

# From my perspective

**F**or those of you who may not yet have heard, it is with great sadness that I report that the President-Elect of the College, C. James Carrico, MD, FACS, died on July 25 after a long and gallant battle with cancer. The College has expressed to his wife, Sue, their three children, and other family members the esteem and appreciation that we all held for Jim and for his professional contributions not only to the College, but to the academic institutions where he served.

On page 24 of this issue of the *Bulletin*, Erwin R. Thal, MD, FACS, Dr. Carrico's colleague and friend, offers some personal commentary on Jim's life and work. In this column, I would like to reflect on Dr. Carrico's permanent imprint on the College.

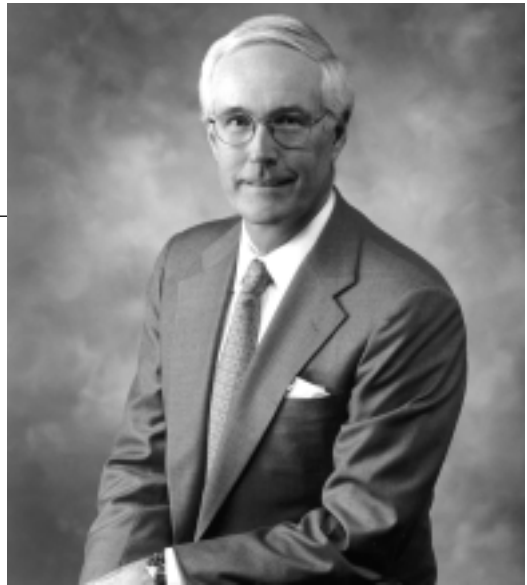
## *True leadership*

Throughout his illness, Jim Carrico remained remarkably attentive to his work and to this organization. He was productive until his last days with us. Although Jim was prepared to die, he clearly was not ready. He was looking forward with great anticipation to becoming President of the College beginning in October and had great plans for his year of presidency.

Whenever those of us who knew Dr. Carrico think about him in the future, we will no doubt express continual amazement at his outstanding contributions to the College. Jim was an indefatigable volunteer throughout his nearly 31 years of Fellowship. In all, he served on 34 different committees, beginning in 1975 when he was appointed to the Pre- and Postoperative Care Committee.

As a specialist in burn, trauma, and critical care, the Committee on Trauma was one of his passions. He was appointed to that committee in 1982 and served as Vice-Chair of its Executive Committee from 1986 to 1989.

Jim was active on the Board of Governors from 1984 to 1990 and served as its Chair from 1989 to 1990. Additionally, Dr. Carrico served three three-year terms on the Board of Regents and was Chair of the Board from 1999 to 2001. In that capacity, he was immensely helpful to me, and I will always appreciate his guidance throughout my early days as ACS Executive Director. He never lectured, offered dissertations,



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or harangued about a certain issue. Rather, Jim's advice was concise, direct, always well-received, and most often accurate.

## *Lasting legacy*

No matter what role he was playing at any given time within the College, Jim left a lasting imprimatur. His focus always was on doing what would be in the best interests of the surgical patient and on ensuring that the College's policies and programs would lead to improved quality of care.

For example, he helped to establish and chaired the Committee on Emerging Surgical Technology and Education. Through this committee, he attempted to identify new technologies that would have real clinical applications as well as the best, most appropriate means for training the surgical community in the use of these advancements. I will always associate Jim Carrico with forging this committee, and I believe it will become an even more integral component of the College as we

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evaluate the utility of new devices before they are introduced for general use.

Another College committee that grew out of Dr. Carrico's vision and understanding of the modern practice environment is the Health Policy Steering Committee. This committee had Jim's total endorsement as a stepping stone toward the College's development of a more responsive and proactive voice in Washington, DC.

As we enter into the final phases of preparation for the 2002 Clinical Congress in San Francisco, I am reminded that Jim's fingerprint will again be evident on some significant aspects of the program. For example, the Congress will be one day shorter this year than it has been in the past, and, on the front end of the program, we will be combining the Opening Ceremony with the American Urological Association's lecture.

Jim always felt that one of the most important events at the Clinical Congress was the Convocation and the induction of the new Initiates. To that end, he felt strongly that the reception following the Convocation should include ample time and opportunity for the Initiates and their families to meet the College leadership to help foster the lifelong relationship we hope all Fellows will build with this organization. Thus, this year, we will be welcoming and encouraging all of the new Initiates to meet the leaders of the College and other Fellows at the reception on Thursday evening following their induction.

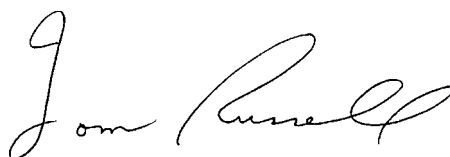
### *In his memory*

Because of the severity of his illness, Jim knew he would be unable to complete his term as President-Elect of the College. So he suggested, and the Board of Regents enthusiastically agreed, that Richard R. Sabo, MD, FACS, the First Vice-President-Elect from Bozeman, MT, should complete Jim's term as President-Elect. Under the terms of the Bylaws of the College, when the President is unable to serve his or her term, the First Vice-President is to serve in that capacity. Thus, once Dr. Sabo is sworn in as First Vice-President during the Convocation ceremonies on October 10, he will then assume the office of President for the year 2002 to 2003. Prior to his death, Jim and Richard had many discussions regarding the goals of the College for the next year, and we anticipate that Jim's vision

and direction will be well carried out despite his physical absence.

I believe that this year's Clinical Congress will be a fitting tribute to Jim Carrico in many ways and can assure you that, in general, the meeting will be of great interest. It will cover a wide range of topics from the scientific to socioeconomic, and we will present 30 finely designed postgraduate courses.

While we will always miss Jim's vision and dedication to our College and will remain indebted to him for the many changes he spearheaded through his quiet leadership, I believe one need not look too far to see how his essence survives in Fellows of the College. We see it in each Fellow who sacrifices his or her time to share an expertise by volunteering to work on committees, to write articles and letters for publication in the *Bulletin*, and to speak at educational meetings. Dr. James Carrico's spirit lives on in your dedication to surgery and to this organization.



Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS

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If you have comments or suggestions about this or other issues, please send them to Dr. Russell at [fmp@facs.org](mailto:fmp@facs.org).