

February 2008

Editor: Carlos M. Mery, MD, MPH

Associate Editor: Wesley P. Francis, MD

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [Have the College Work for You](#)
- [Join our PAC Today!](#)
- [RAS-ACS Leadership Scholarship for Residents and Associate Fellows](#)
- [RAS Liaisons on the Web](#)
- [International Fellowships in France](#)
- [College Seeks Nominations for the Fourth Annual Jacobson Promising Investigator Award](#)
- [ACS - Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund Drops Expense Ratio to Just Over 1%](#)

Message from the Chair

We recently attended the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Board of Regents meeting in Chicago. The leadership of the College is actively addressing issues ranging from quality of surgical care to health care policy reform and the public image of surgery. These issues will have a lasting effect on the environment in which surgery is practiced in the future. The College is very interested in the participation of residents and young surgeons in shaping this future, and actively seeks our opinions and ideas. **Now is the time to be involved.**

Visit the Resident and Associate page of the ACS Web portal by [clicking here](#) to learn about some of the ongoing exciting projects and activities we are involved in, including the new Surgical Research Fellowship Database, the 2008 Leadership Conference for Young Surgeons and Chapter Leaders, and the 2008 RAS Leadership Scholarship. Discussion forums are also open for you to post questions, thoughts, or concerns and to initiate national dialogues with your peers.

One of the ways in which our voice is being heard is through feedback from surveys. These surveys allow our perspectives on various subjects to be shared with the College. One example is a current survey exploring the effect of current training conditions on resident education. If you have not already done so, please go to the online survey.

<http://www.facs.org/surveys/modernresidentwork.html>

I would like to thank all of our members for their excellent work. This is an incredible time to be involved in RAS. **We encourage you to join the 10,000+ residents, Associate Fellows, and medical students in RAS and make a difference for tomorrow.**

Ted A. James, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS
Burlington, VT

[Have the College Work for You](#)

ACS membership is available to surgical residents in all surgical specialties and subspecialties in an accredited program in the U.S. and Canada, as well as to medical students in the U.S., Canada, and international countries. The benefits of membership are many and the costs few. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member or helping RAS organize membership drives, please let us know at lukebrewst@aol.com or PHaar@facs.org. Remember that the annual fee is waived for first-year surgical residents. The College works best when it works for you!

Luke Brewster, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS Membership Committee
Oak Park, IL

Join our PAC Today!

As the excitement of the political campaigns sweeps our nation, you can help shape the future of the health care landscape in our country. The College's Political Action Committee (PAC) has already made tremendous inroads in Washington, and is now the fifth largest medical PAC in the country. Its continued success needs your help. As a Resident, you can join the PAC for as little as \$25 – less than the cost of two movie tickets in some cities! **Your involvement and voice are critically important to the ongoing influence and success of the PAC.** Please visit <http://www.facs.org/acspa/index.html> and make your contribution today!

Jacob Moalem, MD
Vice-Chair, RAS-ACS
San Francisco, CA

RAS-ACS Leadership Scholarship for Residents and Associate Fellows

The Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) is now accepting applications for its third leadership scholarship for Resident Members and Associate Fellows of the College. **The RAS Scholarship will be awarded competitively to young surgeons who exemplify an important goal the RAS has set for itself: developing future leaders in the field of surgery.**

The award will allow the young surgeon awardee to attend one of several courses that will be offered for this scholarship. The courses are intended to engage young surgeons and expose them to opportunities to improve their abilities in areas such as leadership, communications skills, and research skills that are necessary to succeed as leaders in surgery. These courses include: Outcomes Research Course, Young Surgical Investigators Conference, Residents as Teachers and Leaders Course, and the Leadership Conference for Chapter Leaders and Young Surgeons.

Applicants should submit the following documents for consideration by the selection committee: a letter of request detailing the reasons for application and course desired; a letter of support from the applicant's program director or department chair confirming that the applicant will be able to have time away to attend the course; a letter of support from a colleague, mentor, or other staff person; and a current curriculum vitae. **Only complete application packages will be considered and must be received no later than March 7, 2008.** Applications packages should be mailed to: Peg Haar, Division of Member Services, American College of Surgeons, 633 N. Saint Clair St., Chicago, IL 60611-3211. For questions, please e-mail Peg Haar at PHaar@facs.org.

Peg Haar
ACS Division of Member Services
Chicago, IL

RAS Liaisons on the Web

RAS members will soon be able to locate institutional liaisons, as well as those residency training programs that are still absent a RAS liaison. **These lists will be made available both through the**

College's members-only Web portal efacs.org and through the public Web site facs.org. Please keep an eye out for these lists and alert us if you are interested in representing your training program for the College. Please email us at lukebrewst@aol.com or PHaar@facs.org.

Luke Brewster, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS Membership Committee
Oak Park, IL

International Fellowships in France

The College of Medicine of Paris in conjunction with The Public Hospitals of Paris is inviting international physicians to apply for a **one-year fellowship in France from November 3, 2007, to October 31, 2008**. The selected candidates will receive a monthly stipend of 1450 Euros.

The requirements to apply are:

1. Fluency in the French language
2. No older than 35 years of age
3. Non-French nationals
4. Having just completed specialty training or currently in the last year of specialization

The deadline to receive applications is February 28, 2008. For more information and to download the application, visit <http://www.cmhp.asso.fr/main.htm>.

Mecker G Möller, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS IMG Committee
Tampa, FL

College Seeks Nominations for the Fourth Annual Jacobson Promising Investigator Award

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is accepting nominations for the fourth **Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson II Promising Investigator Award** to be conferred in 2008. This award has been established to **recognize outstanding surgeons engaged in research advancing the art and science of surgery** and the safety of surgical patients. The award amount is \$30,000, to be given at least once every two years.

Eligible candidates are Board-certified surgical specialists that have completed their surgical training within the past three to six years, are Fellows or Associate Fellows of the ACS, hold a faculty appointment at a research-based academic medical center, and have received peer-reviewed funding such as K-series awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Veterans Administration, National Science Foundation, or U.S. Department of Defense to support their research. **Special consideration will be given to surgeons who are at the "tipping point" of their research careers** with a track record indicative of early promise and potential (such as degree program in research or K-award).

Nominations are accepted at any time, but to be considered for the award in 2008, submissions must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than **March 19, 2008**. For more information, please contact Ms. Fitzgerald at mfitzgerald@facs.org or call 312/202-5319.

Mary Fitzgerald
Continuous Quality Improvement, ACS
Chicago, IL

ACS - Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund Drops Expense Ratio to Just Over 1%

Recognizing the goal of offering members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and affiliated organizations a reasonably priced investment product, **the expense ratio of the College's**

Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund (SDIF) has been lowered to just over 1%. The lower expense ratio will have an immediate positive impact on our current shareholders, and, over time, will positively impact the performance returns for prospective and current shareholders. The new expense ratio, including ETF costs, is 1.08%.

Moving forward, all current and prospective investors will have the ability to invest at a lower cost in a **no-load, open-end, diversified, actively managed mutual fund** broadly modeled after the ACS's endowment utilizing its same investing principles of asset allocation, diversification and rebalancing. For more information or for a free copy of the prospectus, please download a copy at <http://www.surgeonsfund.com/> or call 1-800-208-6070 and a copy will be mailed to you.

An investor should consider the charges, risks, expenses and investment objective carefully before investing. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.

SDIF is distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC, 225 Pictoria Dr., Suite 450, Cincinnati, OH 45246. The phone number is 513-587-3400.

Debbie Bakazan
ACS Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund
Chicago, IL

About RAS-ACS

The Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) is an organization within the American College of Surgeons that was formed to benefit young and future surgeons through involvement in the College's activities. Membership in the RAS-ACS is automatic when you become a Resident Member or an Associate Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Resident membership is open to all surgical residents enrolled in an accredited graduate educational program, surgical research, or fellowship program. Associate Fellow membership is open to young surgeons who are currently engaged in a second surgical residency, a research or a fellowship program, a surgical specialty practice, and are within five years of graduation from formal surgical residency training. Currently, over 2,600 Associate Fellows and 8,000 Residents are part of the RAS-ACS.

Benefits of becoming a RAS-ACS member:

- free *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* subscription
- free *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons* subscription
- free online *ACS Surgery Textbook*
- free Clinical Congress and access to CME credit
- reduced pricing for selected postgraduate courses at the Clinical Congress
- information on clinical and research fellowship opportunities
- free access to the College's job and resume databank
- electronic newsletter, Web site, and Web portal
- educational materials to meet requirements for board certification
- opportunities to serve on various College committees
- opportunities for local chapter affiliation
- access to ACS-sponsored insurance programs (life, health, disability)
- a voice in advocacy and policy-making issues concerning residents and young surgeons

Join today!

Be Sure to Visit These Important Areas of the ACS Web site:

RAS-ACS Homepage: <http://www.facs.org/ras-acs/index.html>

How to Join RAS-ACS: <http://www.facs.org/ras-acs/membership/membership.html>

Job Bank: http://www.healthcareers.com/site_templates/ACS/index.asp?aff=ACS&SPLD=ACS

ACS Homepage: <http://www.facs.org>

Your Feedback Is Important to Us

We are interested in making sure that the content of *RAS-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 ras-news@facs.org.

Communications Committee

Mecker G. Moller, MD, Chair, Grand Rapids, MI

Carlos Mery, Co-Chair, Boston, MA

Kathryn Berndt MD, Natasha Bir MD, Kris Brown MD, Jaime Cavallo MD, David Tom Cooke MD, Robert Crawford MD, David Edelman MD, Wesley Francis MD, Adil Haider MD, Jonathan Hernandez MD, Alexandria Hollingworth MD, Marco Melis MD, Vahe Melkonyan MD, Tassos Polimenakos MD, Heena Santry MD, Mallory Williams MD

Executive Committee

Ted James, MD, Chair, Burlington, VT

Jacob Moalem, MD, Vice Chair, San Francisco, CA

Josh Broghammer, MD, Secretary, Seattle, WA

Gregory Cherr, MD, Ex Officio, Buffalo, NY

Katherine Barsness, MD, Chicago, IL

Richard Baynosa, MD, Las Vegas, NV

Jonathan Chun, MD, St. Louis, MO

Eric Deshaies, MD, Albany, NY

Andrew Evans, MD, Seattle, WA

Alex Kutikov, MD, Cherry Hill, NJ

Joshua Mammen, Houston, TX

Deepak Nair, MD, Sarasota, FL

Teimour Nasirov, MD, Loma Linda, CA

Neil Tanna, MD, Washington, DC

Carrie Wieneke, MD, Seattle, WA

For additional information regarding the benefits and activities of the RAS-ACS, please contact Joan Wellington.

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

633 N Saint Clair St, Chicago, IL 60611-3211