

August 2009

Editor: David Tom Cooke, MD

Associate Editor: Parth Amin, MD

- [Message from the Chair: Resident Duty Hours](#)
- [Why Do the ACS and the AMA support HR 3200 – The America’s Affordable Health Choices ACT of 2009?](#)
- [Call for Secretary Issued](#)
- [Advisory Council Representatives Needed](#)
- [Mentorship Essay Winner Announced and Call for 2nd Annual RAS-ACS Essay Contest Submissions](#)
- [RAS-ACS Members Selected as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars for 2010-2012](#)
- [Clinical Trials Methods Course Scheduled for November](#)
- [Join the American College of Surgeons Facebook Group](#)
- [Clinical Congress Events Introduce Residents and Medical Students to the Exciting Specialty of Cardiothoracic Surgery](#)
- [Mark Your Calendars Now for These Resident Sessions of Interest at Clinical Congress](#)

[Message from the Chair: Resident Duty Hours](#)

As the debate regarding resident duty hours heats up in the wake of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) recent report, **the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has been very diligently gathering data on the subject in preparation for its response.** As part of this process, the ACGME recently sponsored a **Duty Hours Congress**, and all stakeholder organizations were invited to submit testimony for the meeting. Seventy-seven stakeholder organizations submitted written responses to the IOM report, and 67, including numerous specialty societies, hospital and accreditation organizations, and medical student and resident organizations, presented testimony. **I was honored and privileged to represent the Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) and to present testimony based upon our previously published position statement** located at http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/2009/workhours0109.pdf.

It was fascinating to listen to presentation after presentation, all in strong opposition to further reductions in work hours and in support of removing the rigidity in scheduling the IOM called for in its report. **Every organization, except for the Committee on Interns and Residents and the American Medical Student Association agreed with these principles.** With those two exceptions, the house of medicine was united, and **representatives from surgery, pediatrics, internal medicine, radiology, psychology, psychiatry and pathology all urged the ACGME to fight the implementation of the IOM’s recommendations** and to preserve graduate medical education in this country.

In a recent e-mail, Ben Cresswell, MB ChB, MRCS, the President of the Association of Surgeons in Training in the UK, updated me on recent developments there. **The British National Health Service Employers are moving to create a new grade of surgeon below the current**

consultant (attending). In this schema, young surgeons may be licensed only for specific operations in the short term and will not be able to practice independently. Is this where American trainees are heading with further work hours restrictions?

The topic of work hour restrictions is critically important and highly controversial, and the arguments on either side can be emotionally charged. As a member of RAS-ACS, you have a very rare and important opportunity to voice your opinion on this subject to two of the most influential people in this debate: Thomas Nasca, MD, CEO, of the ACGME, and Thomas Whalen, MD, FACS, Chair of the Surgery Residency Review Committee and a Regent of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). If you will be in Chicago during the ACS Clinical Congress in October, make an effort to attend the RAS-ACS Town Hall meeting on resident duty hours restrictions on Tuesday morning, at 7:00 am.

Jacob Moalem, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS

Why Do the ACS and the AMA support HR 3200 – The America’s Affordable Health Choices ACT of 2009?

In light of the ever-increasing media and locker room discussions about the current health care reform proposal, we thought that it would be useful to highlight some of the reasons **why the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) are in support of The America’s Affordable Health Choices ACT of 2009 (HR 3200)**. It should be noted that the ACS and AMA have supported HR 3200 as a start in the process of health care reform, not as an end point. **The College’s support of HR 3200 in no way prevents us from continuing to work to improve the legislation.** In fact, recently a College-supported amendment was accepted that adds important trauma-related provisions to the bill. Our support of this bill is just the first step in a multi-layered process, and the College has reserve the right to reconsider its position at any time--which has been communicated very clearly to the congressional leadership.

HR 3200:

- Provides a fix for the recurrent sustainable growth rates problem
- Unlike other models, **HR 3200 does not fund primary care by reducing payments to specialists**
- **Does not require physician participation in the public plan**
- Provides improvements to the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
- Supports clinical comparative effectiveness research
- Expands the availability of affordable health care coverage to the uninsured
 - **An estimated 37 million uninsured Americans would benefit**
- Increases **support for wellness and prevention services**

Although HR 3200 is the current health care reform bill that is being discussed on the floor of the House of Representatives, it is very much a work in progress.

The ACS and the AMA are currently working with members of the House to:

- **Add clauses for medical liability reform**
- Better define the ‘public option’
- **Prevent the inclusion of a provision that would establish the current Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) as an executive branch agency with almost unilateral authority to set payment and coverage rates and policies for all providers (physicians, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc.).**

Jacob Moalem, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS

Hannah Zimmerman, MD
RAS representative to the AMA

Kristen V. Hedstrom, MPH
Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs
American College of Surgeons

Call for Secretary Issued

Each year, **the Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) selects a new Secretary who will subsequently succeed to the Vice-Chair and then Chair positions.** This office carries many responsibilities and requires a considerable amount of time to support the other officers and advance the mission of RAS-ACS. The members of RAS will vote for this person on Sunday, October 11, during the annual meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the ACS Clinical Congress, , at the McCormick West Convention Center in Chicago, IL.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of intent, CV, and letter of support from your department to Peg Haar, phaar@facs.org, by September 15. Candidates must attend the annual meeting.

Advisory Council Representatives Needed

Five openings exist for a **RAS-ACS liaison member to the Advisory Councils for Plastic Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Vascular Surgery.** These are three-year terms and require attendance at the ACS Clinical Congress and one other meeting each year, as well as participation on related conference calls.

Deepak Nair, MD, an ACS Initiate, has nicely summed up the duties. **“As part of the advisory council, the RAS representative can bring up issues relevant to those in training and new to the workforce. RAS-ACS issues are made part of the agenda.** But, advisory council members also provide input on many non-RAS-ACS issues that the group deals with. The advisory council members offer opinions on everything from what topics should be featured at next year's [Clinical Congress] to recommendations regarding moderators and presenters to formulating positions on current legislation, which are taken and, OFTEN, adopted...**The RAS-ACS member's generation gap... often provides a valuable resource”** for the other members of the advisory council.

If interested, please **submit your letter of intent, CV, and letter of support from your department to Peg Haar, phaar@facs.org, by September 15.**

Mentorship Essay Winner Announced and Call for 2nd Annual RAS-ACS Essay Contest Submissions

The RAS-ACS is pleased to announce that **Anathea C. Powell, MD, of New York, NY, has won the \$500 prize for her submission on the late Erwin F. Hirsch, MD, FACS.** Dr. Powell will receive her award during the annual RAS-ACS meeting on Sunday, October 11, during the Clinical Congress.

We encourage all of her peers to attend this meeting and congratulate her on the fine accomplishment. The RAS-ACS exists to provide a forum for all residents and young surgeons to express their ideas and concerns about issues related to the practice and profession of surgery.

Submit to the 2nd Annual RAS-ACS Essay Contest!

RAS is pleased to announce **our 2nd Annual Essay Contest**. This year's **topic will be Volunteerism**. We'd like to hear about your work **servicing the underserved** during your surgical training in **500 words** or less. The top essays will be published in the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons and **the author of the winning essay will receive a cash award and recognition at the RAS Business Meeting during the 96th Annual Clinical Congress** held in Washington, DC in October of 2010.

Please email submissions as a Word attachment using the **subject line "Volunteerism Essay"** to **phaar@facs.org** by October 31st, 2009. Please include **your full name, contact information, post-graduate year, and training program** in the body of the email.

Heena Santry, MD

Vice-Chair, RAS-ACS Communications Committee

RAS-ACS Members Selected as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars for 2010-2012

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program[®] is pleased to announce the selection of **29 young physicians who will learn to conduct innovative research and work with communities, organizations, practitioners and policy-makers on issues important to the health and well-being of all Americans**. They will begin their prestigious two-year fellowships in July 2010.

Four members of RAS-ACS had the honor of being selected:

Lorraine Kelley, MD, General Surgery, University of California, Los Angeles

Ryan Merkow, MD, General Surgery, University of Colorado, Denver

Eugenia Garvin, MD, General Surgery, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Justin Fox, MD, General Surgery, Wright State University, Dayton, OH

Clinical Scholars conduct research in diverse, health-related fields such as health care delivery and financing, clinical decision-making, biomedical ethics, and health care policy. The program also includes leadership training and engagement in community-based, participatory research.

These young physicians join a distinguished group of over 1,100 alumni who include prominent leaders of public and private agencies at the state and national levels, five public health and medical school deans, 40 Institute of Medicine members, 19 medical school department chairs, over 100 vice chairs of departments or division chiefs, and numerous medical school professors.

For more information about the program and a full list of the 2010-2012 Clinical Scholars, visit: <http://rwjcsp.unc.edu/> or **contact Desmond Runyan, MD, DrPH**, Clinical Scholars national program director at 919-843-1351.

Clinical Trials Methods Course Scheduled for November

The Surgical Research Committee of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) is sponsoring the **Ninth Clinical Trials Methods Course November 13-17, 2009**, at ACS headquarters in Chicago.

New this year will be course didactics, including two added basic statistics lectures, based on four successfully conducted clinical trials published in the literature. The four clinical trials will be distributed ahead of time to all participants.

This course is recommended for surgeons who plan to engage in clinical research at a leadership level. It includes concepts and development of skills in the design, implementation, and analysis of randomized clinical trials; observational studies; the use of large administrative databases; meta-analysis; funding mechanisms and budget development; outcomes (medical, patient-centered, cost); and dissemination of results. **Participants work in small groups mentored by a surgeon and a biostatistician to develop a protocol.**

Reserve your spot early because the course is **limited to 50 participants, is only offered every other year**, and preference is given to members of the ACS. **Register by September 04, 2009, to take advantage of the early sign-up fee of \$2,250.** The course fee after September 4th is \$2,495.

Visit <http://www.facs.org/cqi/src/clintrial.html> for online registration, additional information about the course, a preliminary course schedule, and a list of faculty members. For more information, contact **Mary Fitzgerald at 312-202-5319**, or by e-mail at mfitzgerald@facs.org.

[Join the American College of Surgeons Facebook Group](#)

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has launched its Facebook group, allowing members to receive legislative updates, view ACS testimony on Capitol Hill, interact with ACS members around the globe, and learn more about the legislative initiatives conducted by the Division of Advocacy and Health Policy on your behalf. **Find the new ACS Facebook group here:** <http://www.facebook.com/p.php?i=33600687&k=Y5BXX3Q3U5YDUCG1VA53TRW>.

Kristen V. Hedstrom, MPH
Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs
American College of Surgeons

[Clinical Congress Events Introduce Residents and Medical Students to the Exciting Specialty of Cardiothoracic Surgery](#)

Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Future: Technology Overview for Residents and Medical Students

Monday, October 12, 2009
5:30-9:00 pm

This course for **surgey residents and medical students** will provide a **hands-on introduction to minimally invasive procedures** that are available to cardiothoracic surgeons today and will address what new technologies will be available in the future. There is a **\$25 fee for the course, which includes dinner**. For additional information, **please contact Damon K. Marquis at 312-202-5813** or email dmarquis@sts.org.

Cardiothoracic Town Hall Meeting. Innovations in Cardiothoracic Resident Training: The Six-year Comprehensive Integrated Training Program

Wednesday, October 14, 2009
7:00-7:45 am

This Town Hall meeting **will discuss the new, innovative, and comprehensive integrated program in cardiothoracic training in the United States.** Leaders in cardiothoracic surgery

education **will present the basics of the new program and answer questions about the curriculum**, how medical students and surgical residents can apply, the role of simulation in cardiothoracic training, the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association's boot camp initiative, and which centers now have (and which will have integrated) six-year programs.

David Tom Cooke, MD

RAS-ACS Representative to the Cardiothoracic Surgery Advisory Council

Mark Your Calendars Now for These Resident Sessions of Interest at Clinical Congress

RAS-ACS Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 11, 2009

9:00 am-12 noon

RAS-ACS Symposium

Sunday, October 11, 2009

1:00-4:00 pm

Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Future: Technology Overview for Residents and Medical Students

Monday, October 12, 2009

5:30-9:00 pm

Spectacular Cases from Residents

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

8:00-11:15 am

The Drive to Teach Residents: An Unintended Casualty of the 80-Hour Workweek?

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

2:30-4:00 pm

Cardiothoracic Town Hall Meeting. Innovations in Cardiothoracic Resident Training: The Six-year Comprehensive Integrated Training Program

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

7:00-7:45 am

Surgical Jeopardy

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

8:00-11:15 am

Practicing Medicine in the Information Age: Are You Prepared for What's on the Internet?

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

11:30 am-1:00 pm

How to Succeed in the Highly Competitive World of Grant Funding

Thursday, October 15, 2009

8:00-11:15 am

Contribute content for the next RAS-ACS e-Newsletter! The next deadline is October 5, 2009.

You may e-mail submissions to spm352@yahoo.com.

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 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 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

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

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.

Communications Committee

Carlos M. Mery, MD, MPH, Chair, Boston, MA

Heena Santry, MD, Vice-Chair, Boston, MA

Parth Amin, MD, Kathryn Berndt, MD, Natasha Bir, MD, Kris Brown, MD, Jaime Cavallo, MD, David Tom Cooke, MD, Robert Crawford, MD, David Tom Edelman, MD, Wesley Francis, MD, Adil Haider, MD, Jonathan Hernandez, MD, Alexzandra Hollingworth, MD, Haytham Kaafarani, MD, Marco Melis, MD, Vahe Melkonyan, MD, Biren Modi, MD, Mecker Möller, MD, Deepak Nair, MD, Jennifer Nelson, MD, Tassos Polimenakos, MD, Mallory Williams, MD

Executive Committee

Jacob Moalem, MD, Chair, Rochester, NY

Josh Broghammer, MD, Vice-Chair, Seattle, WA

Joshua Mammen, MD, Secretary, Houston, TX

Ted James, MD, Ex Officio, Burlington, VT

Richard Baynosa, MD, Plastic Surgery Advisory Council

Bill Chiu, MD, Pediatric Surgery Advisory Council

Jonathan Chun, MD, Colorectal Surgery Advisory Council

David Tom Cooke, MD, Cardiothoracic Surgery Advisory Council

Eric Deshaies, MD, Neurosurgery Advisory Council

Andrew Evans, MD, Orthopedic Surgery Advisory Council

Alex Kutikov, MD, Urology Advisory Council

Deepak Nair, MD, Vascular Surgery Advisory Council

Renée Solomon, MD, Ophthalmology Advisory Council

Neil Tanna, MD, Otolaryngology Advisory Council

Carrie Wieneke, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology Advisory Council

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.

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

American College of Surgeons
633 N Saint Clair Street Chicago, IL 60611-3211
Phone: 312-202-5000 Toll free: 800-621-4111 Fax: 312-202-5001
E-Mail: postmaster@facs.org