

# RAS-ACS News



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



May 2010

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**Mark your calendars for the RAS-ACSTown Hall Meeting at the 2010 Clinical Congress.**

The Resident and Associate Society (RAS) has obtained approval to host a **RAS-ACS Town Hall meeting** on **Tuesday October 5**, from **7-7:45 am** during the American College of Surgeons (ACS) 96th annual Clinical Congress. This will be the second consecutive year a RAS-sponsored Town Hall meeting will be held. Plan on attending to discuss this year's topic, "**Health Care Reform: Are We Neglecting the Future of Surgery?**" The passage of the current health care reform legislation has left many serious

issues unaddressed. Add your voice to the discussion on the impact of mounting **medical school debt**, increasing **physician liability with limited tort reform**, and the impending **surgical workforce shortage**. The exciting town hall format allows **direct communication** between the audience and panel members. Join the conversation!

**Joshua Broghammer, MD**  
**Chair, RAS-ACS**

### ● **Report from the Communications Committee**

1. This year, the July 2010 issue of the ***Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*** will be dedicated to the RAS-ACS selected theme “**Health Care Policy and the Future of Surgery.**”

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

2. The Communications Committee is working on several projects, including updating and maintaining the **RAS-ACS Web portal page** as part of *e-FACS.org*, as well as **developing a Facebook RAS-ACS page**. If you are interested in participating in any of these projects, or have another project that would benefit ASC Residents and Associate Fellows, **contact us!**

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

### ● **Report from the Education Committee**

The Education Committee is sending out a nationwide call in search of a Surgical Jeopardy co-moderator. We also encourage members to submit more questions for the Jeopardy Database. Please keep them coming!

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

### ● **Report from the Membership Committee**

Dear Friends,

The RAS Membership Committee continues to seek residents to act as their program's point of contact for the College and RAS by serving as a **Resident Liaison**. We have had

**tremendous success in increasing the number of liaisons** during the course of the past year, and believe that this is laying the foundation for a Resident and Associate Society that will continue to **grow in strength and numbers**. In the coming year, the liaisons, working with their state chapter and RAS, will be at the heart of grassroots efforts to ensure that residents' voices are heard by the College. In addition to providing an **opportunity to serve**, being your program's liaison will also provide you with the **opportunity to lead** by using your unique strengths and perspective to **recruit colleagues, engage interested medical students, and bring your concerns and those of your colleagues to the College**. We ask that anyone interested in taking on the position of liaison for their institution during the 2011-2012 academic year contact us or Peg Haar ([phaar@facs.org](mailto:phaar@facs.org)). We **look forward to hearing from you** and working with you during a productive year.

Melissa Rader, MD, MPH  
Chair, RAS-ACS Membership Committee  
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Robert Winfield  
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### Report from the Issues Committee

Get in on the Debate—"Do More Requirements Make a Better Surgeon?"

At this year's **ACS Clinical Congress in Washington, DC**, the topic at the **RAS Symposium from 1 to 4 pm on Sunday, October 3**, will be "**Do more requirements make a better surgeon?**" The symposium will feature a debate among leaders in surgery on whether the increasing requirements facing surgeons actually improve patient care and outcomes. For example, "Does increasing testing, time on simulators, tracking work hours, and more documentation requirements lead to safer operations and better surgeons? Should our profession be reducing certification and documentation requirements to previous levels?" Join this lively discussion and **express your views** at the RAS symposium!

An article in the **July ACS Bulletin** will highlight the history behind this debate. Add your opinions to the symposium!

The **Issues Committee** in continued **collaboration with the ACS Division of Advocacy and Health Policy** presents the following opportunity for all RAS members:

**Help pass the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act (UEVHPA) in all 50 states.** The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, a nonpartisan organization devoted since 1892 to working toward the development and enactment of uniform state laws, in 2007 **adopted a model state bill—UEVHPA—to address barriers to volunteer physicians and health care practitioners responding to disasters in other states.** UEVHPA **allows state governments to give reciprocity to other states' licensees** through a **national registration system** that confirms that physicians and health care practitioners are licensed and in good standing in their respective states. To date, 12 states have passed UEVHPA legislation --Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah and more recently, Washington, D.C. In Illinois, a UEVHPA bill has been passed by both chambers of the legislature and awaits the governor's signature.

The ACS Board of Governors Executive Committee and the Socioeconomic Issues Committee support passage of UEVHPA in all states, and ACS chapters are urged to work with their state legislatures for passage of this legislation. For more information on the act visit <http://www.uevhpa.org> or contact Alexis Walters, [AWalters@facs.org](mailto:AWalters@facs.org)

If you have questions or want to get involved with the RAS Issues Committee, contact Brian J. Santin, MD, at [briansantin@gmail.com](mailto:briansantin@gmail.com) .

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

#### **Message from the ACSPA-Surgeons PAC**

Everyone is aware of the ongoing debate over **health care reform**, and the recent **passage of legislation in Congress**. The debate has been fierce and passionate, but it is NOT finished. In the upcoming months, it is vital that we become **MORE focused and dedicated** to political advocacy for the protection of our patients and our profession. This is what your **ACSPA-Surgeons PAC** does. The board of directors of the College's Political Action Committee consists of **surgeons from different specialties** who represent the entire ACS Fellowship. As your RAS representative on that board, my job is to ensure that our concerns and the **concerns of the next generation of surgeons**--those who will experience the

full brunt of this new legislation--are adequately **represented and addressed**.

Recently there has been delayed movement on fixing the **sustained growth rate (SGR)**, the calculation Medicare uses to pay physicians, with **the issue of a 21 percent cut still being a possibility for all physician payments**. As a group with ever-growing medical school debt, we must voice our opinions and ensure that **our problems are recognized** in this debate. We have the power to change the perception of American surgery and to have a positive impact on the image of today's surgeon. We are the group that could have the biggest effect in our profession and with and for our patients.

It does not require significant time or monetary donations for your voice to be heard, but **NOW is the time for you to get involved**. One way to do so is by attending the **Third Annual Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference (JSAC) in Washington, DC, from July 25-27**.

This conference offers surgeons a significant opportunity to **educate Congress about the challenges facing your surgical residencies and your patients today**, and to **build the grassroots bridges with legislators** that are essential to having meaningful input on issues that affect you on a daily basis. Click here (<http://www.facs.org/ahp/jsac2010.html>) to register online for the conference and be linked to additional conference information.

If you have questions, want more information, or want to learn how you can become that strong voice the ACS needs to guide us during this debate, never hesitate to contact me at [rossfgoldberg@gmail.com](mailto:rossfgoldberg@gmail.com), or visit our website at [http://www.facs.org/acspa\\_pac/index.html](http://www.facs.org/acspa_pac/index.html). You will be hearing from me over the next few months as I strive to keep you aware of what is going on, and what it all means. I am your advocate on the board of directors for the ACSPA-Surgeons PAC, but only together can we be strong enough to have a positive impact on health care reform.

**Ross F. Goldberg, MD**  
**RAS Member, Board of Directors**  
**ACSPA-Surgeons PAC**

**Attend Clinical Congress Session on OR Safety, Teamwork**

**Panel Session 223, Tuesday, October 5, 11:30-1:00**

**Sponsored by: Committee on Developing High Performance Teamwork in Surgery**

**“Making the Operating Room Safe: The role of High Performance Teamwork”**

By learning what the **attributes of a high performance team** are, participants will be able to diagnose the early signs and symptoms of operating room teams that are becoming dysfunctional. Discussion will include techniques **to redirect these dysfunctional teams** by focusing on the individual roles and responsibilities each person plays in a team setting. Having and using this knowledge will, in turn, have a profound effect on **high performance teamwork**, improving patient outcomes and creating a **satisfying work environment** for all.

**● EAST Seeks Abstracts for 24th Annual Scientific Assembly**

The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) is accepting abstracts for its 24th Annual Scientific Assembly. This meeting will feature the **Raymond H. Alexander, MD, Resident Paper Competition**. Visit [www.east.org/onlinesubmit.html](http://www.east.org/onlinesubmit.html) for more information and to submit an abstract. Abstracts must be submitted online. The submission **deadline is July 1, 2010**.

For information on EAST, visit <http://www.east.org/Portal/Default.aspx?tabid=56>. or contact [ceme@east.org](mailto:ceme@east.org).

**Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the 24th EAST Annual Scientific Assembly—January 25-29, 2011, at the Naples (FL) Grande Resort!**

**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 3,500 Associate Fellows and 9,300 Residents are part of the RAS-ACS.

### **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](mailto:ras-news@facs.org). Communications Committee

### **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 website:

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](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/>

### **Communications Committee**

David Tom Cooke, MD, MPH, Chair, Sacramento, CA

Anathea Powell, MD, Vice-Chair, New York, NY

## **Executive Committee**

Josh Broghammer, MD, Chair, Kansas City, KS

Joshua Mammen, MD, Vice-Chair, Kansas City, KS

Heena Santry, MD, Secretary, Boston, MA

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Peg Haar, Staff Liaison, [phaar@facs.org](mailto:phaar@facs.org); 312-202-5312

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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](mailto:ras-news@facs.org)



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