

RAS-ACS News

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



February 2010

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Message from the Chair

The Time is Now: Get Involved Now in the Resident and Associate Society

With the Clinical Congress completed, the Resident Associate Society (RAS) is moving forward on projects for the upcoming year. Many residents ask how they can become more involved in RAS. They should take a closer look at our society to understand its workings.

There are four standing committees: Communications, Education, Issues, and Membership. Each committee has annual tasks as well as new initiatives. For details on current projects, see the November 2009 issue of our e-newsletter at <http://www.facs.org/ras-acs/resources/resources.html>. RAS business is accomplished via e-mail and bimonthly telephone conference calls. Ideas and new projects are generated and carried out throughout the year.

How can you get involved?

- Join one of our standing committees. Our bimonthly conference calls take only an hour. The remainder of work is done via e-mail
- Volunteer to help with authoring a RAS-based article for the *Bulletin* or participate in our annual essay contest.
- Use your specialty expertise to participate in the formation of questions for *Surgical Jeopardy*.
- Find out if there is a RAS-ACS liaison from your home program and if there is not, you can perhaps become one.
- Give us your input on health policy issues and help us develop better ways to reach out to residents and meet their needs.
- Finally, let your voice be heard. Do you have an idea, question, or just need to tell us something? Want more information on how to join? Visit the RAS-ACS Web site <http://www.facs.org/ras-acs/> or contact Peg Haar, our College liaison, at phaar@facs.org

Joshua Broghammer, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS

Report from the Communications Committee

Health Care Policy and the Future of Surgery

These are rapidly evolving times. Health care reform continues to dominate the political dialogue in Washington DC. The issues being debated affect surgeons on multiple levels.

This year, RAS-ACS will explore some of these issues as part of the June issue of the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*. Among the topics that will be discussed:

- **History of Health Care Reform**
- **Educating Your Surgery Resident on Health Care Policy**
- **The Policy of Addressing Work Force Issues with Foreign Medical Graduates**
- **New Media and Web 2.0 and Health Care Policy**

Please look for this important and compelling issue of the *Bulletin*, written by members of our RAS-ACS community!

David Tom Cooke, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee

[Call for Submissions to the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*](#)

The Communications Committee of RAS invites all members to consider submitting brief articles on topics relevant to issues facing our members. Accepted articles will be reviewed and considered for publication in the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*. Articles should be brief (ideally 500-1,000 words), well written, and cite relevant literature, if appropriate. Please submit articles to Anthea Powell by e-mail to acpowellacs@gmail.com. Please include the words "RAS Bulletin Submission," the date, and your last name in the title of the e-mail; attach the article to the e-mail as a Word document. Articles will be edited for length and content. We look forward to receiving your submissions.

Anthea Powell, MD
Vice-Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee

[Report from the Issues Committee](#)

The RAS Issues Committee has worked hard to develop the RAS 2010 Symposium "**Do More Requirements Make a Better Surgeon?**" Be on the lookout for a "Call for Submissions" for the **Third Annual Resident competition** as we ask you to explore the possible implications of additional requirements needed for training and also for recertification. Do all of these requirements result in better patient care and outcomes, or are non-surgeons dictating the requirements for competency in surgery? Join us in this debate and get involved. We look forward to hearing from you in the next few months.

Also, the Issues Committee is preparing to launch a new collaborative effort with the Legislative Affairs Division of the ACS to help inform and engage RAS members concerning both federal and state political issues. Stay tuned!

Brian J. Santin, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS Issues Committee

[Report from the Education Committee](#)

The Education Committee has taken on the challenge of the *Surgical Jeopardy* portfolio and is committed to adding a total of 300 new questions to the existing bank of questions. Having accepted a record number of new members during the 2009 Clinical Congress in Chicago, we are optimistic that we will reach our goal of giving *Surgical Jeopardy* an even more prominent stature and popularity during the Congress this year in Washington, DC.

J.W. Awori Hayanga, MD, MPH
Chair, RAS-ACS, Education Committee

[Unique Two-year ACS Fellowship in Outcomes Research](#)

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) invites surgical residents to apply for a two-year fellowship in **outcomes research, health services research, and health care policy**. The scholar will conduct research in a variety of areas that involve ongoing projects within the ACS such as surgical oncology, surgical quality improvement, trauma, guideline development, and accreditation programs. The scholar will also have the opportunity to complete a **Master of Science degree in Clinical Investigation or**

in Health care Quality and Patient Safety through Northwestern University in Chicago, IL. This unique program at the ACS allows the surgical resident to gain firsthand experience in outcomes and health services research at a national health care organization while preparing the scholar for a career in academic surgery. The program is open to applicants who have completed two or three years of surgical residency and are U.S. citizens. Funding is currently not available through the ACS: The resident must have obtained two years of funding from his or her home institution or other granting agency.

For more information about this program, visit:
<http://www.facs.org/ropc/clinicalscholars.html>

Apply for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars

Application Deadline: February 26, 2010

Resident physicians are invited to apply for the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Clinical Scholars®* program, which offers a Master's degree and graduate-level study and research in a university-based, post residency training program. The program provides scholars with generous funding and involves two years of study with protected time for research. In some cases, the project can be extended for a third year.

The *RWJF Clinical Scholars* program fosters the development of physicians who will lead the transformation of America's health and health care. These future leaders will conduct innovative research and work with communities, organizations, practitioners, and policymakers to address issues essential to the health and well-being of all Americans.

Program highlights include:

- leadership training
- mentoring
- protected research time
- national networking
- health policy, health services, and community-based research training
- financial support for research projects and professional travel

Four participating institutions will recruit scholars to begin their programs in July 2011: the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Michigan; the University of Pennsylvania; and Yale University.

To apply online or to find more information, visit <http://rwjcsp.unc.edu>. **The deadline for all applications (and reference letters) is February 26.**

Special Investigators Conference to Be Held in March

Space still available, but register soon to get preferred breakout sessions!

The American College of Surgeons is offering the Tenth Biennial Surgical Investigators Conference March 5-7, 2010, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in North Bethesda, MD. The conference will assist surgeon-scientists in obtaining extramural, peer-reviewed grant support for their work and will introduce them to the process, content, style, and people involved in successful grant-writing. The conference will also provide the opportunity to interact with the National Institutes of Health representatives.

Surgeon-scientists will meet their peers, selected mostly from surgery departments in U.S. and Canadian academic medical centers. Leading surgeon-scientists who have obtained NIH grant support for their work will participate in the conference as leaders of various small group meetings and as plenary session speakers.

The program includes intensive exposure to NIH programs and policies; information from NIH Institutes; how to apply; workshops in hypothesis testing, methodology, background, and preliminary results as well as grant-writing strategies and mock study sections reviewing model grants.

The fee, which includes all related conference materials, meals, breaks, receptions, and lodging for two nights, is \$1,825.00 USD. Confirmation is contingent upon payment of the course fee and the availability of space. Preference is given to surgeon members of the American College of Surgeons.

Find additional information, online registration, and an application form on the American College of Surgeons Web site (www.facs.org/cqi/src/surginvconf.htm)

Call for Nominations for 2010 ACS/Pfizer, Inc. Surgical Volunteerism Award

The ACS is soliciting nominations for the 2010 Resident/Fellow Surgical Volunteerism Award. The award is intended for ACS surgeons whose volunteerism activities were undertaken in addition to usual training commitments and go beyond normal requirements. Surgeons in training or those who have completed their training may be considered for contributions made during medical school, residency, or fellowship. Information about the awards and nomination forms are available at <http://www.operationgivingback.facs.org>. The nomination deadline is Friday, February 26, 2010.

Anathea C. Powell, MD

Vice-Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee
Email: acpowellacs@gmail.com

Operation Giving Back Offers Information on Response to Haiti Earthquake

The situation in Haiti remains grave, and there is limited access into the country, and communication remains very limited. Responders best able to provide assistance are those who are fully trained in their specialties and have received disaster management training. For now, the best means for medical students and residents to provide assistance to the people of Haiti is in the form of monetary donations.

Although funds are often very limited for students and residents, even small donations can have a large impact. Monetary donations are preferred over commodity donations; as a representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) describes, "Monetary donations are the most effective form of assistance because they allow humanitarian organizations to purchase (often within the affected region itself) the exact type and quantity of items needed by those affected by the crisis. Read more about the advantages of monetary donations at USAID's Website: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/help/advantages.html

A quick way to donate a small amount is through text messages (charges appear on your cell phone bill). US residents may donate:

- \$10 per text by texting the word 'Haiti' to 90999 for the American Red Cross (The Red Cross raised \$3.4 million in 36 hours from text messages.)
 - \$5 per text by texting the word 'Yele' to 501501 for the Yele Haiti Earthquake Fund
- Canadian residents may donate \$5 per text by texting the word "Haiti" to 45678 through a system set up by the Mobile Giving Foundation, a group that distributes the funds to charities working in Haiti, such as the Salvation Army.

Other organizations accepting donations for Haiti can be found on our Website: (<http://www.operationgivingback.facs.org/content2911.html>) and at CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/impact/?hpt=tv>).

Residents who are part of the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR)/Service Employees International Union (SEIU) may find information about CIR's response at: <http://action.seiu.org/page/s/helphaiti>. As we receive more information about relief efforts, we will keep this site updated.

Medical students and residents who wish to participate in future disaster response may consider general and orthopedic surgery for residency and trauma/critical care for specialty training. Both the DHHS/Office of Homeland Security Disaster Medical Assistance Team (<http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/opeco/ndms/teams/dmat.html>) and the International Medical Surgical Response Team (IMSURT) (<http://www.imsurtwest.com/>), a collaboration between the National Disaster Medical System and the Department of State, require responders to be certified in their field; a critical care background is preferred.

Information on surgical critical care fellowships (including trauma) is available on the National Resident Matching Program Website (http://www.nrmp.org/fellow/match_name/surg_crit_care/about.html).

Abstract Submissions Sought for 2010 Clinical Congress

The American College of Surgeons is seeking abstract submissions for presentation during the 96th Annual Clinical Congress, October 3-7, in Washington, DC. Abstracts for the following programs are being sought: the Owen H. Wangenstein Surgical Forum, Scientific Papers Session, Scientific Exhibits (Poster) Session, and Video-Based Education. Submissions are subject to committee review and selection, and all accepted abstracts are expected to be presented at the Congress..

- Abstracts are to be submitted online only.
- Submission period: Ends at 5 pm (CST) March 1, 2010.
- Late submissions are not permitted.

- Abstract specifications and requirements are posted online at http://web2.facs.org/abstracts/call_for_abstracts.cfm.

For further information regarding Owen H. Wangenstein Surgical Forum (oral presentation) contact Kathryn L. Matousek, 312-202-5336 or kmatousek@facs.org; Scientific Papers Session (oral presentation) contact Beth Brown, 312-202-5325 or ebrown@facs.org; Scientific Exhibits (poster presentation) contact Kay Anthony, 312-202-5385 or kanthony@facs.org; Video-based Education (video presentation) contact Gay Lynn Dykman, 312-202-5262 or gdykman@facs.org.

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 Clinical Congress advance registration 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/>

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 Web portal: <http://efacs.org/residents>

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.

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For additional information regarding the benefits and activities of the RAS-ACS, please contact Peg Haar at ras-news@facs.org



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