

# RAS-ACS News



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



**Fall 2004**

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

## **Contributions Sought for RAS -Sponsored Sessions at the 2005 Spring Meeting**

**When:** April 16-19, 2005

**Where:** Hollywood, FL

**Deadline November 26, 2004**

**I**n keeping with the College's goal of making the annual Spring Meeting the "Meeting of the Resident," three resident-oriented programs will be sponsored by the Resident and Associate Society (RAS) during next year's meeting. **"Clinical Abstract Submissions from Residents"** will provide a forum through which residents can present their research and disseminate the latest advances in surgery. **"Spectacular Cases from Residents"** will enable residents to present extraordinary cases to a group of expert panelists for discussion. Finally, **"Surgical Jeopardy"** will again be an exciting competition among teams of residents from all over the country. To submit abstracts for these programs, all of which will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2005, or for additional information, contact Julie Aikins at [jaikins@facs.org](mailto:jaikins@facs.org) or call 312-202-5433. **The deadline for submission of contributions is November 26, 2004.**

## **Call for Nominations**

The Resident and Associate Society is inviting nominations for the position of Secretary for 2005. Election to this position will take place during the Clinical Congress in October. Interested individuals may either nominate themselves or be nominated by a colleague. Please send the names of nominees to Danielle Katz, Vice-Chair ([katzdortho@aol.com](mailto:katzdortho@aol.com)) or Peg Haar, RAS staff liaison in the Division of Member Services, at [phaar@facs.org](mailto:phaar@facs.org).

## **RAS to Sponsor Symposium at the Clinical Congress**

The members of the Resident and Associate Society (RAS-ACS)

invites all surgical residents, Associate Fellows, young surgeons, and Fellows of the College to the RAS Symposium "Surgical Residents: Student or Employee-And Why It Matters." The session will take place Sunday, October 10, from 1-4 pm in Room 238-239 in the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. For more information, contact Peg Haar, Resident and Associate Society staff liaison in the Division of Member Services, at [phaar@facs.org](mailto:phaar@facs.org).

### **Residents' Program to be Featured during the Clinical Congress**

Surgery residents at all PGY levels are invited to participate in a special program designed by the Division of Education to assist with planning for post training careers and making the transition from training to practice. The session will be held on Sunday, October 10, from 10 am to 12 noon, in Room 238-239 in the Morial Convention Center; and again on Monday and Tuesday, October 11 and 12, from 6:30-8 am in Grand Ballroom D at the Hilton. For additional information, contact Cherylann Sherman at 312/202-5424 or at [csherman@facs.org](mailto:csherman@facs.org).

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

### **Join Us at the RAS Committees and Representatives Meeting in New Orleans**

**When:** Sunday, October 10, 8-10 am

**Where:** Morial Convention Center, Room 242

As residents, we are driven to become the best surgeon possible. We spend long hours and burn the midnight oil to master our craft. We are taught to believe that we will, and can, make the greatest contributions through the study and practice of the art of surgery, as well as research endeavors. However, as we enter the world of health care delivery, we quickly learn that there is more to the art of surgery than direct patient care. As we are faced with issues of contract negotiation, practice management, and reimbursement, we wonder why we didn't learn about these issues sooner.

So, on a national level, who represents the interest of surgeons on these and other issues? The answer is the American College of Surgeons, which works with other surgical organizations to represent the interest of surgeons with regard to health policy. Therefore, you need to prepare now for the issues that will confront today and tomorrow by becoming actively involved in the American College of Surgeons. The Resident and Associate Society is the vehicle through which you can become involved.

Ways you can participate:

- Join RAS Committees
- Represent RAS on ACS committees
- Become a RAS Council of Representatives member
- Represent your Specialty as a RAS Advisory Council liaison

Jeffrey S. Upperman, MD  
Chair

RAS-ACS

Willie Underwood, III, MS, MD  
Past Chair, RAS-ACS

### **MEDICAL STUDENT RECEPTION TO BE HOSTED BY RAS-ACS**

**Please join us Monday, October 11, from 5-6PM , IN Room 252-254 in the Morial Convention Center.**

### **ACS Career Opportunities: Visit Our Online Job Bank**

Visit with HealthCareers Network representatives at the Clinical Congress to learn how you can compose and subsequently post your resume on the ACS Career Opportunities Job Bank at no cost. You can also learn how to search for potential job opportunities in your specialty. Our unique, interactive online recruitment tool will greatly enhance your search because it is an integrated network of dozens of the most prestigious health care associations. By posting your resume on our online job bank, it will be visible to thousands of health care employers nationwide.

### **Getting Involved in the Resident and Associate Society: A Primer**

Getting involved in organized medicine can be a rewarding experience, but younger surgeons often are hampered by a lack of knowledge of just how to best begin. This short overview is meant as a listing of several areas within the College where motivated younger members can make a difference.

#### *Join the ACS-RAS Council of Representatives*

Every Resident or Associate Fellow member of the College is automatically a member of the Residents and Associates Society--RAS (which was previously known as the Candidates and Associates Society--CAS). The RAS is intended to allow the concerns of residents and young surgeons to be heard by the College leadership, and is intended to provide an avenue for participation in College affairs (<http://www.facs.org/ras-acs/index.html>).

The RAS is governed by a Council of Representatives that meets

every year in October during the Clinical Congress. Any person interested in becoming more involved with the RAS should attend the Council of Representatives meeting (Sunday, October 10, 8-10 am, Morial Convention Center, Room 242). At that meeting we will help you become an official delegate to the council from your local chapter of the College.

Once on the Council of Representatives, delegates will have opportunities to serve on numerous committees throughout the College, including Board of Governors' Committees, RAS Committees, and other national, local, and resident level groups. Becoming involved is an amazing opportunity to work on problems in the surgical community at a national level, networking with the leaders of surgery, and offering input that helps them keep the needs of residents and young surgeons in mind.

### *Trauma*

Those who have an interest in trauma have several excellent opportunities. Each state/province has a state/provincial ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) that is often looking for young and energetic surgeons to serve. Contact your state COT leader for more information. (The listing for state/provincial chairs can be found at <http://www.facs.org/trauma/regional.html>). There are several categories of membership on state committees, including "Associate" (MD members not yet Fellows of ACS) and "Physician in Training" (medical trainees with an interest in trauma-related activities).

### *The Committee on Young Surgeons*

The Committee on Young Surgeons (CYS) is charged with establishing closer relationships between the College and surgical residents, Associate Fellows, and young Fellows of the College, and with making College activities meaningful to young surgeons in all specialties (<http://www.facs.org/memberservices/cys/cysabout.html>). Committee membership is limited to Fellows under age 45, with consideration given to fair distribution of geographic location and specialty, and involves up to two, three-year appointments. Members meet twice yearly at the ACS Leadership Conference and the Clinical Congress. In addition to the national committee, state committees have been established in Northern California, Connecticut, Metropolitan Washington (DC), South Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Brooklyn–Long Island, North Carolina, South Dakota and Wisconsin. To contact any of the College's 65 domestic chapters, 30 international chapters, or the national committee, visit <http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/index.html>.

In April of each year, the CYS sponsors a Young Surgeon Representatives Meeting during the College's Leadership Conference, which is held in Washington D.C. The purpose of the annual meeting

is to provide young surgeon leaders with an opportunity to learn more about the College and provide information on socioeconomic and other issues that are of vital interest to today's practicing surgeons. Young surgeons who would like to attend future Leadership Conferences should contact their chapters for consideration.

The CYS provides an excellent way to get involved in the College. Many chapters invite Young Surgeons to serve on their governing councils and standing committees. Members of the CYS serve as liaisons to the ACS Board of Regents, six standing committees of the Board of Governors, and seven standing College committees.

#### *Present your papers at national ACS meetings*

The American College of Surgeons provides a multitude of local, state, and national scientific meetings to promote scientific communication, and many favor research presented by younger surgeons. At the fall Clinical Congress, the Owen H. Wangensteen Surgical Forum is open to previously unreported and unpublished scientific submissions by younger surgeons. All accepted abstracts are automatically published in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)* and are eligible for a variety of awards for the best research submitted. The Clinical Congress also has an RAS-ACS symposium with topics of interest to the resident surgeon.

The ACS Spring Meeting is designed particularly to cater to the interests and needs of the surgical resident and clinical/research fellow. A "Clinical Abstract Submissions From Residents" session, the "Spectacular Cases" general session, "Surgical Jeopardy" resident competition, and a one-day Resident Program provide a forum to present your clinical cases, to show off your surgical knowledge, and to attend lectures of specific interest to you. Letters are sent to each surgical department soliciting paper submissions, Spectacular Case reports, and two Surgical Jeopardy participants per program.

#### *State ACS meetings*

Some state chapters of the College have annual meetings during which presentation of research papers is an option. A list of the Web sites for many local chapters can be found at <http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/chapmenu.html>. Your local chapter meetings are also excellent places to meet other young members of the College, to network, and find out more about how to get involved locally. Don't be afraid to ask!

#### *Resident Trauma Competition*

Every spring, the Committee on Trauma (COT) sponsors a resident-clinical/research fellow "Resident Trauma Competition" (<http://www.facs.org/trauma/papers.html>). Each state

and region tends to run the competition slightly differently, but, in general, a regional or state trauma competition is held to decide the local winners, and 14 regional winners are sent (expenses paid) to the ACS Spring Meeting for a national trauma competition. For information regarding the name of the local state/provincial chair to whom you must provide your abstract, or any other information concerning the Residents Trauma Paper Competition, please contact the Trauma Office at ACS headquarters, 312-202-5380 or email [cmorris@facs.org](mailto:cmorris@facs.org). Local due dates vary, but in general these submissions are due in the fall.

#### *Apply for a Traveling Fellowship*

ACS Traveling Fellowships are available for Japan, Germany, and Australia/New Zealand and are limited to surgeons under the age of 45 (<http://www.facs.org/memberservices/research.html>). Although these awards are competitive and difficult to get, they provide an unprecedented opportunity to visit medical centers and attend a surgical congress in another country. Applications are due on or around August 1 of every year.

#### *Conclusion*

There are many, many opportunities for residents, Associate Fellows, and "young" Fellows to get involved in the College as it strives to forward its mission to "improve the quality of care for the surgical patient by setting high standards for surgical education and practice". When you get involved, these positions both strengthen and educate you, and provide extremely gratifying opportunities to work on issues that you care about most.

For additional information, contact Peg Haar, Resident and Associate Society staff liaison in the Division of Member Services, at [phaar@facs.org](mailto:phaar@facs.org).

Richard A. Santucci, MD  
Vice-Chair  
Communications Committee  
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#### **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!**

**Be Sure to Visit These Important Areas of the ACS Web site:**

RAS-ACS Homepage: <http://www.facs.org/cas-acs/index.html>

How to Join RAS-ACS: <http://www.facs.org/cas-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/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 [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 Joan Wellington.



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