 2009–2010 election cycle. The PAC board and staff are working to implement diverse and innovative fundraising techniques in an effort to reach this goal.

American College of Surgeons

Board of Governors

The Board of Regents approved the following recommendations from the Board of Governors.

Three criteria relating specifically to International Fellowship were changed to read as follows:

- Graduation from a medical school acceptable to the American College of Surgeons and listed in the *Avicenna Directories*, published by the World Health Organization and the University of Copenhagen, available at <http://avicenna.ku.dk/database/medicine/>.
- Three years of continuous, uninterrupted surgical practice in one location (same institution or same country, city, town, or village), after completion of all formal training.
- After notification of a Governor, or Governor in consultation with a chapter's officers, the Member Services Liaison Committee determines whether the requirements for Fellowship are satisfied, and may, at its discretion, defer any application until such requirements are met. The Board of Regents makes the final decision regarding the applicant's eligibility for Fellowship. The Board of Regents may, at any time, modify the requirements for Fellowship.

The Regents approved the appointment of Hugh E. Scully, MD, FACS, Toronto, ON, to the College's Health Policy and Advocacy Group. They also approved an Advocacy Grant Program for the chapters.

ACS Health Policy Research Institute (HPRI)

The ACS HPRI held a second surgery workforce meeting. Approximately 100 people were invited; 29 attended the meeting. The meeting's goals were to share research and data, further discuss opportunities for data collaborations and improvements, and discuss current and emerging workforce and policy issues relevant to surgery.

ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP)

In January, the College submitted a proposal to evaluate the feasibility of merging ACS NSQIP clinical data with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) claims data. CMS responded with an agreement to fund the ACS and merge and evaluate the use of ACS NSQIP and CMS data. The project will begin in the spring of 2010.

Advocacy

Health care reform continues to be the focal point for the College and its Division of Advocacy and Health Policy (AHP). The division director, Christian Shalgian, updated the Regents on activities that have taken place since the October 2009 Clinical Congress, in Chicago, IL. For details on those activities, visit the AHP Web site at <http://www.facs.org/ahp/index.html>.

Education

Development of the *Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program 14 (SESAP 14)* is proceeding well. A new, more robust electronic format is being planned with features to address the new continuing education mandates. *SESAP 14* will include a totally redesigned model for self-assessment, which will be more rigorous and should meet the

new requirements for Part 2 of Maintenance of Certification as defined by the American Board of Surgery.

A new Web-based educational program, *SESAP Sampler*, was launched in October 2009. *SESAP Sampler* consists of content that was developed with the same stringent, multi-step, peer-review process used for *SESAP 13*, and includes items that have not been published. *SESAP Sampler*, which is offered as an annual subscription, offers participants the opportunity to earn a maximum of six Category 1 continuing medical education (CME) credits.

Eight issues of *Selected Readings in General Surgery (SRGS)* are planned for 2010. *SRGS* offers participants the opportunity to earn a maximum of 10 Category 1 CME credits per issue.

The first ACS Comprehensive General Surgery Review Course is scheduled to be held June 17–20 in Chicago, IL. This landmark course will provide a four-day intensive review of the essential content areas in general surgery.

A new educational program, *Beyond the Morbidity and Mortality Conference: Analysis of Surgical Errors and Complications in Contemporary Practice*, was launched in October 2009. The Web-based program was developed to address practice-based learning and improvement, and systems-based practice. It focuses on systematic analysis of surgical errors, complications, and near misses as a means for improving patient outcomes. A framework is provided for use by individual surgeons or surgical teams to critically evaluate adverse events and near misses, identify opportunities for improvement, and implement and track changes in practice. Practical resources and sample cases are provided.

A six-hour course titled *Team Training in Surgery: Lessons from Aviation* has been offered during the Clinical Congress in past years. A multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Committee on Development of High-Performance Teamwork in Surgery through Education was appointed two years ago to develop a national educational program to promote ef-

fective teamwork in surgery. The committee developed a Statement on High-Performance Teams that was approved by the Board of Regents in October 2009. The statement can be viewed at: http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/statements/st-66.html. For more information on ACS education activities, visit the Education Web site at <http://www.facs.org/education/index.html>.

Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)

The JACS CME Web site has been redesigned to meet the latest standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. (Visit the Web site at <http://www.facs.org/jacs/index.html>.) From October 1 through December 31, 2009, 19,157.5 credits were earned; the program is provided as a member benefit.

Web portal and Web site

The College's Web portal, *e-FACS.org*, has had more than 2 million total page views since its launch in 2006, and continues to be used by a growing number of surgeons. A new feature was added to the portal, under "Member Tools," which offers the user the ability to view their product order history and/or print receipts. The "Communities & Specialties" area continues to provide quality content targeted to the main interests of the College's members.

Additionally, the first of the new practice-based learning modules (Surgical Site Infection) has been posted to the portal. The modules will serve to tie the ACS Web portal and the ACS Case Log System together in a way that will help surgeons improve their performance in areas that may need improvement.

Traffic to the College's public Web site continues to grow (<http://www.facs.org/>). In other Web site news, an "Update Haiti" section was added to the College's Committee on Trauma Web page. The section was created as a resource containing the most up-to-date information related to the disaster, useful information from Fellows of the College, and information from other organizations.

Operation Giving Back (OGB)

The College's response to the January 12 earthquake in Haiti began within hours. A dedicated Haiti Web site was live by noon the following day, and featured nine pages with more than 150 links to information including volunteer forms, resources for responders, OGB volunteer toolkit, responding organizations, Haiti news/information, response information for residents and medical students, and other relevant information and updates.

Other OGB actions in response to the earthquake in Haiti include the following: alerts and updates were sent to the membership via e-mail on a daily basis; a volunteer registry was created within 24 hours; a Google map was live in the first week, and updated regularly based on feedback; and a Case Log was made accessible to all surgeons.

HealthCareers (Job Bank)

As of January 22, there were 994 active jobs listed on the Web site, with 309 posted resumes. This is a valuable service for all members of the College (and is complimentary to the Resident Members).

Resident and Associate Society (RAS)

The four RAS committees are thriving. The Issues Committee has communicated with the College's state advocacy staff to collaborate on informational ways to keep young surgeons aware of the College's advocacy efforts, and to demonstrate how young surgeons can influence the process. The Communications Committee is making progress on its series of articles for the July *Bulletin*, with "health care policy and the future of surgery" as this year's theme. The Membership Committee continues to collaborate with Weber Shandwick on resident recruitment, and will continue to work with the firm on executing recruitment and retention strategies. The Education Committee is in charge of the question bank for Surgical Jeopardy.

Young Fellows Association (YFA)

Since the 2009 Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL, the Executive Committee of the YFA and

its four work groups have conducted numerous conference calls. The Executive Committee plans to initiate communications with the surgical specialty societies to invite their young surgeons to participate in the YFA.

The Advocacy and Education Work Groups have jointly planned the next Leadership Conference, which will be held July 24–25 in Washington, DC. The conference will conclude with a Town Hall Meeting featuring the College's leadership.

The Membership Work Group intends to examine the reasons why Resident Members

do not become Associate Fellows, and Associate Fellows do not become Fellows. An electronic survey will be prepared, and hopefully, based on the responses, strategies will be proposed that will enhance the retention of College members.

The Communications Work Group published the Winter 2009 edition of the *YFA e-Newsletter*. In addition to updates about the activities of the four YFA work groups and the YFA education programs, the e-newsletter will feature an ACS product or service.

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