

**August 2008**

## **Special Edition: 2008 Clinical Congress Planning Guide**

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

**Associate Editor:** Wesley P. Francis, MD

**American College of Surgeons**  
**94<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Congress**  
Moscone Convention Center  
October 12-16, 2008  
San Francisco, CA  
**Register Now: <http://www.facs.org/clincon2008/>**

This edition of the RAS-ACS News is devoted to the **94<sup>th</sup> Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons (ACS)**. It is intended to help you plan your participation in the meeting and take advantage of all the things that the Clinical Congress has to offer. Following are highlights of some of the sessions that we think will be of particular interest to medical students, surgical residents, and young surgeons.

- [General Information](#)
- [Applying for Hotel Accommodations](#)
- [RAS-ACS Issues Call for Nominations](#)
- [RAS to Hold Annual Business Meeting](#)
- [RAS Daily Planner For Clinical Congress](#)
- [And While You're In San Francisco, Your Kids Can Attend Camp ACS](#)

### **General Information**

#### **Registration**

Registration is open to all physicians and individuals in the health care field. Registration includes a name badge, program, and entrance to exhibits and all sessions other than postgraduate courses, ACS webcasts, and Meet the Professor Luncheons. Registered attendees may purchase postgraduate course tickets based upon availability. Advance registration is strongly encouraged.

Register online here:

- [ACS Members](#)
- [Non-Members](#)

#### **Housing Information**

**Support ACS by booking your room through Travel Planners** at one of the official Clinical Congress Hotels!

To obtain the necessary amount of meeting and exhibit space at the convention center and the hotels, ACS must commit to a minimum number of guest rooms. If that commitment is not met, ACS will incur significant financial penalties and have difficulty obtaining sufficient meeting space in the future. This can have a major impact on the programs that ACS is able to offer in the future. You can help ACS avoid penalties by booking your reservation through the official housing company.

### [Applying for Hotel Accommodations](#)

#### **Housing Procedures**

ACS has appointed Travel Planners to coordinate housing for the 94th Annual Clinical Congress. Reservation requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and **must be received by September 17, 2008**. Requests received after this deadline, or after the room blocks are filled, are subject to rate and space.

#### [Attendee Housing Link](#)

Credit card deposit only; available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### [RAS-ACS Issues Call for Nominations](#)

The Executive Committee and Officers of the Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) are seeking **nominations for the position of Secretary**. This position succeeds itself to become Vice-Chair and then Chair over the course of a three-year term. Nominees should have at least three years of eligibility for membership as Resident Members or Associate Fellows of the College. Nominees ideally are in their last year of training and have been active in the activities of RAS-ACS. They should submit a statement of intent along with a letter of support from their Program Director (for residents) or Department Chair (for Associate Fellows) to Peg Haar at [phaar@facs.org](mailto:phaar@facs.org). Nominees should be prepared to attend the ACS Clinical Congress, where presentations of candidates and elections will be held during the **RAS Annual Meeting on October 12 from 9 am – 12 noon** on Sunday October 12 at Moscone Convention Center.

Other vacancies that need to be filled include RAS representatives to the Advisory Councils for General, Pediatric and Thoracic Surgery. Please follow the same instructions outlined in the preceding paragraph for submitting your name for consideration. These are each two-year terms. Special liaison assignments also exist for several of the College's standing committees, and positions are always open on the RAS committees: Membership, Education, Issues, and Communications.

### [RAS to Hold Annual Business Meeting](#)

The annual business meeting of the Resident and Associate Society will take place the morning of Sunday, October 12, 2008, from 9 am – 12 noon at the Moscone Convention Center as part of the College's 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Congress in San Francisco. During this meeting, we will review the activities and accomplishments of the past year and set goals for the upcoming year. **Everyone is encouraged to volunteer for one of the standing committees of RAS.**

### [RAS Daily Planner for Clinical Congress](#)

**Sunday, October 12**

#### **RAS Annual Meeting**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Moscone Convention Center

During this meeting, RAS members will analyze the accomplishments of the prior year, create the agenda for the following one, and elect the new RAS Secretary, who will eventually succeed to Vice-Chair and then Chair of our society. You can also volunteer to join any of the standing

committees (Membership, Education, Issues, and Communication) of RAS and start to actively participate in our activities. For more information, see the news story on nominations.

### **Medical Student Program, Session I**

11:30 am – 6:00 pm

Location: TBD

The ACS Division of Education offers special programming for medical students featuring outstanding surgeon speakers addressing nonclinical topics that are essential for medical students.

### **RAS Symposium: The Economics of Health Care: A Threat to Surgical Education or an Opportunity for Innovation?**

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Moscone Convention Center

Department of surgery chairs are no longer just MDs. They also have MBAs, PhDs and JDs, and each has varied interests. In addition, the current health care environment is squeezing the profit out of the surgical practice. This reduction in profit prevents many practices from being solvent and makes it difficult for surgeons to cover the costs of their practice (such as staffing, insurance, supplies, and so on). These economic pressures can be distracting to busy surgeons or even force them out of academia and teaching environments. Furthermore, a combination of these and other pressures forces departments to be run like a business and private practitioners to become more selective about the profiles of patients they treat. During its annual symposium, the Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons will pose the question, “Are the economics of medicine threatening surgical education?” Or, more specifically, are these challenges insurmountable or will they force the field of surgery to become more creative, efficient, and effective with educational efforts? During this symposium, the topic will be explored from several perspectives.

Attendance is open to all RAS members, medical students, and Fellows of the College. An open-microphone discussion will promote audience participation during the symposium.

## **Monday, October 13**

### **Special Program for Surgery Residents--Essential Skills for Surgical Practice: A Primer for Residents**

9:45am – 4:00 pm

Moscone Convention Center

A special Surgery Resident Program has been planned for the Clinical Congress by the ACS Division of Education. This program features outstanding surgeon speakers addressing nonclinical topics that are essential for upper-level residents. Preregistration is encouraged, but all are welcome to attend on a space-available basis.

### **Medical Student Program, Session II**

1:00 – 6:00 pm

A continuation of Sunday’s session, this program will include sessions that address preparing for residency as a MS III and MS IV and making the most of your surgery clerkship experience.

## **Tuesday, October 14**

### **Surgical Jeopardy**

8:00 – 11:15 am

Moscone Convention Center

This session will pit 24 surgical resident teams of two against each other in this exciting Surgical

Jeopardy contest. Test your knowledge of general and specialty surgery against that of residents from around the country.

### **Satisfaction in Surgery: Transforming Stress into Success**

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Moscone Convention Center

Disillusionment, decreased morale, and burnout are frequent problems affecting surgeons in today's practice environment. This session will focus on recognizing common sources of stress and fatigue in surgical practice and review practical responses and techniques to maintain professional satisfaction and personal health.

Co-Moderators:

Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, FACS, Washington, DC

Jacob Moalem, MD, Rochester, NY

*Sponsored by the Committee on Young Surgeons and the Resident Associate Society*

### **Medical Student Program, Session III**

1:00 – 6:00 pm

A reception with program directors will follow this session.

### **Professional Communication in Surgery: Developing Effective Skills to Improve Patient Interactions**

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Moscone Convention Center

Communication is one of the essential non-clinical skills in our profession. Several reports indicate that communications skills directly influence the success of a surgical practice, including **patient satisfaction, malpractice risk, and patient outcomes**. These communications skills also contribute to your effectiveness as a leader in health care reform and advocacy.

The Resident and Associate Society will sponsor a plenary session during the Clinical Congress on Professional Communications in Surgery. Topics will include enhancing **patient compliance, teamwork and leadership communications, managing medical error disclosure, and hand-off communications**. Participants will learn how to use the important art of communication to enhance a surgical practice and avoid communication failures that account for the majority of unanticipated adverse events.

The panel of experts will include Brickhouse Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery, Eastern Virginia Medical School **L.D. Britt**, MD, MPH, FACS; Professor of Surgery West Virginia University and Masters in Organizational and Corporate Communication **E. Phillips Polack**, MD, MA, FACS; and Chair of Stevens and Lee's Health Care Litigation Group, active trial lawyer **James W. Saxton**, Esq.

Who should attend?

- Any surgeon interested in learning more about the interplay between communications and patient care in the professional setting
- Anyone seeking to improve leadership and communications skills
- All surgeons are welcome to attend this session

**Wednesday, October 15**

**Spectacular Cases from Residents**

8:00 – 11:15 am  
Moscone Convention Center

Residents try to stump the panel of experts when they present spectacular cases. The session provides an interactive discussion among the presenter, the expert panel, and the audience.

### **Surgical Heroes: Influence of Role Models on Career Selection and Practice**

2:30 – 5:45 pm  
Moscone Convention Center

The impact of surgical leaders as role models for medical students and residents, as well as for practicing surgeons, is critically important to the future development of surgery. Surgical heroes influence medical students' decision to enter surgical fields and drastically guide the decisions of surgical residents regarding which specialty field to pursue. The influence of surgical leaders extends beyond career selection to serving as crucial role models for other surgeons, particularly early in their careers. They inspire, they teach values as well as methods, and they demonstrate the best of our field. This panel will include surgical heroes from the areas of innovations in health care, health care research, and educational development.

### **And While You're in San Francisco, Your Kids Can Attend Camp ACS**

The American College of Surgeons is once again partnering with ACCENT on Children's Arrangements, Inc. to provide an exciting on-site children's camp in San Francisco, CA. ACCENT has prepared an exciting program with activities such as arts and crafts, entertainment, and active games designed to give your children "The Golden Gate Experience." The camp, which is offered to all children ages 6 months through 12 years, will be located at The San Francisco Marriott Hotel. From Sunday, October 12, through Wednesday, October 15, your child(ren) can participate in activities such as arts and crafts, active games, movies and much, much more. It is ACCENT's goal to entertain your child(ren) in a safe environment so you can attend the Clinical Congress with the peace of mind that they are being taken care of and having a great time too. For further information, visit: <http://www.facs.org/clincon2008/social/campacs.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 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/>

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>

**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*

Mecker G. Moller, MD, Chair, Grand Rapids, MI

Carlos Mery, Co-Chair, Boston, MA

Kathryn Berndt MD, Natasha Bir MD, Kris Brown MD, Jaime Cavallo MD, David Tom Cooke MD, Robert Crawford MD, David Edelman MD, Wesley Francis MD, Adil Haider MD, Jonathan Hernandez MD, Alexandra Hollingworth MD, Marco Melis MD, Vahe Melkonyan MD, Tassos Polimenakos MD, Heena Santry MD, Mallory Williams MD

*Executive Committee*

Ted James, MD, Chair, Burlington, VT

Jacob Moalem, MD, Vice Chair, San Francisco, CA

Josh Broghammer, MD, Secretary, Seattle, WA

Gregory Cherr, MD, Ex Officio, Buffalo, NY

Katherine Barsness, MD, Chicago, IL

Richard Baynosa, MD, Las Vegas, NV

Jonathan Chun, MD, St. Louis, MO

Eric Deshaies, MD, Albany, NY

Andrew Evans, MD, Seattle, WA

Alex Kutikov, MD, Cherry Hill, NJ

Joshua Mammen, Houston, TX

Deepak Nair, MD, Sarasota, FL

Teimour Nasirov, MD, Loma Linda, CA

Neil Tanna, MD, Washington, DC

Carrie Wieneke, MD, Seattle, WA

---

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

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

633 N Saint Clair St, Chicago, IL 60611-3211