

CAS-ACS News



A Quarterly Update from the Candidate and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons



Spring 2003

Welcome to the first quarterly issue of *CAS-ACS News*. Since its creation in 1997, the Candidate and Associate Society (CAS) of the American College of Surgeons has been growing and steadily making progress toward its goal of becoming the voice, force, and foundation for residents and newly practicing surgeons in all surgical specialties around the country. The mission of our organization is to provide CAS members with an avenue for participation in College affairs whereby the opinions and concerns specific to residents and young surgeons can be heard by the leadership of the College. Furthermore, the CAS is dedicated to coordinating educational activities and helping our members develop the leadership skills that will be necessary to implement changes pertinent to the future of the specialty of surgery.

From the Executive Council

Greetings from the Executive Council! Welcome to the inaugural edition of *CAS-ACS News*, the official newsletter of the Candidate and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons. Through this newsletter, we will keep you informed about issues of interest and importance to young surgeons and about the College's activities that are designed to meet your needs and interests.

On behalf of the CAS Executive Committee, I would like to invite you to attend the CAS annual meeting on October 19, which will be held in conjunction with the College's annual Clinical Congress in Chicago. The Executive Committee is hard at work assembling an exciting program, which will focus on "Life after Work Hours Implementation." This proactive symposium will review systems that work and educational programs that fit the new paradigm. We are looking for CAS representation from across the country to attend this dynamic interactive program. Contact your local chapter of the College for details about the ACS Clinical Congress.

Jeffrey Upperman, MD
Secretary, CAS-ACS
Childrens Hospital of Pittsburgh
Department of Pediatric Surgery
Pittsburgh, PA

CAS-ACS Plays Major Role at ACS Spring Meeting

This year the ACS Spring Meeting was a breakthrough event for the Candidate and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons. For the first time at any national meeting, there were general sessions specifically designed to enhance the presence and participation of the members of the CAS. With the input and advice of the CAS's representative on the Advisory Council for General Surgery, which develops the Spring Meeting program, these sessions took form and were an integral part of the meeting.

The first session, "Spectacular Cases," was designed to allow members of the CAS to present extraordinary cases to a panel of experts. Five cases were chosen from a multitude of submissions. The CAS would like to congratulate Stephen Higuera, MD, Erin Moore, MD, R. J. Hendrickson, MD, Andrew Rosenthal, MD, and Wellington Davis, MD, for the "spectacular" job they did in presenting their cases. There was a phenomenal turnout of both Candidates and Fellows for the session, and it will now be a regular part of the Spring Meeting.

The second session was the grand finale of meeting and was titled "Surgical Jeopardy." In this session, 16 teams from surgical programs around the country were pitted against each other in a test of surgical trivia based on the famed TV game show. First, the CAS would like to thank Mark W. Boyer, MD, FACS, for designing a fantastic session that was both mentally challenging and quite hilarious. Second, congratulations to Daniel Herzig, MD, and Tomori Oka, MD, from Brown Medical School, who were the winners of the contest. There were over 30 submissions from programs around the country. We hope that kind of interest continues for meetings to come.

Overall our participation in the Spring Meeting was a great beginning for the CAS. In the future, we hope to become a vital part of both the Spring Meeting and the Clinical Congress. Through our members who sit on the governing bodies of the College, the CAS can garner support for our participation in all of the College's functions and thereby strengthen our position in the College.

James Cipolla, MD
R. Addams Cowley Shock and Trauma Center
University of Maryland Medical System
Baltimore, MD

Update on Residency Work Hours

Resident work hours have become an issue of utmost importance to all residents and fellows. In June 2002, the American Medical Association adopted a new policy regarding work hour guidelines, which included an 80-hour work week limit. Likewise, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) subsequently adapted similar guidelines to be implemented July 1, 2003. The American College of Surgeons supports these guidelines.

The most recently modified guidelines approved by the ACGME on February 11, 2003 include:

1. Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities.
2. Residents must be provided with one day in seven free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of call.
3. Adequate time for rest and personal activities must be provided. This allowance should consist of a 10-hour time period provided between all daily duty periods and after in-house call.
4. In-house call must occur no more frequently than every third night, averaged over a four-week period.
5. Continuous on-site duty, including in-house call, must not exceed 24 consecutive hours. Residents may remain on duty for up to six additional hours to participate in didactic activities, transfer care of patients, conduct outpatient clinics, and maintain continuity of medical and surgical care.
6. A residency review committee may grant exceptions for up to 10% of the 80-hour limit, to individual programs based on a sound educational rationale.

To review the complete rules, visit the ACGME Web site at: www.acgme.org.

As the deadline approaches, surgical residency programs must be prepared to meet these requirements. Although there is no perfect model that applies to all programs, the New York State experience (passed into law in 1989 as the New York State health code or "Bell Commissions regulations") may prove useful. Waiting until July 1 to make changes might be disastrous.

In an effort to provide Candidate and Associate members of the College with information on the most current issues that affect all of us, the CAS will be holding a symposium on work hours issues and controversies on Sunday, October 19, during the Annual Clinical

Congress in Chicago, IL. All CAS members are cordially invited to actively participate in this very important activity. More information will be available in coming weeks, but if you have questions please contact Peg Haar on the College's staff at phaar@facs.org.

Juan C. Paramo, MD
 Section of Surgical Oncology
 Mount Sinai Medical Center
 Miami Beach, FL

Match Day 2003

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) released the results of "The Match" on March 20, 2003. Nearly 24,000 applicants entered the Match this year. Although the number of applicants has decreased since 1997, the total number of successful matches this year was at an all time high, with an overall rate of 78.5%. The number of US seniors has remained at approximately 14,500 over the past six years, comprising 60% of the total applicants with a steady rate of successful matches at 93%. Osteopathic applications have increased steadily over the same time frame and continue to maintain a successful match rate of 70%. Both US and non-US foreign graduates enjoyed their best match rate yet at ~55%.

Surgical specialties utilizing the NRMP system fared well this year with an overall match rate of 89%. General surgery, neurosurgery, otolaryngology, and urology all experienced higher match rates in 2003 compared with 2002.

SPECIALTY	Year	# Positions offered	Program totals	Filled by US applicants	Filled w/Foreign applicants	Overall Match %
General Surgery	2002	1039	243	782	199	94.4%
	2003	1049	243	867	171	99%
Neurosurgery	2002	39	24	29	3	82%
	2003	39	23	37	1	97.4%
OB/GYN	2002	1138	247	848	219	93.8%
	2003	1151	245	786	264	91.2%
Ophthalmology	2002	8	3	3	1	50%
	2003	11	4	3	1	36.4%
Orthopaedics	2002	569	150	529	36	99.3%
	2003	575	152	533	35	98.8%

Otolaryngology	2002	37	18	33	0	89.2%
	2003	36	17	33	1	94.4%
Plastics	2002	77	39	72	5	100%
	2003	77	39	71	5	98.7%
Urology	2002	57	26	46	5	89.5%
	2003	56	24	50	3	94.6%

Source: www.nrmp.org.

Note: Neurosurgery, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and plastic surgery also participate in the San Francisco Match for PGY-2 and PGY-3 positions and therefore, these results may not reflect their true overall match results. Please see www.SFmatch.org for details.

Christy M. Dunst, MD
 Department of Surgery
 Hennepin County Medical Center
 Minneapolis, MN

About CAS-ACS

The Candidate and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (CAS-ACS), an organization within the American College of Surgeons, was formed to benefit the surgeons of the future through involvement in activities of the College. The mission of the organization is to:

- Familiarize residents and young surgeons in all surgical specialties with the College and its programs and leadership
- Provide an avenue for participation in College affairs
- Enable members to develop and use leadership skills in organized surgery
- Provide opportunities for the opinions and concerns of residents and young surgeons to be heard by the College leadership

While other medical societies have developed similar resident organizations, the CAS-ACS is the only surgical organization devoted to the concerns and needs of all surgical residents and young surgeons.

Your Feedback Is Important to Us

We are interested in making sure that the content of *CAS-ACS News* meets the interests and responds to the needs of surgical residents and

newly practicing surgeons across the country. Your feedback and ideas are important to us. Please send your comments about this newsletter and your ideas for articles to the Editor at cas-news@facs.org.

Communications Committee, CAS-ACS

Christy Dunst, MD, Minneapolis, MN, Co-Chair
Juan Paramo, MD, Miami, FL, Co-Chair
Jeffrey Upperman, MD, Pittsburgh, PA
James Cipolla, MD, Baltimore, MD
Peg Haar, Chicago, IL

Executive Committee, CAS-ACS

Judith Gorelick, MD, New Haven, CT, Chair
Jeffrey Scott Upperman, MD, Pittsburgh, PA, Vice-Chair
Danielle Katz, MD, Syracuse, NY, Secretary

For additional information regarding the benefits and activities of the CAS-ACS, or to subscribe to CAS-ACS News, E-Mail cas-news@facs.org.



[click here](#) to unsubscribe

633 N. Saint Clair St., Chicago, IL, 60611