

RAS-ACS e-Newsletter

April 2007

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- [From the Chair: What Can You Teach the College?](#)
- [Want to Get More Involved in the RAS-ACS???](#)
- [The Future of Surgery: No Crystal Ball... Just Our Opinions](#)
- [RAS-ACS Symposium to Focus on Pay-for-Performance and Surgical Quality Initiatives](#)
- [RAS Community on e-FACS.org: Your Gateway to the Surgical Literature](#)
- [COT Hold 30th Annual Resident Trauma Paper Competition](#)
- [Get Involved with Your Local ACS Chapter!!!](#)
- [RAS Liaisons Recognition: Star Liaisons](#)
- [Investigate SDIF, an Investment Tool for ACS Members](#)
- [2007 Leadership Conference](#)

[From the Chair: What Can You Teach the College?](#)

People who know me know that I'm very enthusiastic about the educational opportunities the American College of Surgeons (ACS) offers young surgeons. As a result, I'd like you to think of the College as a place where you can "come to learn." However, I would also like you to think about how you can help the College learn about the future educational needs of young surgeons.

The College's Board of Regents has begun a strategic planning initiative that has as one of its major objectives keeping the ACS attractive and relevant to young surgeons like you. **In order to make the changes you want, we need to know what you think!**

Please complete an **online survey** at <http://www.facs.org/surveys/youngsurgwants.html>. The survey is quick, easy, anonymous, and your input is very important for the future of the College.

Thanks in advance.

Gregory S. Cherr, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS
Buffalo, NY

[Want to Get More Involved in the RAS-ACS???](#)

The Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) is in the process of recruiting liaison members from every residency program in the country. This formidable task is ongoing, and there are still a large number of residencies that are not represented.

Our ultimate goal is to have a contact in every training program. This individual would help us

regularly disseminate important information to residents, and help boost membership among general surgery residents, residents in the surgical subspecialties, and medical students.

If you are interested in serving as a RAS Liaison please send an e-mail to Luke Brewster at lukebrewst@aol.com or Peg Haar at phaar@acs.org. Include your name, residency program, PGY status, mailing address, and e-mail address.

Jacob Moalem, MD
Secretary, RAS-ACS
New Brunswick, NJ

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

The Future of Surgery: No Crystal Ball... Just Our Opinions

What does the **future of surgery** hold for residents and young surgeons? This question is on everyone's mind. Sometimes we talk about it over lunch or when we're in the operating room. Everyone has an opinion. This year, the RAS-ACS Communications Committee decided to explore this theme in the **July issue of the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons**, which the College has generously allowed us to use as our special issue each year. We will explore:

- **Surgical Innovation and Technology** - Will robots eventually replace surgeons?
- **The Globalization of Surgery** - The world is shrinking as patient expectations are expanding.
- **New Ways of Practicing Surgery** - Surgeons are exploring their options.
- **The Future of Fellowship Training** - Five years of residency just does not seem to be enough...
- **The Future of the ACS** - The College has plans for its membership. Are you on board?

In addition, we will hear from our leader, **Greg Cherr, MD** who will give us an overview of what RAS has accomplished and is planning to do. Our **Issues Committee** will delve into the topic they have chosen for the always controversial and never boring **symposium** that will be held during the College's Clinical Congress in October.

Each author team is working to bring you new insights and perspectives. We hope these articles reflect your opinions. If your opinions differ, e-mail us at phaar@acs.org to let us know.

C. Suzanne Cutter, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee
New York, NY

RAS-ACS Symposium to Focus on Pay-for-Performance and Surgical Quality Initiatives

Every year, during the College's Annual Clinical Congress, the Resident and Associate Society (RAS) sponsors a **symposium** focusing on a timely topic targeted at surgical residents, young surgeons, and Fellows. This year's symposium, entitled "Pay-for-Performance and Surgical Quality Initiatives: Will the 'Generalist' and Surgical Training Survive in the New Paradigm?," will be held on Sunday, October 7 from 1 to 4 pm during the 93rd Annual Clinical Congress in New Orleans, LA. **The aim of the session is to examine surgical quality initiatives and their potential impact on both resident training and the practice of surgery in the future.**

Courtney Townsend, MD, FACS, chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, will discuss the "con" pay-for-performance perspective and the potential pitfalls of this initiative. **Barbara Bass, MD, FACS**, professor of surgery at the University of

Maryland Hospital in Baltimore will discuss the "pro" pay-for-performance perspective and its potential advantages for the patient and the surgeon. **Hari Nathan, MD**, chair of the Issues Committee of RAS-ACS will provide a resident's perspective on this topic. A **representative from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** will also be part of the panel.

Attendance is open to all RAS members, as well as students and ACS Fellows. An open microphone discussion will promote audience participation in the symposium.

Mindy Williams, MD

Co-Chair, RAS-ACS Issues Committee
Shreveport, LA

RAS Community on e-FACS.org: Your Gateway to the Surgical Literature

Have you logged in recently to the [RAS Community on e-FACS.org](#), the College's Web Portal? You can use the Web portal to access the surgical literature and read articles published in some of the most relevant surgical journals and textbooks. You can access articles published in the **Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)** and earn CME credits by reading the articles and taking a brief online CME test! Just click on the JACS link displayed in the right-hand column of our homepage on the portal or select one of the JACS articles that are highlighted in the center of our homepage.

You can also **receive JACS abstracts on your PDA**, have access to the online version of **ACS Surgery: Principles & Practice** to supplement your surgical knowledge when a clinical management question about your patients arise, or read some of the most recently indexed articles in **PubMed**.

To visit the RAS Community Web Portal, log into [eFACS.org](http://www.efacs.org) (<http://www.efacs.org>), click on the "Communities & Specialties" tab on the portal's homepage, and then select "Residents/Associate Fellows." Give it a try!

Mecker G. Möller, MD

Co-Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee
Tampa, FL

COT Holds 30th Annual Resident Trauma Paper Competition

The ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) met March 15-17 in Denver, CO, for its Annual Spring Meeting. **This meeting is the venue where the COT's Annual Resident Trauma Paper Competition** is held. Residents competing at the national level represent the winners of their respective state and regional competitions. Fourteen residents, each representing one of the COT regions, present papers and compete for first and second place awards in the clinical and basic science categories. All residents presenting receive financial support for the trip to the meeting, and winners receive cash awards. Residents are encouraged to contribute by presenting their work at their respective state COT meeting.

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2007 ACS-COT Residents Trauma Paper Competition:

Basic Science:

1st place: Alexander Q. Ereso, MD, Oakland, CA, "The Angiotensin II Type 2 Receptor Provides an 'Endogenous Brake' in Inflammation Induced Fluid Leak"

2nd place: Sugar S. Damle, MD, Denver, CO, "Therapeutic Induction of Heme-Oxygenase-1 Using a Hemoglobin-Based Oxygen Carrier"

Clinical Science:

1st Place: Alexandra Mihailovic, MD, Toronto, Ontario, "The Burden of Pediatric Trauma in the Developing World: Quantifying the Problem and Translating Research into a Sustainable Solution"
2nd Place: Heather F. Pidcoke, MD, San Antonio, TX, "Occult Hypoglycemia Unmasked with an Algorithm to Correct Hematocrit Effect in Point-of-Care (POC) Glucometers"

R. Shayn Martin, MD

RAS-ACS Representative to COT
Winston-Salem, NC

Get Involved with Your Local ACS Chapter!!!

The College exerts its influence through its 100 local chapters. Chapter membership is open to all Fellows and RAS members of ACS and it provides a forum for young surgeons to share their thoughts and experiences with more experienced surgeons.

The New York Chapter of the American College of Surgeons is pleased to offer FREE membership in the New York Chapter to ALL surgical residents!! This opportunity is available to both categorical general surgery residents as well as to residents in other surgical specialties. The New York Chapter wants YOUR input so that we may do a better job of representing your needs and concerns. Please get involved – you are the future!!

For further information or to request a membership application form, please contact Amy Clinton, Executive Director, at [nycofac@yahoo.com](mailto:nycofac@yaho.com).

Danielle A. Katz, MD, FACS

CYS Liaison to RAS-ACS
Syracuse, NY

RAS Liaisons Recognition: Star Liaisons

Raphael El Youssef is a PGY 3 in general surgery at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). Raphael became involved in RAS this past October while attending the RAS forum during the College's Annual Meeting. Since joining the Membership Committee, he has been instrumental in developing a power-point presentation highlighting the benefits of RAS membership for liaisons to use. **Currently, Raphael is helping build a webpage for liaisons where they can find helpful information and participate in discussion boards for residents interested in becoming more involved with the College at the local and national level.** We are thankful to have Raphael on the Membership Committee and hope that he will continue to represent the College's interests to the OHSU.

Raquel Gonzalez and Jason Wellen are two chief residents at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ. They both became active with RAS through our forum at the Annual Meeting. They have collected vital information about the surgical programs currently represented by RAS liaisons. **This information is being used to find those institutions not currently represented and provide the current liaisons with resources to help them strengthen their program's presence within the College.** Raquel is entering a critical care fellowship at the University of Michigan this coming year, and she will then apply for a pediatric surgery fellowship. Jason will start a fellowship in abdominal transplant surgery at Washington University Barnes Jewish Hospital in Saint Louis, MO. We hope they will continue to be involved in the College as Associate Fellows. In the spirit of mentorship, they will pass on the torch to one of their junior residents, Marie Le, to take over as liaison in the coming year.

If you know a RAS liaison or RAS member who has made a substantial contribution to your program, we would like to recognize him or her. Please e-mail his or her name to Luke Brewster, Co-chair of the Membership Committee, at lukebrewst@aol.com.

Luke Brewster, MD

Co-Chair, RAS-ACS Membership Committee
Oak Park, IL

Investigate SDIF, an Investment Tool for ACS Members

Surgeons at all stages of their careers are facing new and complex financial challenges. The leadership of the College has identified these challenges and has spent the past two years developing an investment concept for its members: the Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund (SDIF). **SDIF is a diversified, no-load, open-end, asset allocation mutual fund created for ACS members, their families, employees, and affiliate groups.** SDIF seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation and income through the fundamental investing principles—asset allocation, diversification, and rebalancing—which we believe are the necessary ingredients for a successful investment program.

SDIF is available to be used as an investment vehicle in Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, and regular personal savings accounts. **The minimum investment of \$25,000 is being waived for residents.** As such, the minimum investment for residents is \$1,000, and the minimum for those who are at an early stage in their career is \$2,500. However, please contact us should you have any difficulty meeting these minimums.

For more information about SDIF, contact Savi Pai at (312) 202-5056, spai@facs.org, or Tom Kiley at (312) 202-5019, tkiley@facs.org. You may also visit the Web site at <http://www.surgeonsfund.com> or call (800) 208-6070.

*An investor should consider the charges, risks, expenses, and investment objective carefully before investing. For a prospectus containing this and other information, please contact the Fund at **800/208-6070**, or download the prospectus at www.surgeonsfund.com. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.*

The Fund is subject to the same risks as the underlying exchange-traded funds (ETF) that it invests in, including interest rate risk, credit/default risk, market risk, international investment risk, derivatives risk, management risk, NAV risk, and liquidity risk. Investing in the underlying ETFs indirectly through the Fund, an investor will incur not only a proportionate share of the expenses of the ETFs held by the Fund, but also the expenses of the Fund. Diversification neither assures a profit nor eliminates the risk of experiencing investment losses.

The Fund 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

2007 Leadership Conference

The **2007 Leadership Conference** will be held on June 3-6 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. Already, the College's Committee on Young Surgeons and the staff have confirmed:

- An extensive overview of **Pay-for Performance**, led by Frank Opelka, MD, FACS
- A highly rated session on **communication skills and techniques**
- A session on the **skills that are necessary to lead change**, presented by Stephen Evans, MD, FACS
- A repeat performance of "**How Does Capitol Hill Really Work?**", presented by Ms. Judy Schneider; Ms. Schneider's 2005 evaluations were "off the chart"

For more information and registration details, visit

<http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/chapleadership2007.html>.

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.

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

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