

RAS-ACS News



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



Summer 2004

*Editor: Juan C. Paramo, MD. Chair, Communications Committee
RAS-ACS*

Update on the Board of Regents Meeting: CAS Is Now RAS, the RESIDENT and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons

The Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) met June 11-12, 2004. Among the guests joining the Board were RAS representatives Danielle Katz (Vice-Chair) and Michael Sutherland (Secretary).

On the morning of June 11, Dr. Sutherland attended the meeting of the Member Services Committee. Much of the meeting focused on how best to recruit and retain members, particularly residents and young surgeons. Discussion also focused on attempts to determine the appropriate relationships of oral-maxillofacial surgeons, podiatrists, and optometrists to the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Katz attended the meeting of the Communications Committee. Some recent accomplishments were highlighted, including the fact that the *Bulletin* will now be mailed with the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* (resulting in substantial financial savings for the College), the ACS home page has been designed to make it more user friendly, and progress has been made regarding the development of the Web portal for members of the College. One goal for the future is to continue to increase the visibility of the ACS with the public and among surgeons.

The meeting of the full Board of Regents focused largely on "strategic planning," and input was solicited from all members (including the RAS representatives) regarding numerous issues facing the College. These subjects spanned a wide spectrum, including initiatives with which to better serve the College's commitment to advocacy and health policy; strategies for improving communication with surgeons, patients, and the public; plans for enhancing the College's educational activities; new endeavors for *JACS*, including electronic submission and review of manuscripts to speed the time from submission to publication; continued development of electronic and Internet

activities; membership; and research. Several action items were approved, including changing the name of CAS to RAS (Resident and Associate Society – see Dr. Sutherland’s article below), and approval of the revised RAS bylaws.

Overall, the meeting was a very productive one with significant focus on residents and young surgeons. Drs. Katz and Sutherland were welcomed into the meetings and encouraged to participate. We are excited by this warm reception and anticipate continued communication and collaboration with the Board of Regents in years to come.

Join RAS: "The Society of the Resident"

As reported in the preceding story, the Board of Regents meeting was held June 11-12 in Chicago at ACS headquarters. As noted previously, we are now referring to our organization as the RAS. One of the suggestions that resulted from our strategic planning session during the Spring Meeting in Boston was to change the name of our organization to the Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS). At the Board of Regents meeting this change was discussed in committee and was approved by the entire Board. The Regents agreed unanimously that this name change would make it easier to identify the group as the Resident Members and Associate Fellows of the College. This change would also remove the often confusing name "candidate" as a membership category and from our society’s name. As we transition to this new name, our Web site, letterhead, and newsletter logo will be redesigned.

Along with the name change, the revision of the RAS-ACS bylaws was reviewed and approved without dissent. The bylaws changes focus on redefining the structure of the organization to better reflect how we are currently operating. They detail how the Council of Representatives will be filled, the function and responsibilities of the members of the executive committee and caucuses of the society. The complete text of the bylaws may be reviewed on the Web site at <http://www.facs.org/ras-ac/about/bylaws.html> .

In keeping with the new focus of the College on residents and young surgeons, Doctors Katz and Sutherland were in attendance to provide input from the perspective of the RAS to the Board of Regents. There were numerous times when the Regents specifically asked for our input as we discussed strategic planning for the College. The enthusiasm of the Regents, guests, and staff was readily apparent as we discussed how the strategic plan would affect RAS membership.

Michael Sutherland, MD
Secretary
RAS-ACS
Ocean Springs, MS

2004 Annual Spring Meeting: "The Meeting of the Resident"

As members of RAS, we are very pleased and honored by Dr. Claude Organ's declaration that his presidency would be "The Year of the Resident". To further enforce and promote his enthusiastic vision, RAS wants to make the Annual Spring Meeting "The Meeting of the Resident".

This year's meeting was held in Boston, MA, from April 24 through 27. A one-day resident program included a series of lectures on resident-relevant issues. We plan to continue offering this program on a yearly basis the Spring Meeting in the future.

On April 27, RAS sponsored two general sessions exclusively for residents. The first one, "Spectacular Cases from Residents," was moderated by A. Frederick Schild, MD, FACS, and Juan C. Paramo, MD. Five truly spectacular cases were presented by Raj S. Ambay, MD, Biren P. Modi, MD, Min Peter Kim, MD, Peter J Mazzaglia, MD, and Uthanmalliah Vivekanandan, MBBS. RAS would like to thank the panelists Mark Philip Callery MD, FACS, Daniel B. Jones MD, FACS, Josef E. Fischer MD, FACS, and David W. Rattner, MD, FACS, for a wonderful discussion on the different case presentations.

The second session, "Surgical Jeopardy" was moderated by Mark W. Bowyer MD, FACS, and facilitated by Enrique Gongora, MD, James Cook, MD, and Eric Matthew Ritter, MD. RAS would like to congratulate John Culhane MD, and Tomasz Timek, MD, residents from Loma Linda University Medical Center in California for being this year's jeopardy champions.

Again, we want to make the Annual Spring Meeting *your* meeting. Next year additional programs for residents will be offered.

Residents: 2004 is *your* year. The Spring meeting is *your* meeting. RAS is *your* society. Join the American College of Surgeons, *your* College.

Juan Carlos Paramo, MD
Chair
Communications Committee
RAS-ACS
Miami Beach, FL

Strategic Planning Meeting Held on April 25, 2004

On April 25, 2004, during the Spring Meeting in Boston, the leadership of RAS and the leadership of the ACS met for a strategic planning session. This wonderful opportunity encouraged improved communication and exchange of ideas, and allowed us to set a course for the future of RAS within the ACS as a whole. Everyone in

attendance at this meeting (Dr. Organ, Dr. Russell, Dr. Collicott, Dr. Sachdeva, Dr. Curet, Dr. Katz, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Paramo, Dr. Katranji, Ms. Blair, and Ms. Haar) voiced a commitment to improving communications between RAS and sections of the College on issues relevant to residents. With this concept in mind, the group discussed the 2005 Spring Meeting. We anticipate that the events of particular interest to residents (for example, the one-day resident program, Extraordinary Cases, and Surgical Jeopardy) will be grouped more closely together on the program, in order to try to maximize the feasibility of residents being able to attend as many of these sessions as possible.

There was tremendous enthusiasm for developing additional ways to get more residents involved in the College, with an ultimate goal of 100 percent participation. This goal goes hand in hand with Dr. Organ's declaration of his presidency to be The Year of the Resident. Strategies were proposed for earlier contact with surgical residents (possibly shortly after the Match) with better explanations of the wide array of benefits and services available through the College, and more involvement of program directors. Furthermore, plans were made to develop more formal working relationships between RAS and residents already participating in ACS committees through other venues, as well as to increase the number of ACS committees that have residents as members.

Finally, there was an agreement to schedule this strategic planning meeting as a yearly event at the Spring Meeting in order to continue and further develop the outstanding communication and coordination of efforts that has already begun. As we work together, the College and *all* of its members will benefit and look forward to an exciting and promising future.

Danielle Katz, MD
Vice-Chair
RAS-ACS
Syracuse, NY

Mark Your Calendar-

The RAS-ACS Symposium at the 90th Clinical Congress in New Orleans will be held from 1 to 4 pm on Sunday, October 10, 2004. The title of this year's symposium is "Residents-students or employees?--and why it matters".

Each year the RAS sponsors a symposium on a topic targeted at surgery residents and young surgeons. This year's presentation will address the conflict between resident education and employment and will include timely issues such as duty-hours regulations, core competencies, distance-based learning, salaries, and employee benefits. An open-microphone discussion will promote audience

participation.

Attendance is open, and residents as well as medical students and Fellows are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

Gregory Cherr
Chair
Issues Committee
RAS-ACS
Buffalo, NY

Get Involved in Organized Medicine: Become a RAS-ACS State Representative

You may already know that every Resident and Associate Fellow member of the ACS is automatically a member of the Resident and Associates Society (RAS). You may not have known that you can become more involved in the College by becoming your state's RAS-ACS state representative. Every state needs one general surgeon and two specialty members, and these positions often need to be filled after RAS-ACS members move to another state, or get "promoted out" of the RAS when full Fellowship in the College is attained. ACS state chapters gather the names of interested candidates (chapters are listed at http://web.facs.org/chapter/ACSChapter_listing.cfm). Your ACS state chapter will forward your nomination to the RAS-ACS administrative liaison, Peg Haar (phaar@facs.org). Once you are a state representative, you will serve on the RAS-ACS Council of Representatives. Once on the Council of Representatives, you will have an opportunity to serve on several committees: Communication, Issues, Education, and Membership. There are also opportunities to become involved in the College as the RAS member of any of the advisory councils for the surgical specialties (urology, gynecology and obstetrics, otolaryngology, general surgery, vascular surgery, neurological surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, colon and rectal surgery, ophthalmic surgery, orthopedic surgery, pediatric surgery, and plastic and maxillofacial surgery). These meetings are usually held as part of your own specialty's annual national meeting. Becoming your RAS-ACS state representative is an unprecedented opportunity to become involved in the ACS at the national level.

RAS-ACS Council of Representatives meetings are held at the beginning of the ACS Clinical Congress each fall. In 2004, they will take place on Sunday, October 10, in New Orleans. Become your RAS-ACS State Representative and get involved!

Richard A. Santucci, MD
Vice-Chair
Communications Committee
RAS-ACS
Detroit, MI

"CAS or RAS... the Future is YOU"

Now it is time to think about transitions. Who will step up to be part of the leadership? All of you need to think about your future and members at large who will make RAS the premiere organization for young surgical trainees and young surgeons. As July approaches, please recruit ALL of the surgical interns to join (that includes subspecialties).

I look forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans at the best attended RAS meeting ever!

Jeffrey Upperman, MD
Chair
RAS-ACS
Pittsburgh, PA

Outcomes Research Course Scheduled for November

An Outcomes Research course will be offered for the first time this fall at ACS headquarters, November 12-15, 2004. The course is designed to provide clinical researchers and health services researchers with the fundamentals, mechanisms, and resources to conduct effective outcomes research.

Participants will meet their peers, selected from surgical departments in US and Canadian academic medical centers. The Course will also provide an opportunity to network with leading surgeons, statisticians, and health services researchers in the forefront of outcomes research participating as faculty for lectures, small group breakout sessions, and labs. In addition to advancing surgeons' skills in clinical epidemiology and statistical analysis, the course will cover external funding strategies and other career development aspects specific to surgical outcomes researchers.

Visit <http://www.facs.org/oebs/education.html> for additional information about the course, a preliminary course schedule, and a registration form. Questions? Call 312-202-5319.

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 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 and Web site
- 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!

Adam J. Ball, MD
Chair
Membership Committee
RAS-ACS
Miami, FL

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>

ACS Spring Meeting:
<http://www.facs.org/2004springmeeting/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 cas-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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