

# RAS-ACS News



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



## EARLY SUMMER 2006

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- [ACS Spring Meeting Held in Dallas](#)
- [RAS-ACS Clinical Congress Symposium to Examine "Acute Care Surgery—Improving Outcomes or Fragmenting Care?"](#)
- [Resident Membership Now Available for the Association of Program Directors in Surgery](#)
- [Applications Being Accepted for Biodesign Surgical Innovation Fellowship at Stanford](#)
- [Advocacy and Health Policy Update—Pay for Performance](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities in Surgery: the Operation Giving Back Web site](#)
- [Pay Your ACS Membership Dues in Advance](#)
- [Becoming Your Residency Program's Liaison to RAS-ACS](#)
- [The Gold Humanism Honor Society: Promoting Humanism and Professionalism in Medicine](#)
- [Association of Academic Surgery Research Fellowship Award Announced](#)

## ACS Spring Meeting Held in Dallas

The **Spring Meeting of the American College of Surgeons** was held in Dallas, TX, from April 22 to 26. Suzanne Cutter, MD, RAS representative to the Advisory Council for General Surgery, and the other members of the Advisory Council are to be commended on their excellent program, which included numerous interesting topics. As has been the case in the past, a large part of this year's program was cosponsored by RAS for residents and young surgeons. On Sunday, several solid clinical research papers were presented and discussed during the **Clinical Abstracts by Residents** session. Following these presentations, interesting cases from around the country were presented at the **Spectacular Cases** forum. After lunch, teams of two residents from 24 different residency programs across the country competed head-to-head in a battle of wits in the annual **Surgical Jeopardy** contest. This year's winners were from Easton, PA.

In addition to all of the exciting programming that was part of the

Spring Meeting, the RAS Executive Committee held its **annual strategic planning session** with the leadership of the College. This meeting is now in its third year and has become an amazing forum through which RAS is able to voice new ideas and solicit support and suggestions from the senior leaders of the College. As in previous years, this proved to be a very productive dialogue, and we are excited about the opportunities that have come from this meeting. RAS continues to receive the highest level of support from the leaders of the College.

If you were unable to attend this year's meeting, I highly encourage you to make plans now for the Spring Meeting next year. It will be held April 22-25 at the Paris Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. Look for announcements in this e-Newsletter for specific program information and new topics for the meeting. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

**Michael J. Sutherland, MD**  
Chair, RAS-ACS  
Travis Air Force Base, CA

### **RAS-ACS Clinical Congress Symposium to Examine "Acute Care Surgery – Improving Outcomes or Fragmenting Care?"**

Each year during the College's annual Clinical Congress, RAS-ACS sponsors a symposium on a topic targeted toward surgical residents, young surgeons, and fellows. This year's symposium will focus on "Acute Care Surgery – Improving Outcomes or Fragmenting Care?" and will be held on **Sunday, October 8, 2006 from 1 to 4 pm**, as part of the 92<sup>nd</sup> ACS Clinical Congress in Chicago. The symposium will examine the paradigm shift to "acute care surgery" as a solution for the current ongoing crisis in trauma surgery. The aim is to provide insight into the future of the specialty, including the proposed change in scope of practice and what impact the concept would have on current surgeons, surgical subspecialists, trainees, training programs, and patient care. The symposium will explore the possible **advantages and pitfalls of increasing the trauma surgeon's scope of practice, its potential effect on the role of other surgical subspecialists, and ultimately, the optimal care of the patient.**

Attendance is open to all RAS members as well as all residents, fellows, and medical students. An open-microphone discussion will promote audience participation and a lively discussion of these important issues.

We hope to see you there.

**Richard C. Baynosa, MD**  
Co-Chair, RAS-ACS Issues Committee  
Las Vegas, NV

## Resident Membership Now Available for the Association of Program Directors in Surgery

As the first surgical resident appointee to the Board of Directors of the **Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS)**, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all interested residents to become involved in this organization. The APDS had its roots in the 1970s and has been active in its present form since 1980. It has thus far been a very practical and successful organization, composed mostly of current program directors from surgery programs across the country. Recently, the many changes in requirements mandated by the American Board of Surgery (ABS) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) have given the members of the APDS much opportunity to share best practices and discuss how to adapt to the changing environment. Until recently, most of this discussion had been among program directors. The APDS has now expanded membership to include residents.

The new **APDS resident membership** option comes at a greatly reduced rate (\$225), which includes a subscription to *Current Surgery*. The core mission of the APDS is training the best surgeons of the future. Residents provide both a good source of and sounding board for new ideas and opinions regarding current issues in surgical training. The APDS would like to invite all general surgery residents, particularly those interested in surgical education, to become active members. Their participation will enhance dialogue at meetings, promote additional research, and strengthen the ability of the APDS to understand and respond to current issues affecting training programs. I hope that all interested residents will join the organization this year. To do so, either fill out the same invoice used by the program director or contact the APDS directly. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information at [Andrew.Resnick@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Andrew.Resnick@uphs.upenn.edu).

**Andrew S. Resnick, MD, MBA**  
Resident member, APDS Board of Directors  
Philadelphia, PA

## Applications Being Accepted for Biodesign Surgical Innovation Fellowship at Stanford

The Biodesign Surgical Innovation Program at Stanford (CA) University is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Surgery and Bioengineering that has the goal of training the next generation of surgical innovators. This program offers surgical residents and young practicing surgeons a **two-year fellowship** in the process of biomedical technology innovation.

Surgical innovation fellows are teamed with engineers and business graduates to **identify and solve unmet clinical needs**. Fellows are exposed to all aspects of bringing new technology from idea to bedside, including clinical need finding, need validation, generation

and evaluation of ideas, concept prototyping, benchtop and animal testing, intellectual property development, FDA approval, and financing (business plans and grants).

This fellowship is a unique opportunity for surgeons who enjoy applying technology to clinical problems and want to acquire the necessary skills to innovate in our field. Applications for the 2007-2009 fellowship are now open. For more information, visit <http://innovation.stanford.edu> or email Mike Gertner at [mgertner@stanford.edu](mailto:mgertner@stanford.edu).

**Carlos M. Mery, MD, MPH**

Member, RAS-ACS Communications Committee  
Palo Alto, CA

**Advocacy and Health Policy Update – Pay for Performance**

As part of its shift to value-based purchasing (a.k.a. **pay for performance**), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has rolled out the Physician Voluntary Reporting Program (PVRP). Launched last October, this voluntary program, which includes no financial incentives for participation, initially included 36 quality measures. After additional input from primary care physicians, the program was reduced to 16 indicators. Of those, only five are surgery-related and include:

- Receipt of autogenous arteriovenous (AV) fistula for end-stage renal disease patients
- Preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis
- Use of internal mammary artery in coronary artery bypass graft surgery
- Preoperative beta-blockade for patient with isolated coronary artery bypass graft
- Perioperative deep venous thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis

The surgery-related measures evaluate processes (Did the patient receive preoperative antibiotics?) rather than outcomes (Did the patient develop a wound infection?). The program does not include a risk-adjustment model and, therefore, the number of outcome measures included is limited. To ensure that “pay for performance” will result in better care for surgical patients, it is **vital that surgeons** (including residents and Associate Fellows) **are involved** in the development of policy and provide feedback on changes to the system.

Do you want to make a difference today? You may contact: Christian Shalgian, Manager of Legislative Affairs (Federal Affairs) at [cshalgian@facs.org](mailto:cshalgian@facs.org); Jon H. Sutton, MBA, Manager of State Affairs at [jsutton@facs.org](mailto:jsutton@facs.org); or Gregory S. Cherr, MD, Vice-Chair, RAS-ACS and 2005 ACS Health Policy Scholar at [gcherr@facs.org](mailto:gcherr@facs.org).

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

### **Volunteer Opportunities in Surgery: the Operation Giving Back Web site**

International and domestic volunteer opportunities for surgeons and surgical residents can be found on the **Operation Giving Back (OGB) Web site of the American College of Surgeons** (<http://www.operationgivingback.facs.org/>). Some of the international opportunities include locations in Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. **Domestic opportunities** include volunteer work at the Beach Health Clinic in Virginia Beach, VA, and in Brunswick and St. Marys, GA, through the Coastal Medical Access Program. Other domestic opportunities are available in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin.

You are invited to read about the experiences of Drs. Ozgediz, Roayaie, and Wang on their elective surgical volunteer rotation in Uganda in the May edition of the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons* ([http://www.facs.org/fellows\\_info/bulletin/bullet.html](http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/bullet.html)). Agencies that provide **international volunteer opportunities** for surgical residents can be found at the OGB Web site and include: World Medical Mission, World Surgical Foundation, International Volunteers in Urology, Adventist Health International, Medical Ministry International, Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery, and International Medical Assistance.

For more information on these and other surgical volunteerism opportunities, visit Operation Giving Back at <http://www.operationgivingback.facs.org>. You are encouraged to register for a "My Giving Back" account when you visit the Web site.

**Mecker G. Möller, MD**  
Co-Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee  
Grand Rapids, MI

### **Pay Your ACS Membership Dues in Advance**

Attention, surgical residents! **Annual dues** for the American College of Surgeons must be paid soon. This year, you have the option of **paying your dues in advance**—that is, you can pay once for the remainder of your residency. This arrangement is ideal for residents in programs that reimburse residents for membership in the College. Also, again this year again, interns will have their membership dues waived, but they still need to complete the application process. Thus, an incoming intern could pay \$80 once, for five years of membership.

Advance payments cannot yet be made online, so they should be directed to:

Irene Kulyk  
Division of Member Services  
American College of Surgeons  
633 N. Saint Clair St.  
Chicago, IL, 60611  
[ikulyk@facs.org](mailto:ikulyk@facs.org)  
800-293-4029

If you have questions or problems concerning membership dues, feel free to e-mail Luke Brewster at [lukebrewst@aol.com](mailto:lukebrewst@aol.com).

**Luke P. Brewster, MD**  
Member, RAS-ACS Membership Committee  
Oak Park, IL

### **Becoming Your Residency Program's Liaison to RAS-ACS**

We are in search of dynamic and enthusiastic residents to become involved with RAS and serve as a direct link between RAS and other residents in your program. As a liaison, you would keep your peers informed about RAS and ACS activities, promote interest in RAS membership, and become the voice and ears of your residents by providing RAS with pertinent feedback.

If you are interested in becoming a RAS-liaison for your program, please email Irene Kulyk in the ACS Division of Member Services at [ikulyk@facs.org](mailto:ikulyk@facs.org) or contact your Program Coordinator.

**Mecker G. Möller, MD**  
Co-Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee  
Grand Rapids, MI

### **The Gold Humanism Honor Society: Promoting Humanism and Professionalism in Medicine**

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, has launched several efforts aimed at promoting humanism and professionalism in medicine, including the now widely held White Coat and Student Clinician's Ceremonies. The Gold Foundation is pleased to welcome the American College of Surgeons as one of its partners for Biennial 2006: the Second Conference of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. It will be held September 7-9, 2006, at the Hyatt O'Hare in Chicago.

The **Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS)** was established in 2002 to provide a means for recognizing students, residents, and faculty who exemplify the **highest values of humanistic care and professionalism in their relations with patients and peers**. As

testimony to its perceived value, the GHHS already has 52 chapters at medical schools throughout the country and more than 3,000 members. Given the challenges the medical profession faces in sustaining its humanistic and ethical bearings, the goal is for the GHHS to play an important role in shaping the future of American medical practice.

Three hundred students, residents, faculty physicians, and other prominent members of the medical community are expected to attend the GHHS Conference. Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, President and CEO of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will deliver the opening plenary. For more information, please contact Allison Sole, GHHS Associate Director, at [afsole@gold-foundation.org](mailto:afsole@gold-foundation.org) or visit <http://www.humanism-in-medicine.org>.

**Allison Sole, MA**  
GHHS Associate Director  
Englewood Cliffs, NJ

### **Association of Academic Surgery Research Fellowship Award Announced**

RAS would like to congratulate Daniel A. Popowich, MD, of Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, for winning the **Association of Academic Surgery (AAS) Research Fellowship Award**. This biennial prestigious award is granted to a resident or fellow who has completed at least two years of postgraduate training in a surgical discipline. The recipient is awarded \$15,000 per year to work for two years in full-time research with an AAS member. Dr. Popowich will be working in the Vascular Surgery Lab of Melina Kibbe, MD, FACS, at Northwestern University.

For information on other research fellowship awards, you may visit the AAS Web site at <http://www.aasurg.org/awards.htm>, or the ACS Web site at <http://www.facs.org/memberservices/research.html>.

**Andrea Silver, MD**  
Chair, RAS-ACS Membership Committee  
Royal Oak, MI

### **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 member of the Candidate Group or an Associate Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Candidate Group 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 2,700 Associate Fellows and 4,400 Candidate Group members 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 Spring Meeting 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/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](http://www.healthcareers.com/site_templates/ACS/index.asp?aff=ACS&SPLD=ACS)

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

ACS Spring Meeting:

<http://www.facs.org/springmeeting2006/index.html>

**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).

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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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