

RAS-ACS News

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



July 2010 RAS-ACS e-Newsletter

Editor: Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD

In This Issue:

- **Message from the Chair: Resident Duty Hours Update**
- **Report from the Communications Committee**
- **Report from the Education Committee**
- **Report from the Membership Committee**
- **Report from the Issues Committee**
- **Fundamentals of Surgery Curriculum Helps You Test Your Knowledge**
- **Outcomes Research Course to be Held in November**

• **Message from the Chair**

The **Accreditation Councils for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)** will issue **new standards on resident duty hours**, which will go into effect **July 2011**. A panel of experts recommended the guidelines, which contain **three core principles**:

1. Ensure the safety and quality of care rendered to patients in teaching hospitals.
2. Ensure the safety and quality of care rendered to patients by current residents in their future independent clinical practice.
3. Ensure the provision of a safe and humanistic educational environment in which residents can learn and demonstrate professionalism and effacement of self-interest.

The new duty hour standards have the **potential to alter how residents are trained**. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has assembled the **ACS Task Force on Resident Duty Hours** to review the new standards, make recommendations, and draft the College's response in a document that will be forthcoming. The Resident Associate Society (RAS) has had an **integral voice in the process**, through membership on the task force.

In the interim, the ACGME is **soliciting public response** for consideration of revisions. **Let your opinion be heard**: We encourage all residents to **review the new standards** and **send comments to the**

ACGME. The standards can be found at <http://acgme-2010standards.org/>

Joshua Broghammer, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS

● **Report from the Communications Committee**

The **July 2010 issue** of the **Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons** is dedicated to the **RAS-ACS theme: “Health Care Policy and the Future of Surgery.”** Be sure to read the articles in this important and compelling issue of the Bulletin, which were written by members of our RAS-ACS community!

The Communications Committee is working on several new 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 want to work on these efforts, or have another project that you believe would benefit ACS residents and Associate Fellows, contact us! Visit the RAS-ACS community on the College members-only Web portal at http://efacs.org/portal/page/portal/ACS_Content/ACSCOMMUNITIESSPECIALTIES/ResidentsCmty and give us some feedback.

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

Call for Submissions for the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons

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

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

RAS Web-portal update

The Resident and Associate Fellow Community on e-FACS.org has recently been updated to include **sections on health care reform and education**. We want the section on health care reform to include articles, essays, and letters that will inform our members about such vital issues as graduate medical education funding and duty hour reform. The site contains the **entire video library of the ACS**

categorized and divided into **junior and senior level cases**. Check out these great resources at http://efacs.org/portal/page/portal/ACS_Content/ACSCOMMUNITIESSPECIALTIES/ResidentsCmty .

In the future we will work to improve the content so that it serves as a **useful resource** for preparing for the **American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination and board review**. As always, we welcome any suggestions for improving the content to better serve RAS-ACS members.

Jeff Dehmer, MD
Editor, RAS Web-portal
Member, RAS-ACS Communications Committee

● **Report from the Education Committee**

The Education Committee seeks people interested in **hosting Surgical Jeopardy** as Mark D. Bowyer, MD, FACS, is stepping down from his involvement with the program. We **truly appreciate the excellent job** he did with Surgical Jeopardy. We are **expanding the bank of questions** and encourage members to **submit questions**. If you are interested in the role of Surgical Jeopardy moderator or want to contribute questions, contact jhayanga@me.com or phaar@facs.org

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

● **Report from the Membership Committee**

Current Opportunities for Resident Members in the ACS

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has a rich history at the **forefront of surgical education and health care policy**. The RAS has become a **vibrant force in the ACS** in recent years, which has not gone unnoticed by ACS leadership. Many RAS leaders have served as **advocates for all surgeons** during this new phase of the College's development. Importantly, this growth has been achieved through the members' voluntary, active, and determined commitment.

RAS intends to maintain this momentum in **developing its membership base**, in addition to actively **engaging its membership base in ACS activities**. The **goal of 100 percent membership of residents** in U.S. surgical residencies can be achieved. Our goal is that **each institution have an RAS representative**. We urge RAS members to seek out their program's representative; if the program doesn't have a representative, RAS members should recommend a peer or themselves for the position. RAS members have a **vital role in the future of both the College and the profession of surgery**, resulting in a strong voice for surgical advocacy and an effective guiding body for surgical education. Do not miss your opportunity to get involved!

Robert Winfield, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS Membership Committee

● Report from the Issues Committee

Get in on the Debate - Do More Requirements make a Better Surgeon?

At the **2010 ACS Clinical Congress, October 3-7 in Washington, DC**, the RAS Symposium will examine the question **“Do More Requirements make a Better Surgeon?”**

Training and certification requirements change continually, raising a number of questions: When will they end? How much should it take to maintain credibility in the field? Who sets the standards, and how are performance outcomes measured? Are there evidence-based reasons for recertification? Will we continue to prove our credentialing to government agencies? Is there objective evidence that additional exams and skills tests reduce mortality and morbidity?.

Join us for a **lively debate and panel discussion** on **Sunday, October 3, 2010, from 1-4 pm** at the RAS Symposium.

State Advocacy Representative Program

The State Advocacy Representative (**StAR**) program engages members of the College in learning about and advocating on **federal and state governmental issues**. By participating in the StAR program, residents and Associate Fellows have the opportunity to act as the “eyes and ears” of the College at the state level. StARs **review current legislation** and inform the College’s State Affairs team about what’s happening locally. StARs might be recruited to take action on an **issue at the grassroots level** or **provide testimony to a state legislature**.

StARs are invited to **participate in conference calls** year-round and will be contacted with call information highlighting the 2010 legislative session. Contact **Alexis Walters** at awalters@facs.org for more information on the StAR program.

If you have questions, contact RAS Issues Committee Chair, **Brian Santin** at briansantin@gmail.com or Vice-Chair, **Kimberly Ruscher** at kimberlyrr@gmail.com

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

● Fundamentals of Surgery Curriculum Helps You Test Your Knowledge

Are you concerned about managing a patient on a ventilator with

acute respiratory distress? Do ventilator settings increase your own heart rate?

Click on to this link to test your knowledge and learn the essentials of respiratory support in a simulated patient scenario:

<http://www.facs.org/education/fundsurgerydemo2/index.html>.

Use scenarios like this to learn more about **managing surgical patients**, including recognizing and assessing symptoms and signs, ordering appropriate tests and procedures, evaluating data, and initiating appropriate actions by enrolling in the **Fundamentals of Surgery Curriculum (FSC)**. Developed by the ACS Division of Education, FSC is an **interactive, case-based, online curriculum** that addresses content that all surgical residents must master in early training. Over **90 patient scenarios** are available to use at your own pace and convenience, complete with images and references. Many residency programs across the surgical specialties are already enrolled for this year. Learn more by clicking on <http://www.facs.org/education/fundamentalsofsurgery.html>, or by contacting **Marsha Pflingsten** at 312-202-5032 or mpflingsten@facs.org.

● **Outcomes Research Course to Be Held in November**

The fourth **Outcomes Research Course**, sponsored by the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) **Surgical Research Committee**, **November 11-13, 2010**, at ACS headquarters in **Chicago, IL**, will offer **several new features**. These new elements of the course include a lecture and skills lab on Qualitative Research; an optional breakout session on critiquing studies based on clinical registries; and lectures on funding, grantsmanship, and setting up an outcomes research program.

The course is **recommended for clinical and health services researchers** with varying degrees of experience. Participants will have the opportunity to select modules appropriate to their skill level and interest. They will be exposed to both **scientific and practical aspects of the ongoing surgical outcomes research** of leaders in the field.

Register early: The course is offered once every other year, and space is limited. ACS members have preference for available space. **Register by September 3** to take advantage of the **early sign-up fee of \$1,895**. The course fee after that date will be \$2,095.

Visit <http://www.facs.org/cqi/src/outcomesres.html> for online registration, an application form, additional information about the course, a preliminary course schedule, and a list of faculty members. If you have questions, call **Mary Fitzgerald** at 312-202-5319, or e-mail mfitzgerald@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 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. 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

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

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

Communications Committee

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

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Peg Haar, Staff Liaison, phaar@facs.org; 312-202-5312

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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