

RAS-ACS News



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



Late Fall 2004

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

Deadline Nears for Contributions for RAS-Sponsored Sessions at Spring Meeting

When: April 16-19, 2005

Where: Hollywood, FL

Deadline: November 30, 2004

Three resident-oriented programs will be offered during the 2005 Annual Spring meeting in Hollywood, FL. All of the programs will take place on Sunday April 17, 2005.

The first session, "**Clinical Abstract Presentations by Residents**," will provide a forum in which residents present their research findings and discuss results of their research with experts and peers. Residents should submit an abstract of no more than 250 words, following the instructions for submissions that are printed at the end of this issue of *RAS-ACS News*.

The second session, "**Spectacular Cases from Residents**," will offer residents the opportunity to present extraordinary cases to a group of expert panelists and to discuss various aspects of these cases. And, finally, "**Surgical Jeopardy**" will be an exciting competition between resident teams who will test their surgical knowledge against the knowledge of their peers from across the country. Program directors should nominate a team of two residents to participate in this session.

Please see the instructions at the end of this issue for instructions on submitting information for all three of these programs.

Reminder: The deadline for submissions is November 30.

To submit abstracts, spectacular cases, or nominations for surgical jeopardy, or for additional information, please contact Julie A. Aikins, MS Ed, ACS Division of Education, at (312) 202-5433 or by e-mail at jaikins@facs.org. The registration fee for the Spring Meeting will be waived for all registrants who present at these sessions.

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

Note from the Chair

RAS-ACS–The time is now!

The Resident and Associate Society has continued to develop and expand its role within the College. The Clinical Congress in October provided an opportunity for us to come together and review the accomplishments of the past year and set goals for the future. Highlights of this past year included the Board of Regents approval of the change in our organization's name and in our Bylaws, a very successful and resident-focused Spring Meeting, continuation of our popular eNewsletter, RAS-driven pieces in the *Bulletin*, and another terrific symposium at the Clinical Congress. In my opinion, perhaps the most significant development over the past year has been the tremendous increase in the number of opportunities for resident involvement in College committees. All areas within the College are now frequently coming to RAS for suggestions regarding residents who might serve on their committees. Clearly, there is much interest in the thoughts, concerns, and ideas of residents, and a stated recognition that today's residents are tomorrow's Fellows of the College.

This desire to more actively engage residents in College activities gives us wonderful opportunities, and also responsibilities. Step up. Get involved. *You* can shape the future. Now is the time to make your voice heard.

Over the course of the next year, I hope to see a continuation of efforts to actively involve residents in nearly all facets of the College. I also hope that more residents, from all surgical specialties, will recognize the importance of the College in addressing issues that affect all surgeons. I want to see residents from all surgical specialties make a commitment, play a role in determining the future of surgery, and take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities that are now available to us. Now is the time to make a difference. Do it.

Danielle Katz, MD
Chair, RAS-ACS

Resident and Associate Society Holds Annual Symposium

On October 10, the Resident and Associate Society sponsored our fifth annual symposium, which was entitled "Residents: Are they students or employees?-and why it matters." Held on a rainy Sunday in New Orleans, the symposium explored a timely topic of interest to residents as well as practicing surgeons and medical students. I was pleased to be the moderator for the symposium, which was followed by a lively question and answer session.

Michael Reichgott, MD PhD, was the first speaker. Doctor Reichgott, associate dean for clinical affairs and graduate medical education at Albert Einstein School of Medicine, described the history of American graduate medical education. Starting with Jacob Ehrenzeller, Jr., who was indentured in 1773 to serve for five years as the first house officer in the United States (at Pennsylvania Hospital), he summarized the sentinel events in graduate medical education including duty hours regulation, unionization, the application of tax laws, and formation of the match.

The next speaker was Joseph Keyes, JD, Senior Vice-President and General Council for the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC). Mr. Keyes described implications of the recent judicial rulings and legislation regarding the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). He also reviewed the AAMC positions regarding the causes of and solutions for perceived deficiencies in our graduate medical education system.

Presentations by two surgeons completed the program. J. Patrick O'Leary, MD FACS, gave a Chair's view of educational and employment issues. Doctor O'Leary's presentation was an entertaining and practical examination of the topics

of particular concern to surgical house officers. Finally, Eric Grogan, MD MPH, presented a surgical resident's opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of designating residents as either students or employees.

Gregory S. Cherr, MD
Secretary
RAS-ACS

Physician Expert Witnesses: What is new?

A critical part of a medical malpractice suit is the contribution of the physician expert witness. In order to assist the courts in understanding complex medical cases, physicians are obligated to testify at trial. Furthermore, truthful and knowledgeable testimony by a surgeon (acting on behalf of the plaintiff or the defendant) contributes to a just outcome. Unfortunately, itinerant expert witnesses who provide inappropriate, dishonest, inaccurate, or biased testimony are still commonplace.

The Patient Safety and Professional Liability Committee of the American College of Surgeons recently updated the College's "Statement on the physician acting as an expert witness."¹ The revised statement "raises the bar" for expert witnesses and provides recommendations addressing expertise in the subject matter, documentation of continuing medical education, appropriate medical training, board certification, and so on. In addition, the College's Committee on Ethics has developed an Expert Witness Affirmation, which is a document Fellows may use on a voluntary basis if they wish to "declare that they will uphold certain professional principles in providing expert evidence or expert witness testimony."² The affirmation is consistent with the principles outlined in the ACS "Statement on the physician acting as an expert witness."

Hopefully, the actions taken by the College will reduce the risk of inaccurate or dishonest medical testimony being given by itinerant expert witnesses, thus contributing to unjust outcomes in medical malpractice cases.

1. Available at http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/statements/st-8.html

2. Russell, TR. Available at http://www.facs.org/education/ethics/ewa_letter.pdf

Gregory S. Cherr, MD
Secretary
RAS-ACS

Special Thanks to Jeff Upperman, MD

The members of RAS-ACS would like to thank Jeffrey S. Upperman, MD, past-Chair of RAS, for all of his hard work and outstanding leadership during the past year. Doctor Upperman has been instrumental in the growth and development of RAS, and we are confident that as a Fellow, he will move on to new leadership roles within the College. We look forward to his continued support, and wish him all the best.

Instructions for Submission of Abstracts, Spectacular Cases, and Nominees for Surgical Jeopardy Contestants

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
SPRING MEETING**

April 16–19, 2005
Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa

Hollywood, FL

Clinical Abstract Presentations by Residents

Sunday, April 17, 2005
7:30–9:15 am

Moderator: Barry Jenkins, MD

Co-Moderator: Steven D. Wexner, MD, FACS

Author Instructions:

The abstract author (surgical investigator in-training) is asked to submit an abstract of up to 250 words that includes a concise summary of hypothesis-testing research, completed or in progress, which has not been presented or published previously.

Author Contact Information must include:

1. Organization where research was conducted
2. First/Last Name
3. Degrees
4. Mailing Address
5. Phone number
6. Fax number
7. E-mail address

Abstract information must include:

1. Category
2. Title
3. Introduction
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Conclusions

Abstracts MAY NOT have been presented and/or published (in whole or in part) prior to their presentation at the 2005 Spring Meeting of the American College of Surgeons.

Categories suitable for abstract submission are as follows:

- Alimentary Tract (including liver, pancreas, biliary tract)
- Critical Care (including metabolism, infection, nutrition, blood, endocrine)
- General Surgery
- Surgical Oncology and Associated Immunology
- Trauma
- Vascular Surgery
- Education and Training
- Other

The maximum word count is 250.

Please email your abstract to Julie A. Aikins, MS Ed, Division of Education, at jaikins@facs.org

Spectacular Cases from Residents

Sunday, April 17, 2005
9:30-11 am

Moderator: Juan Carlos Paramo, MD
Co-Moderator: A. Frederick Schild, MD, FACS

The Spring Meeting in Hollywood, FL, will feature "Spectacular Cases From Residents." This program will take place on Sunday, April 17, 2005, from 9:30 to 11 am and will involve residents presenting extraordinary cases that they have encountered. Residents will present their cases to the expert panel, followed by a discussion led by A. Frederick Schild, MD, FACS, and Juan Carlos Paramo, MD. Each resident will have approximately 10 minutes to present his or her case, after which five minutes will be allocated for discussion. A total of five cases will be presented.

Surgical residents are invited to submit a case worthy of discussion. The resident should submit a one-page, double-spaced, abstract including the title and description of the case, along with their name, mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address to Julie A. Aikins, MS Ed, Division of Education, by e-mail at jaikins@facs.org or via fax at (312) 202-5029.

Surgical Jeopardy

Sunday, April 17, 2005
1-3:30 pm

Moderator: Mark W. Bowyer, MD, FACS

Mark W. Bowyer, MD, FACS, moderator of this session, will provide the rules governing the competition and will introduce the session participants. Rounds one through four will include four two-member teams who will compete to answer questions. The highest-scoring team will advance to the next round. Round five will be the last round and will include final questions to determine the winning team. The winners will be acknowledged and presented with a plaque marking their achievement.

Please provide the following information about your team.

Name of Surgical Residency Program

City:_____ State:_____

Name of Resident Contestant

#1:_____

Mailing Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____

Zip code:_____

Phone:_____

E-mail _____

Name of Resident Contestant

#2: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Please e-mail to Julie A. Aikins, MS Ed, Division of Education, at jaikins@facs.org or fax to (312) 202-5029.

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-accs/index.html>

How to Join RAS-ACS: <http://www.facs.org/cas-accs/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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