



# THE ATLS ADVANCE

## FAREWELL AND WELCOME

The New Year brings new faces to the American College of Surgeons leadership. ACS Executive Director for the last 10 years, Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, recently retired. Although Dr. Russell is returning to San Francisco, he will serve as Chair of the Board of the ACS Foundation. Thank you, Dr. Russell, for your service and commitment to the American College of Surgeons.

The newly appointed Executive Director for the ACS is very familiar with ATLS and trauma. David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS, has served as both Chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) and Medical Director of the College's Trauma Programs, and has been an ATLS instructor since 1980. Congratulations, Dr. Hoyt!

At the 2009 Clinical Congress, Michael Rotondo, MD, FACS, was appointed Chair of the COT. Effective March 2010, the current COT Chair, John Fildes, MD, FACS, will assume the duties of Medical Director for the Trauma Programs. The ATLS staff is grateful for the leadership and support of Wayne Meredith, MD, FACS, over his past four years as Medical Director. We look forward to his continued involvement in COT activities.



Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS



David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS

## AROUND THE WORLD...

Two important Latin American ATLS meetings occurred recently:

In October, Argentina celebrated the 20th anniversary of its ATLS program during the Argentine Surgical Society's annual congress in Buenos Aires. The Argentine Committee on Trauma recognized the achievements of previous chairs and faculty who contributed to the successful Argentine ATLS program. Jameel Ali, MD, FACS, and Will Chapleau presented a plaque to the chapter in recognition of the Argentine anniversary. Dr. Ali, Will Chapleau, and Dr. Thomas Russell were among the presenters during the Congress.



Latin American ATLS Family

In November, the Latin American ATLS family came together at the Pan American Congress in Caracas, Venezuela. Will Chapleau and many other international ATLS members were also in attendance.

*"ATLS has trained more than one million doctors around the world."*

WE'RE ON THE WEB! VISIT US AT:  
[www.facs.org/trauma/atls/index.html](http://www.facs.org/trauma/atls/index.html)

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Natalie Torres, State Chair, Bryan Troop, MD, FACS; and ATLS Coordinators from Missouri.

## NATALIE TORRES IN KANSAS CITY, MO

In early December, ATLS Regional Coordinator Natalie Torres attended the Region 7 "Advances in Trauma" conference in Kansas City, MO. Natalie had the opportunity to present new and upcoming features of the Course Management System to the coordinators and members of the Region 7 COT. She also discussed recent rule revisions, Web site updates, and exciting future changes with the 9th Edition course materials and E-learning project.

## 9TH EDITION REVISION SITE

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma is currently engaged in the revision process for the 9th Edition ATLS course materials. The COT welcomes suggestions for consideration in the revision process. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2010. For more information, please visit: [www.atlscourserevisions.org](http://www.atlscourserevisions.org).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ATLS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR:

We welcome your suggestions for revising and improving ATLS content. In order to ensure that ATLS provides accurate and relevant information for optimal care, all revisions to the next edition will be evidence based. This site allows you to provide your suggested revision with supporting evidence, and to classify that evidence according to current guidelines. The ATLS Subcommittee will review all proposed revisions. Please feel free to contact the ATLS Program office with any questions or concerns at [atlsrevision@facs.org](mailto:atlsrevision@facs.org) or 312-202-5160.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the care of the trauma patient.

Sincerely,

Karen Brasel, MD, FACS

## RULE CHANGES

If the State/Provincial Chair does not review and approve a Course Request Authorization within 14 days after submission, it will be automatically approved.

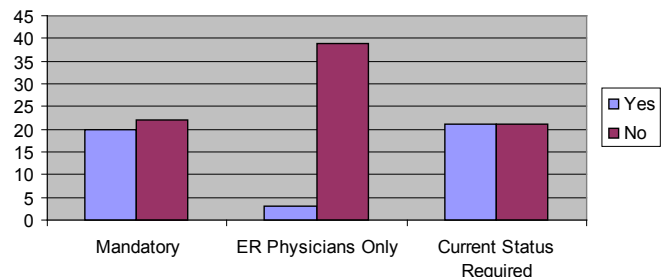
**Reminder:** Instructor Potential (IP) status is valid for three years. Any physician who received Instructor Potential status in a 7th Edition course should complete the 8th Edition update before participating in an Instructor course.

Completion of the update ensures that all IPs are aware of the 8th Edition course content. IP students can only access the 8th Edition update through the Non-ATLS ID tab. Please notify your ATLS Regional Coordinator when an IP student has completed the update.

## STATE ATLS SURVEYS

The ATLS Program office gathered information regarding state requirements for ATLS. Thus far, 42 states have responded. The following graph displays the preliminary results.

U.S. Survey Results



*"To improve the care of the surgical patient."*

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## ATLS MERCHANDISE

ATLS shirts, hats, and pins are now available for purchase! You can order these items for a variety of purposes: shirts for your instructors to wear during courses, pins for participants who receive Instructor Potential status, and hats for your moulage patients! Check the Course Management System for pictures and order forms. Contact your ATLS Regional Coordinator for shipping rates.

## ATLS PROGRAM STATISTICS

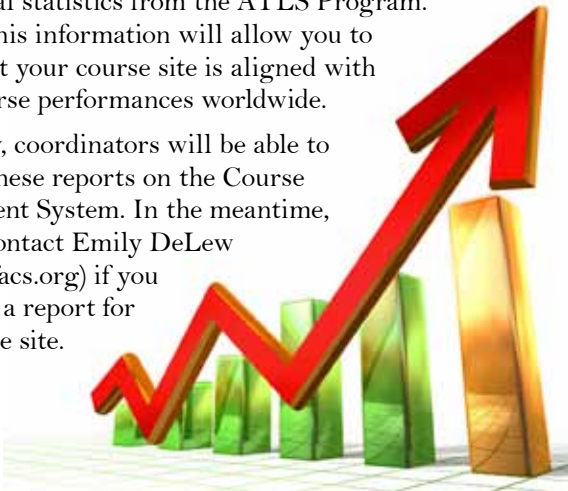
How do your participants compare with ATLS participants all over the world?

- Of the 406,918 test takers in ATLS history, 89 percent passed the post-test, with an average score of 86 percent.
- In 7th and 8th edition courses, 86 percent passed the post-test. The 1980–1994 editions had higher passing rates (90 percent and above).

The ATLS Program office constantly works to serve and equip ATLS coordinators throughout the world. One of our newest initiatives is to provide you with information regarding your course site and the entire ATLS Program. This report will include your course site profile (number of doctors trained, courses per year, average test score) and general statistics from the ATLS Program.

We hope this information will allow you to ensure that your course site is aligned with ATLS course performances worldwide.

Eventually, coordinators will be able to generate these reports on the Course Management System. In the meantime, you may contact Emily DeLew (edelew@facs.org) if you would like a report for your course site.



*“More than 60 percent of ATLS students worldwide are outside the U.S. and Canada.”*

## CONTENT SUBMISSION REQUEST

The ATLS Office is accepting idea submissions to be featured in an upcoming issue of the *ATLS Advance*. Please contact Danielle S. Haskin at [dhaskin@facs.org](mailto:dhaskin@facs.org) or call 312-202-5388 for idea submission or questions regarding the content of the *ATLS Advance*.

## NEW CHAIRS

**Region 13 Chief—Colonel Brian Eastridge, MD, FACS**  
**Panama—Nestor Vega-Yuil, MD, FACS**

## ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College has worked to establish guidelines for the care of the trauma patient. The Advanced Trauma Life Support Course teaches a systematic, concise approach to the early care of the trauma patient. This course is vital to guiding care for the injured patient in emergency department trauma rooms. The course training provides a common language that can save lives in critical situations.

*“ATLS is now in more than 60 countries around the world.”*

*“More than 8,000 ATLS faculty members have completed the online 8th Edition update.”*