



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
*Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

YFA e-News

A quarterly for the practicing young surgeon
from the Young Fellows Association

ADVOCACY • COMMUNICATIONS • EDUCATION • MEMBER SERVICES

December 2011

Editor: Juan Paramo, MD, FACS

In This Issue:

- **Welcome from the Chair**
- **I Think I Might Get Sued! Now What?**
- **Young Fellows Network during 2011 Clinical Congress**
- **Plan to Participate in the 2012 Leadership Conference and ACS Advocacy Summit**

Welcome from the Chair

Congratulations to all of the new initiates to the Young Fellows Association (YFA) and a warm welcome to all American College of Surgeons (ACS) Fellows, ages 45 and younger, who have become active participants in the YFA. Leaving the YFA Governing Council this year are two members who were instrumental in developing the YFA and raising awareness of the needs and concerns of young College members: Mark Savarise MD, FACS, Chair, Sandpoint, ID, and Sanjay Parikh MD, FACS, Seattle WA (previously in New York). They will be sorely missed, and we wish them the best in their continued involvement with the College. Also leaving the YFA as the American Medical Association liaison is Patricia Turner, MD, FACS, who on December 1 became the new ACS Director of Member Services. We are extremely excited about her new role and look forward to working with her at the local, state, and national levels.

Our goal this year is to increase awareness of the Young Fellows Association and to help you gain the tools you need to become more engaged in the College. We are in the process of developing a database of Young Fellows who would like to be more involved so that we can personalize our contacts and requests for your involvement on committees and projects. We will fill four positions on the YFA Governing Council in the summer of 2012. We welcome interested applicants. The 2012 Leadership Conference will take place in Washington, DC, in March, and we hope that you can join us. Please contact us at youngfellows@facs.org with your concerns, questions, thoughts, and ideas. The College is available to assist you in delivering high-quality surgical care in your community.

Happy Holidays!



Governing Council YFA leaders are (left to right--all MD, FACS) Sanjay Parikh, former Vice Chair; S. Rob Todd, Vice Chair; Mark Savarise, former Chair, and Laurel Soot, Chair.

Laurel Soot MD, FACS, Portland, OR Chair, YFA Governing Council

● I Think I Might Get Sued! Now What?

The joint Resident and Associate Society and the Young Fellows Association Symposium, moderated by Heena P. Santry, MD, and Cecelia Boardman, MD, took place during the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress in San Francisco, CA, in October 2011. The three-member expert panelists presented vital information and led a robust discussion with the audience. Caprice C. Greenberg, MD, FACS, MPH, spoke on "Error-Proofing your Practice." Dr. Greenberg, who does research on performance and safety in surgical care and patient and provider interactions, discussed key issues in safety and communication that may lead to patient injury and potential lawsuits. She advised young surgeons to approach patient care proactively, as a way of avoiding litigation. Communication, she stressed, between all members of the health care team, as well as with the patient, is vital.

Charles M. Ferguson, MD, FACS, in his presentation on "Coping with Accusations," began by noting that getting sued or thinking you might get sued is part of being a U.S. surgeon. Dr. Ferguson shared many personal stories about malpractice litigation and provided insights and guidance about how to handle patient care issues and the stress that may occur with malpractice litigation. He acknowledged that most physicians experience malpractice litigation at some point, but he argued that factors other than malpractice and patient dissatisfaction may contribute to malpractice litigation. In a presentation marked by humor, Dr. Ferguson advised young surgeons on how to cope with the stress of facing malpractice litigation.

Finally, Darrell A. "Skip" Campbell, MD, FACS, chief medical officer at the University of Michigan Health System, spoke on "Dealing with Bad Outcomes." Dr. Campbell related approaches that the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, uses to minimize the likelihood of a lawsuit. He offered an institutional approach to medical mistakes and adverse

outcomes that backs the physician but also seeks to compensate the patient and family fairly and rapidly under the appropriate circumstances. Providing examples of successful approaches employed at the University of Michigan, Dr. Campbell offered ways to improve patient safety, minimize litigation risk, and maximize the outcome of malpractice litigation. A lively discussion period, including a number of questions from the floor, followed the formal presentations. This session provided valuable tools to prevent, cope with, and manage surgical malpractice litigation.

Cecelia Boardman, MD, FACS, Richmond, VA
YFA Member Services Work Group

● **Young Fellows Network during 2011 Clinical Congress**

On October 24, the Third Annual Meeting/Networking Reception of the Young Fellows Association (YFA) took place during the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress. The 2012 Executive Committee and Governing Council of the YFA were introduced. Patricia J. Numann, MD, FACS, ACS President, joined a round table discussion at the meeting, providing insights into the ACS and how young surgeons can become involved with it.

Following the open forum with Dr. Numann, the YFA held a social and networking reception for Young Surgeons, where participants received information about the YFA and how to get involved with it.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the YFA, contact the YFA at youngfellows@facs.org to learn more.



YFA members listen to remarks of new ACS President Dr. Patricia J. Numann

S. Rob Todd, MD, FACS, New York, NY
Vice-Chair, Young Fellows Association
Chair, Member Services Work Group

● **Plan to participate in the 2012 Leadership Conference and ACS Advocacy**

Summit

Hundreds of American College of Surgeons (ACS) members from across the country and across specialties will converge on Washington, DC, for the 2012 Leadership Conference and Advocacy Summit March 25-27, at the JW Marriott in the nation's capital. This Advocacy Summit will serve as the first of what will become a significant annual event for the ACS, replacing the former Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference (JSAC).

The Leadership Conference March 25-26 will focus on the theme of "Surgical Leadership for Quality and Safety," and will offer separate sessions for young surgeons, residents, chapter leaders, and chapter executives (administrators and executive directors). Concurrent sessions March 25 will include the College's National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP) Leaders' Panel Discussion, Legal Concerns for ACS Chapters, Quality Improvement Leadership Skills, and Financial Skills for Chapter Leaders. On March 26, the conference will feature the Health Policy Town Hall with ACS Leaders, and invited as the keynote speaker is David R. Flum, MD, MPH, FACS, the director of the Surgical Outcomes Research Center, a multidisciplinary research center established by the University of Washington Department of Surgery, in Seattle, that supports the use of outcomes research to improve the quality of surgical care locally, regionally, and nationally.

The Advocacy Summit will immediately follow the Leadership Conference on March 26, with the afternoon devoted to advocacy education, followed in the evening with a reception, dinner, and entertainment. The Summit will accommodate varying levels of advocacy experience. Resident and beginner advocacy training will address the complexities of the U.S. Congress and the legislative process, what to expect in congressional meetings, and pointers on what to do, and what not to do, when lobbying. An advanced session for experienced advocates will cover persuasive communications techniques and offer advice on how to mentor less experienced advocates at home.

The business of the Advocacy Summit will occur on March 27, when College members visit Capitol Hill immediately after breakfast and attendee meetings. Participants will visit their federal legislators from mid-morning to mid-afternoon and address many issues affecting College members, including liability reform, quality improvement, trauma, and surgeon workforce. The goal of the Advocacy Summit is to train participants to become long-term surgeon advocates.

Registration for the Leadership Conference and Advocacy Summit will open this month, and more details will follow. For questions about the Leadership Conference, contact Rhonda Peebles in the Division of Membership Services at rpeebles@facs.org. For more information about the Advocacy Summit, contact Catharine Harris in the Division of Advocacy and Health Policy, at charris@facs.org.

Juan Paramo, MD, FACS, Miami, FL
Editor, YFA e-Newsletter
Member, YFA Communication Work Group

For more information on the Young Fellows Association, and to view additional photos from the American College of Surgeons 2011 Clinical Congress, go to <http://www.facs.org/memberservices/yfa/index.html>

For additional information log on to www.facs.org/memberservices/yfa/ or contact us at youngfellows@facs.org.

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

633 N Saint Clair Street Chicago, IL 60611-3211
Phone: 312-202-5000 Toll free: 800-621-4111 Fax: 312-202-5001
E-Mail: postmaster@facs.org