

## **2016 International Governors Survey Report**

The Governors Survey has served as a method of two-way communication between Governors and the ACS Leadership. Through survey results on topics of concern to Governors, Governors can make their opinions known to the ACS Leadership. Through questions directed to the Governors, the ACS Leadership can determine the opinions of Governors on issues of importance.

This report details the results of the first ever Governors Survey directed specifically toward International Governors. International Governors have their own unique sets of issues and concerns. This survey attempts to provide a platform for similar two-way communication between International Governors and the ACS Leadership.

The 2016 International Governors Survey began with a set of demographic questions, followed by a series of in-depth questions on topics of importance. Topics addressed in this survey were:

Surgical Education Conferences

Chapter Issues

National Surgical Societies

ACS Benefits to International Fellows

Financial Barriers

### **Results of the 2016 International Governors Survey**

Number of respondents: 36

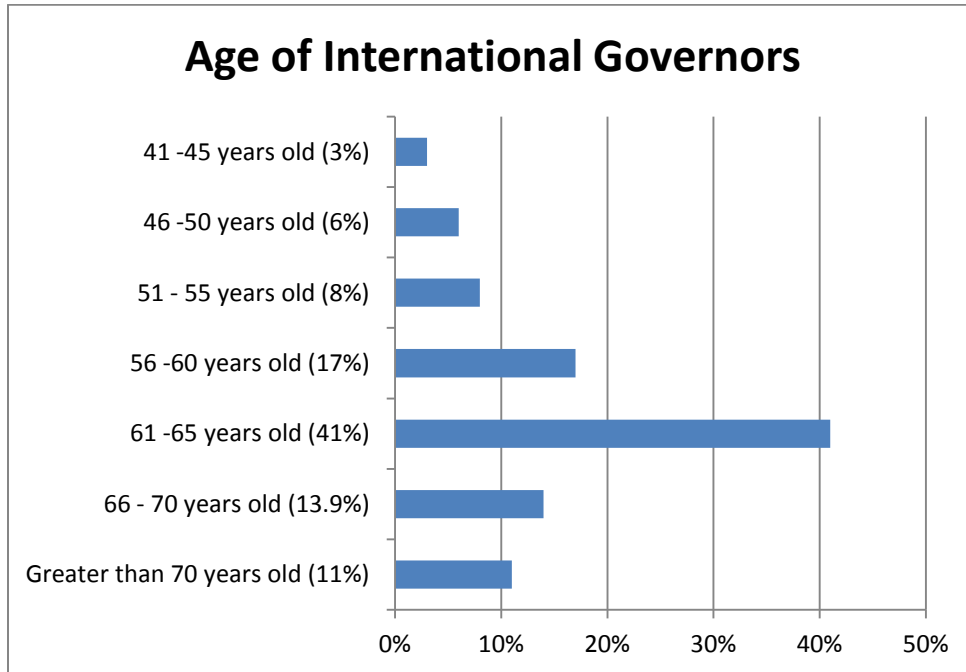
Percentage of International Governors responding:  $36/44 = 81.8\%$

## Demographic questions

Question 1 - Your name - \_\_\_\_\_

### Question 2 - What is your age?

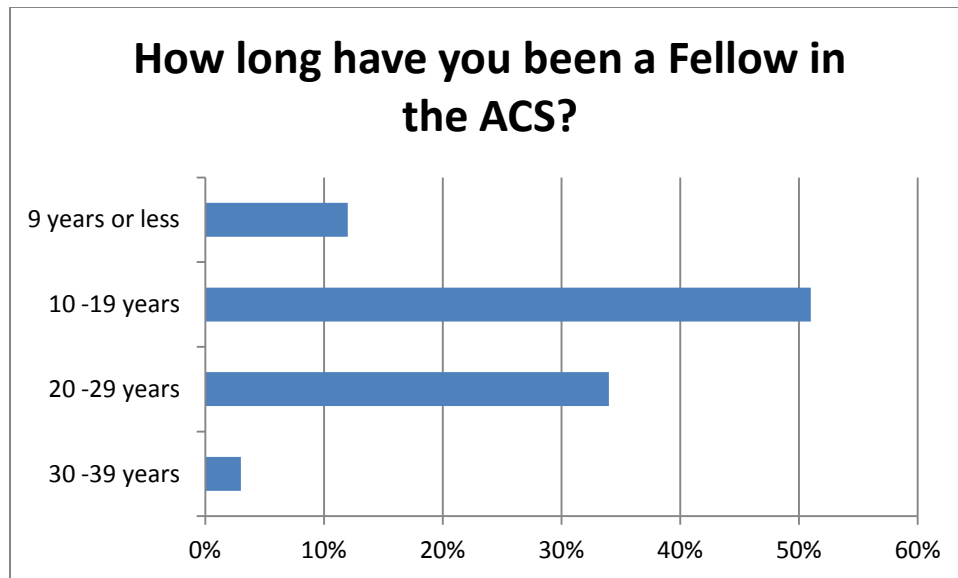
Data:



**Initial Impression:** 82.9% of responding International Governors are 56 years old or greater.

### Question 3 - How long have you been a Fellow in the ACS?

Data:



#### Question 4 - In which nation (or nations) do you practice?

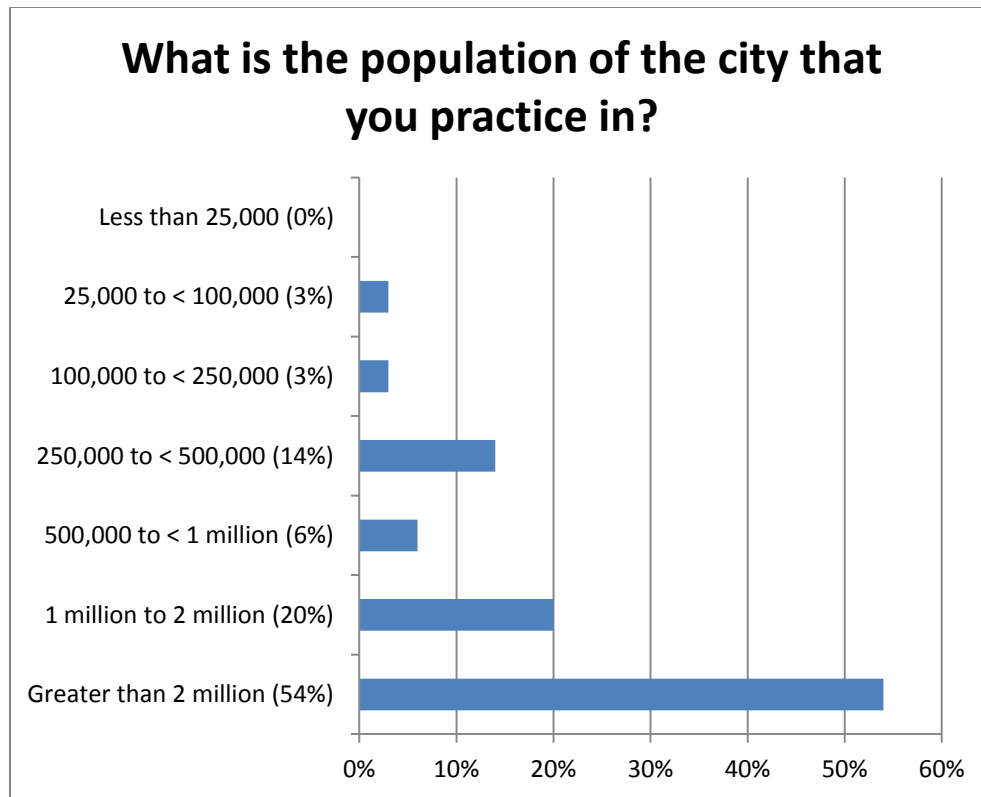
Data:

Answer Options	Response Count
Argentina	1
Australia	1
Austria-Hungary	1
Belgium	1
Bolivia	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Chile	1
China	0
China/Hong Kong	1
Colombia	1
Ecuador	1
Egypt	1
Germany	2
Greece	2
Iran, Islamic Republic of	0
Ireland	0
Israel	0
Italy	1
Jamaica	1
Japan	1

Jordan	1
Lebanon	0
Mexico	2
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	0
Panama	1
Peru	1
Philippines	1
Portugal	1
Saudi Arabia	0
South Africa	1
South Korea, Republic of	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Thailand	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Turkey	1
United Arab Emirates	0
United Kingdom	0
Uruguay	1
Other (please specify)	1

### Question 5 - What is the population of the city that you practice in?

Data:



**Initial Impression:** 74% of responding International Governors practice in cities of greater than one million population. Only 6% of responding International Governors practice in cities with a population of less than 250,000.

### Question 6 - How would you best describe your surgical practice? (select all that apply)

**Data:**

Practice Type	Number of Responses
General Surgery	28
Colon and Rectal Surgery	14
Surgical Oncology	11
Acute Care General Surgery	10
Endocrine Surgery	8
Bariatric Surgery	7
Trauma Surgery	7
Breast Surgery	5
Critical Care Surgery	4

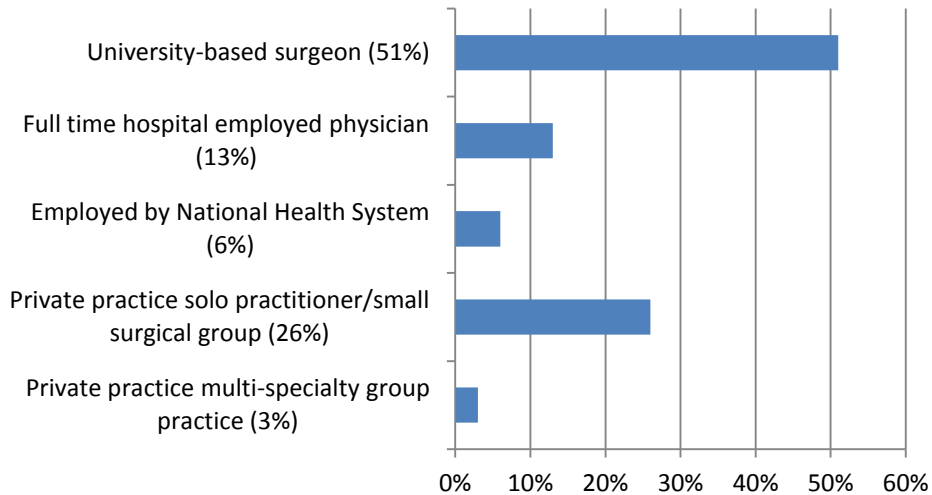
Wound care	4
Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery	3
Pediatric Surgery	3
Transplant Surgery	3
Obstetrics and Gynecological Surgery	1
Urological Surgery	1
Vascular Surgery	1
Cardiothoracic Surgery	0
Hand Surgery	0
Neurological Surgery	0
Ophthalmic Surgery	0
Orthopaedic Surgery	0
Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery	0

**Initial Impression:** The most common type of surgical practice for responding International Governors is general surgery.

**Question 7 - Which best describes your surgical practice setting? (select one answer)**

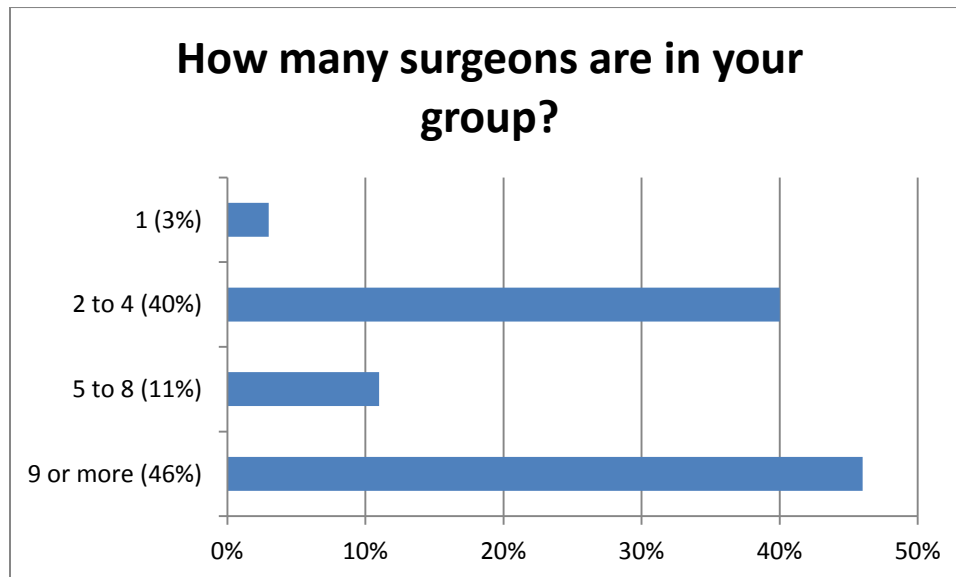
**Data:**

## Which best describes your surgical practice setting?



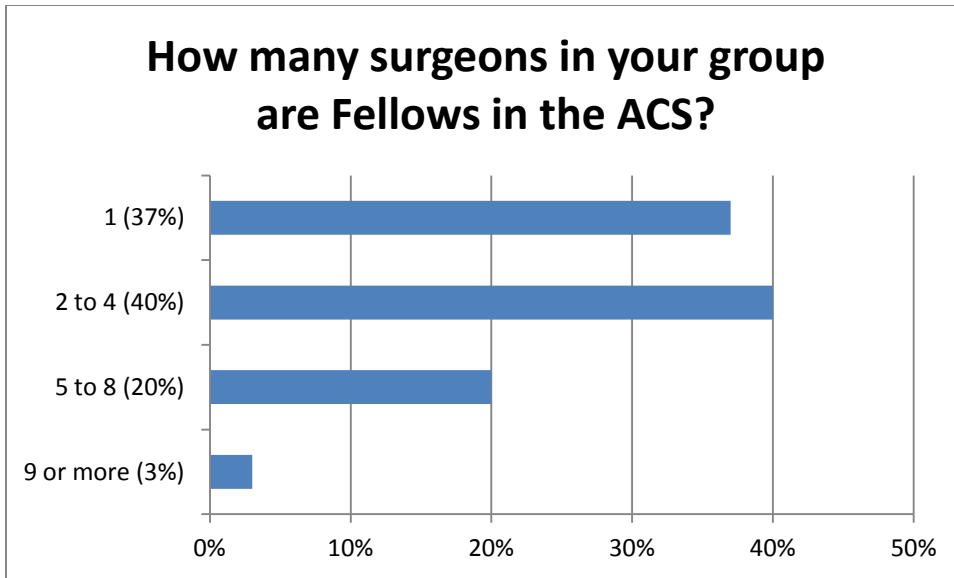
## Question 8 - How many surgeons are in your group?

Data:



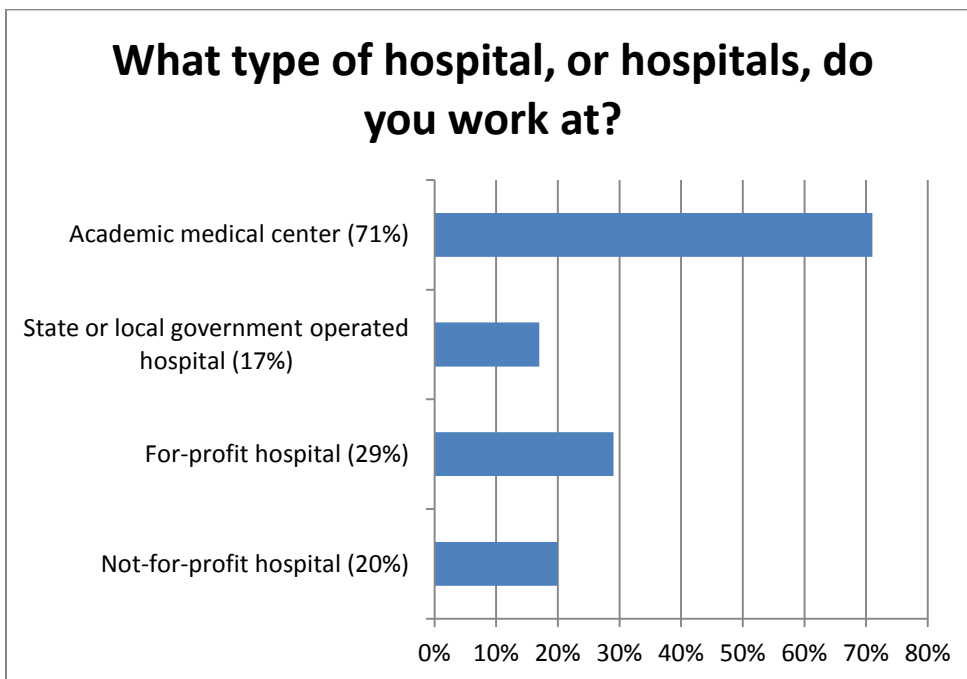
## Question 9 - How many surgeons in your group are Fellows in the ACS?

Data:



**Question 10 - What type of hospital, or hospitals, do you work at? (select all that apply)**

Data:

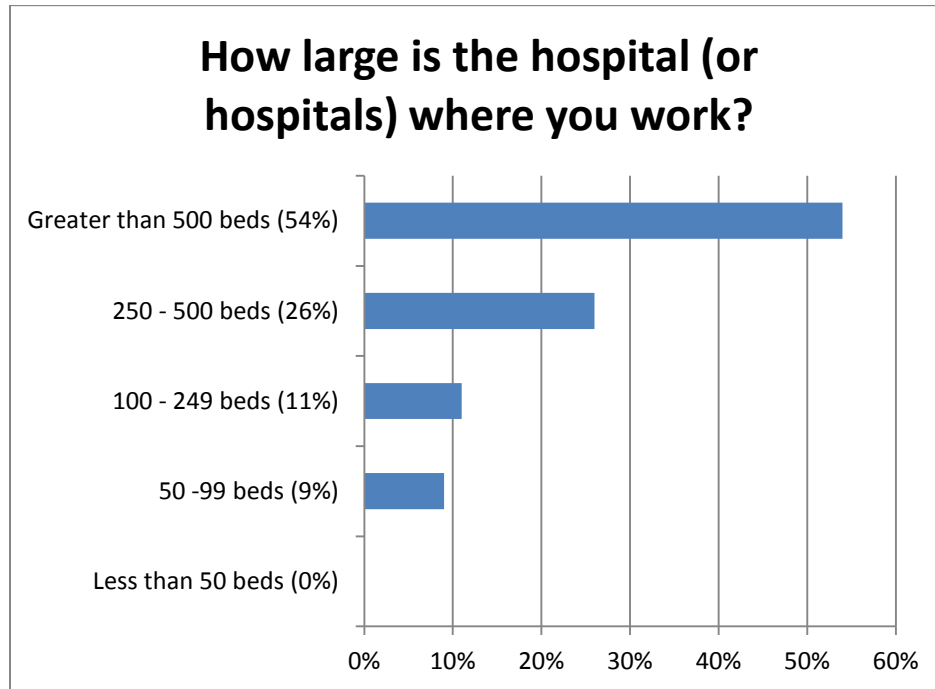


**Initial Impression:** The numbers do not add up to 100% because some surgeons work at more than one hospital.



## Question 11 - How large is the hospital (or hospitals) where you work?

Data:



## Question 12 - Please list the name of the nation where you completed:

Data:

### Medical school –

31 respondents completed medical school in the same nation where they currently practice

3 respondents completed medical school in a different nation (not the USA) than where they currently practice

2 respondents completed medical school in the USA

## Surgical training –

22 respondents completed surgical training in the same nation where they currently practice

8 respondents completed their surgical training in a different nation (not the USA) than where they currently practice

3 respondents completed part of their surgical training in the nation where they currently practice, and part of their surgical training in the USA

2 respondents completed some of their surgical training in the nation where they currently practice, and part of their surgical training in another nation (not the USA).

2 respondents completed their surgical training in the USA

## Fellowship training if done –

11 respondents completed their fellowship training in the USA

7 respondents completed their fellowship training in the same nation where they currently practice

5 respondents completed part of their fellowship in the USA and part of their fellowship in a nation other than where they currently practice

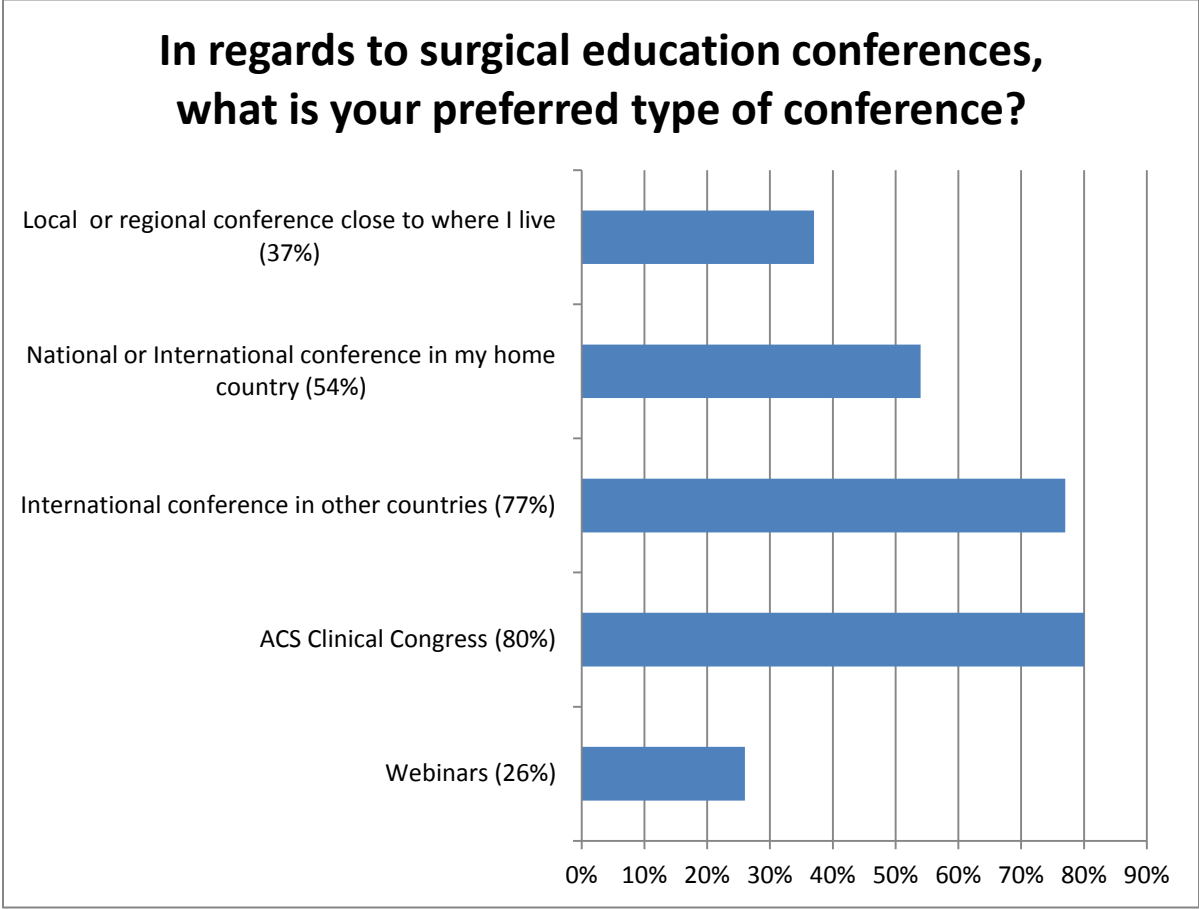
1 respondent completed part of their fellowship in the USA and part of their fellowship in the same nation where they currently practice

1 respondent completed part of their fellowship in the same nation where they currently practice, and part of their fellowship in a different nation (not the USA).

## Topic 1 - Surgical education conferences

**Question 13 - In regards to surgical education conferences, what is your preferred type of conference? (select all that apply)**

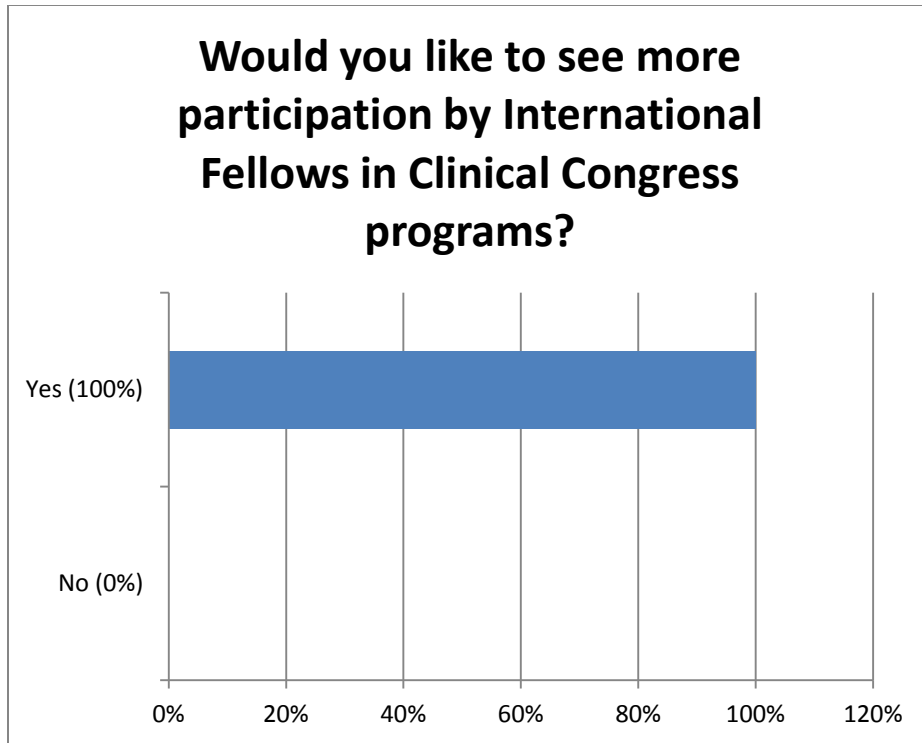
Data:



**Initial Impression:** Regarding surgical education conferences, the majority of responding International Governors prefer the ACS Clinical Congress , or an International conference in another nation.

**Question 14 - Would you like to see more participation by International Fellows in Clinical Congress programs?**

Data:

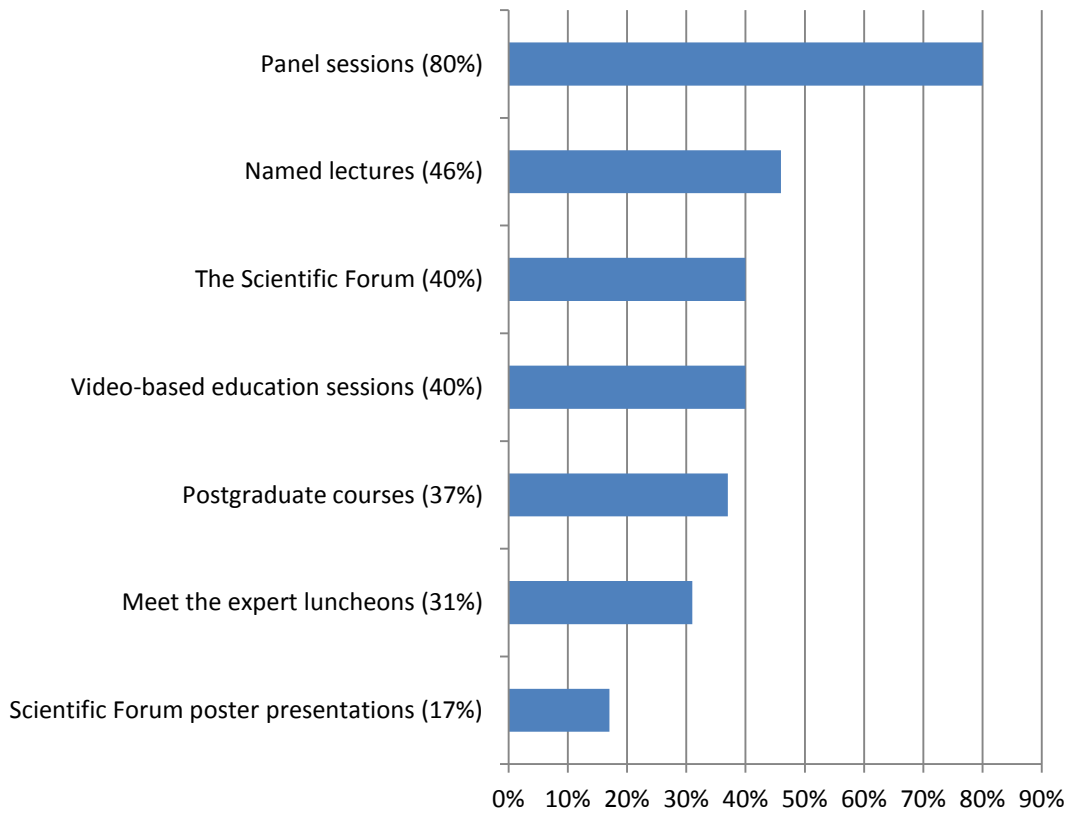


**Initial Impression:** This is the most unanimous answer in the survey!

**Question 15 - Which of the Clinical Congress programs listed below would you like to see more participation of International Fellows in? (select all that apply)**

**Data:**

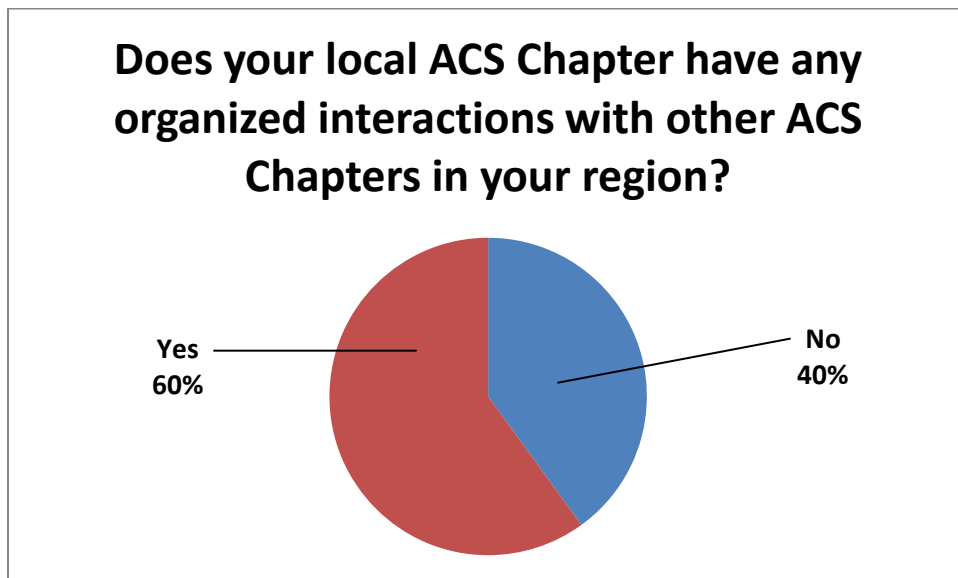
## Which of the Clinical Congress programs listed below would you like to see more participation of International Fellows in?



## Topic 2 - Chapter Issues

**Question 16 - Does your local ACS Chapter have any organized interactions with other ACS Chapters in your region?**

**Data:**

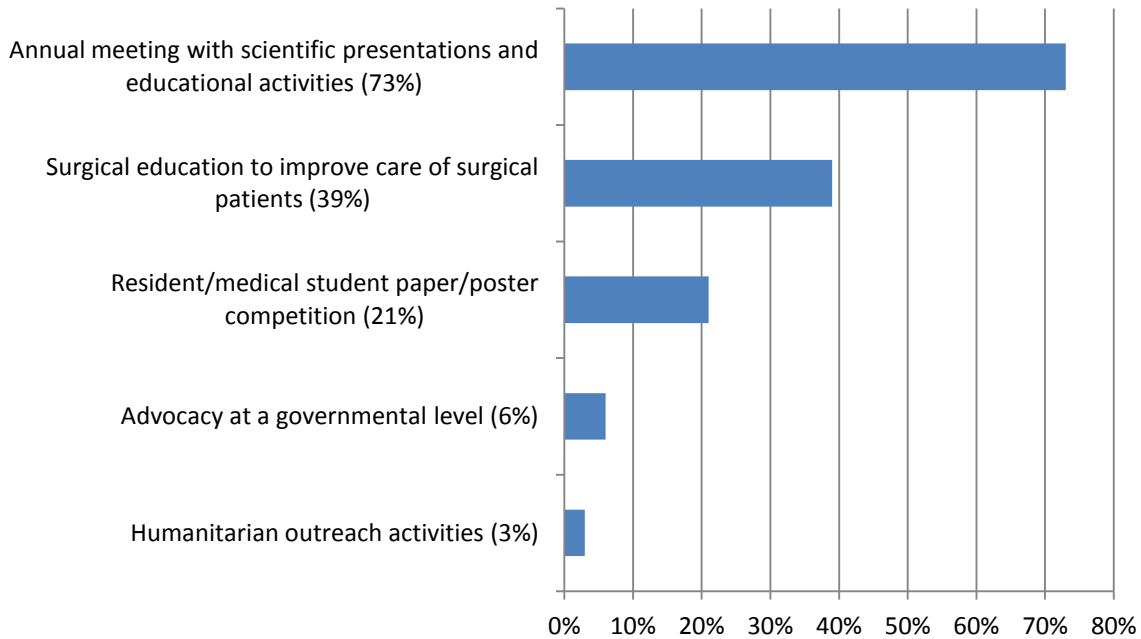


**Initial Impression:** There's a lot of opportunity for increased interaction between International Chapters.

**Question 17 - What activities does your local ACS Chapter provide?  
(select as many as apply)**

**Data:**

## What activities does your local ACS Chapter provide?



**Initial Impression:** The most common activities of International Chapters are centered around education.

**Question 18 - What barriers are preventing your ACS Chapter from becoming stronger and more active? Please rank the items below: ( 1 - largest barrier, through 7 - smallest barrier)**

**Data:**

Category	Average Score
Our chapter members are not active in chapter activities	2.92
Too many competing interests with the national surgical society (or societies)	3.24
Too many competing interests with specialty surgical societies	3.41
Surgeons are not willing to participate in leadership positions	4.30
Not enough chapter members	4.35
Surgeons will not join our chapter because of financial barriers	4.50
It is difficult to find good administrative staff	5.55

**Question 19 - What are the most important benefits to being a member of your ACS Chapter? Please rank the items below: (1 – most important , to 6 - least important)**

**Data:**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Educational activities	1.85
Improving the surgical training of residents/medical students	2.55
Advancement of surgical care for patients in our nation	3.42
Camaraderie with surgical peers	3.47
Social activities	4.21
Advocacy issues	5.04

**Question 20 - What do you think should be done to help make your local Chapter more relevant to Chapter members?**

**Data:**

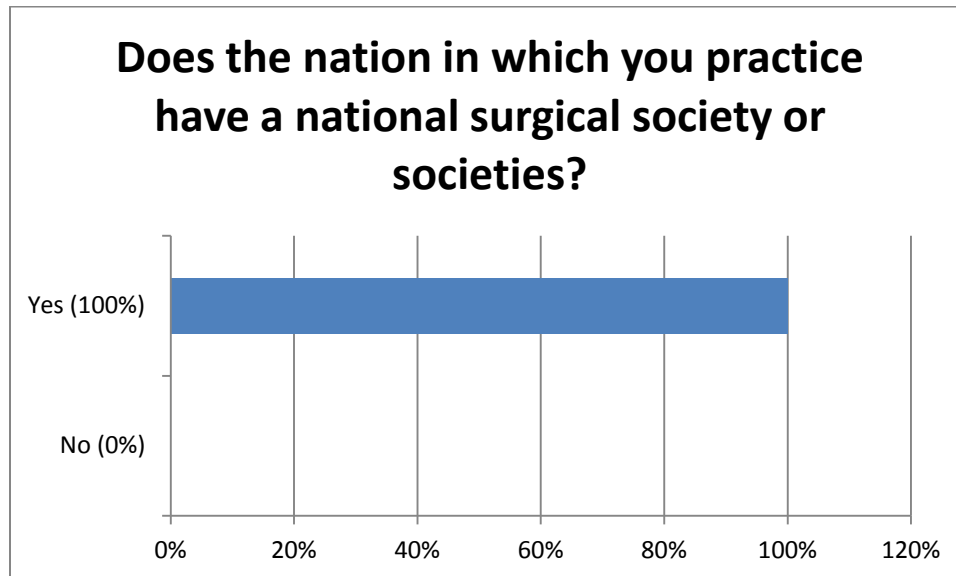
1. Improve Chapter educational activities – 9 responses
2. Increased financial support for the Chapter – 6 responses
3. Increase resident participation in the Chapter – 4 responses
4. Increase networking opportunities and Chapter social activities – 3 responses
5. Increase the level of activity of current Chapter members – 3 responses
6. Increase Chapter membership – 2 responses
7. Less expensive and increased access to ACS educational and quality products – 2 responses
8. Increased collaboration with other International Chapters – 2 responses

**Topic 3 - National Surgical Societies**



## Question 21 - Does the nation in which you practice have a national surgical society (or societies)?

Data:



## Question 22 - What is the name of your national surgical society (or societies)?

Data:

### International Societies

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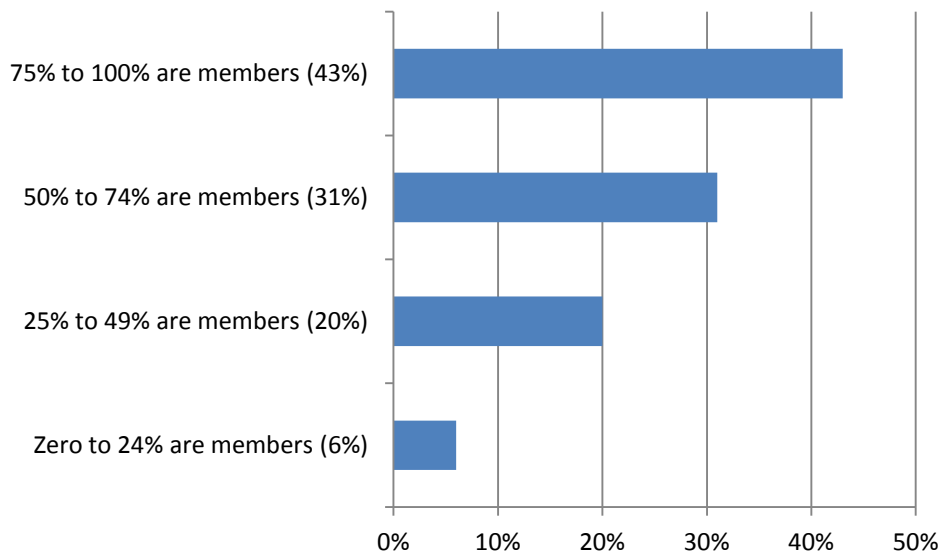
ACADEMIA MEXICANA DE CIRUGIA  
Argentina Surgical Association  
Asociacion Colombiana de Cirugia  
Asociacion Colombiana de trauma  
Asociación Española de Cirujanos  
ASOCIACION MEXICANA DE CIRUGIA  
Asociación Panamane de Cirugía  
Association Française de Chirurgie  
ASSOCIACION MEXICANA DE CIRUGIA GENERAL  
Association of Surgeons in Jamaica  
Association of Surgeons of Nigeria (ASON)  
Austrian Surgical society  
Canadian society of OTL-HNS  
Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgiões ( Brazilian College of Surgeons)  
COLLEGE MEXICANO DE CIRUJANOS  
College of Surgeons of Hong Kong  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Chirurgie

ECUADORIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS FESGO  
ECUADORIAN SOCIETY OF SURGERY(FELAC)  
Hellenic Surgical Society  
Italian Surgical Society  
Japan Surgical Society  
Jordan Surgical Society  
Korean Surgical Society  
National Surgical Society (Ulusal Cerrahi Derneği)  
Philippine Breast Cancer Society  
Philippine College of Surgeons  
Philippine Society of General Surgeons  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Royal Belgian Society of Surgery.  
Sociedad Boliviana de Cirugia  
Sociedad de Cirugía del Uruguay  
Sociedad de Cirujanos de Chile  
SOCIEDAD DE CIRUJANOS GENERALES DEL PERU  
Sociedade Portuguesa de Cirurgia  
Società Italiana di Chirurgia  
Société Française de Chirurgie Digestive  
SOCIETIES OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY OF ECUADOR  
Society of Surgeons, Trinidad&Tobago  
South African association of surgeons  
South African society of ORL Head and Neck surgeons  
Swiss Surgical Society  
The Royal College of Surgeons, Thailand

**Question 23 - What percent of the surgeons in your nation would you estimate are members of your national surgical society (or societies)?**

**Data:**

## What percent of the surgeons in your nation would you estimate are members of your national surgical society or societies?

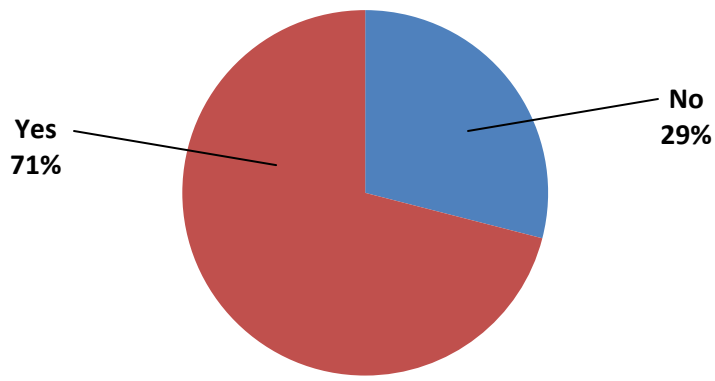


**Initial Impression:** This turned out to be kind of a Yogi Berra-type question, however it's clear that not all surgeons are members of their national surgical society.

## Question 24 - Are there any organized interactions between your national surgical society (or societies) and the ACS?

**Data:**

**Are there any organized interactions between your national surgical society or societies and the ACS?**



**Initial Impression:** A 71% “Yes” response is quite respectable, but it’s clear that there’s still a good opportunity for more organized interactions between national surgical societies and the ACS.

**Question 25 - Please describe the interactions between your national surgical society (or societies) and the ACS:**

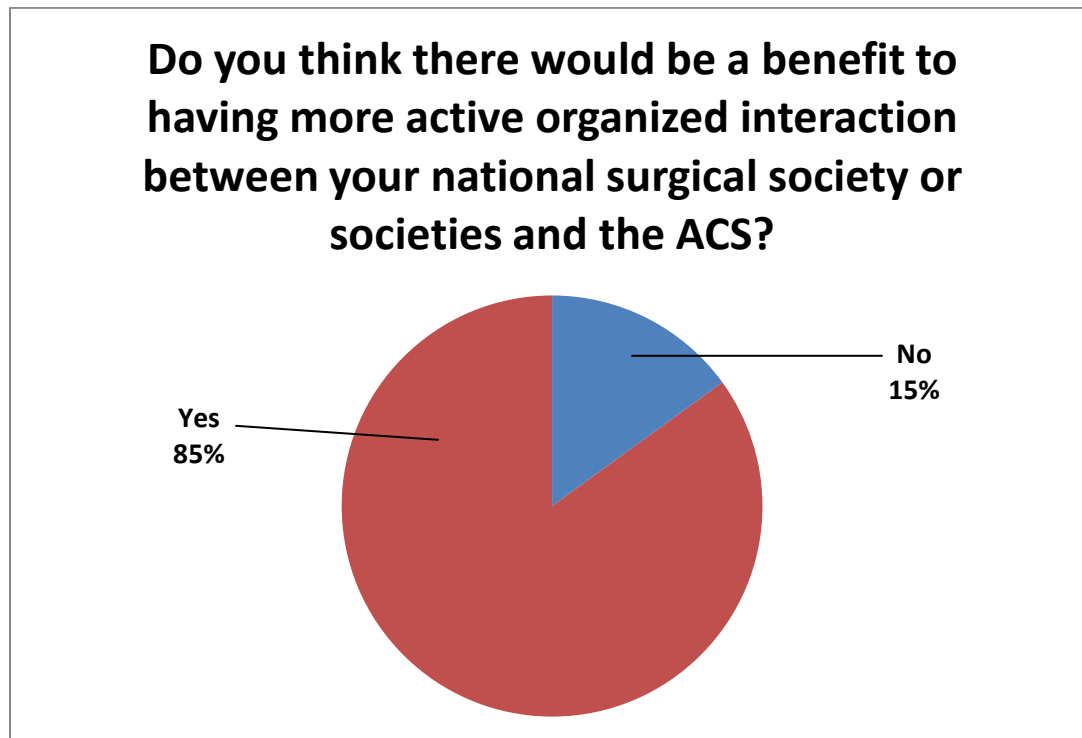
**Data:**

1. Joint meetings with shared educational and academic programs – 17 responses
2. Joint participation in funding of scholarships or travelling fellowships – 5 responses
3. Active participation of ACS Chapter leaders in the leadership of the National Surgical Society, and vice versa – 2 responses
4. Joint invitation of the ACS President to the annual meeting of the National Surgical Society – 2 responses

**Initial Impression:** Clearly the most common interactions between the national surgical societies and the ACS center around educational and academic programs.

**Question 26 - Do you think there would be a benefit to having more active organized interaction between your national surgical society (or societies) and the ACS?**

**Data:**



**Initial Impression:** There's a clear desire from the responding International Governors to have more organized interaction between the national surgical societies and the ACS.

**Question 27 - What types of organized interaction between your national surgical society (or societies) and the ACS could be beneficial?**

**Data:**

1. ACS Clinical Congress/education help – 12 respondents
2. Educational collaboration – 11 respondents
3. Financial help – 1 respondent

## **Topic 4 - ACS Benefits to International Fellows**

**Question 28 - Which of the following ACS benefits do you find to be most valuable as an International Governor? (Please select the top ten ACS benefits for you. It's not necessary to rank them by number.)**

**Data:**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Times Chosen</b>
Clinical Congress	32
Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)	28
ACS Bulletin	25
Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) courses	24
International Guest Scholarships	17
FACS designation	16
Opportunities for networking	15
Local ACS Chapter membership	12
ACS NewsScope	11
ACS Surgery News	11
Selected Readings in General Surgery (SRGS)	10
ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP)	10
ACS Communities	9
Surgical Education Self-Assessment Program (SESAP)	8
Surgical Risk Calculator	8
Commission on Cancer (CoC) accreditation program	5
Community Surgeons Travel Awards	3
National Accreditation Program for Breast Center (NAPBC)	3
Surgeon Specific Registry (SSR)	1

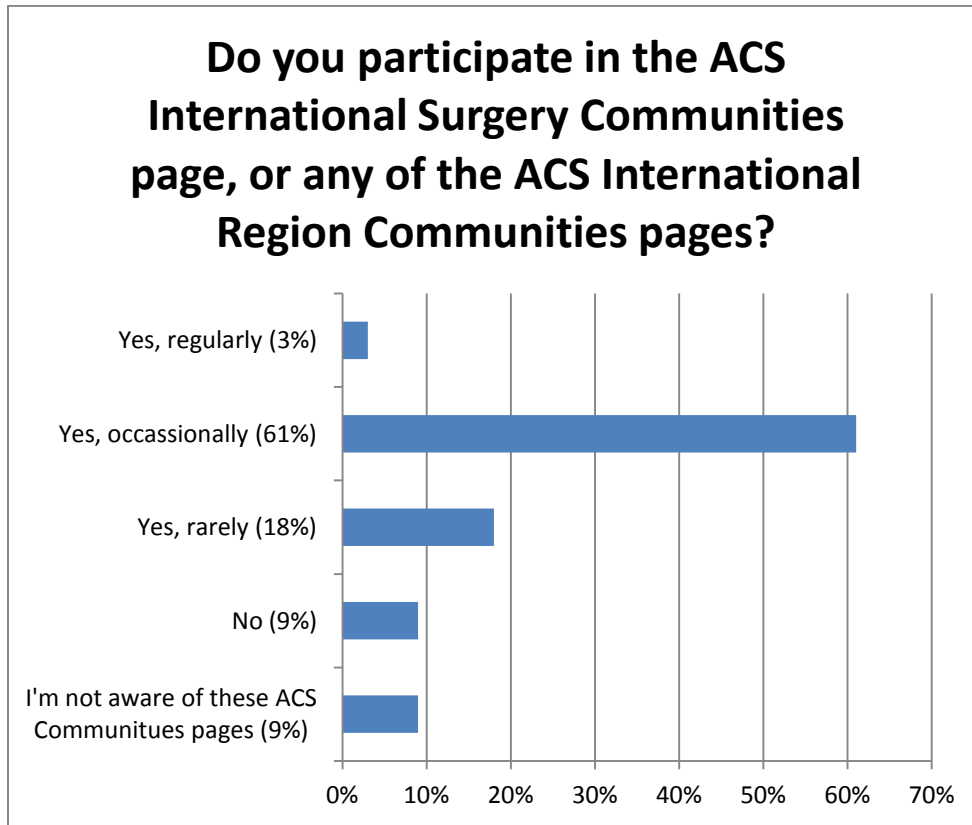
**Question 29 - What other products and services could make ACS membership essential to an International Fellow?**

**Data:**

1. ACS educational/financial help – 10 respondents
2. Interaction with other chapters – 5 respondents

### Question 30 – Do you participate in the ACS International Surgery Communities page, or any of the ACS International Region Communities pages?

Data:



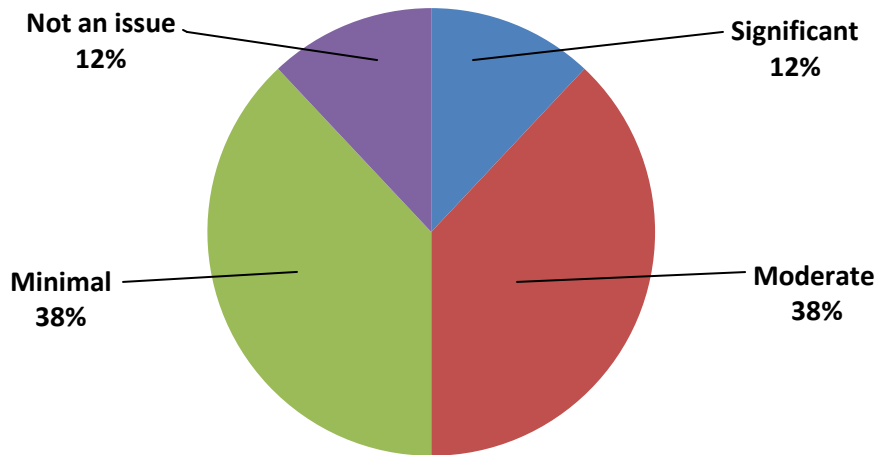
**Initial Impression:** There's clearly a big opportunity for the *ACS Communities* pages to increase communication between International Governors.

### Topic 5 - Financial Barriers

#### Question 31 - How much of a financial barrier is there for surgeons in your nation to become members of the ACS?

Data:

**How much of a financial burden is there for surgeons in your nation to become members of the ACS?**



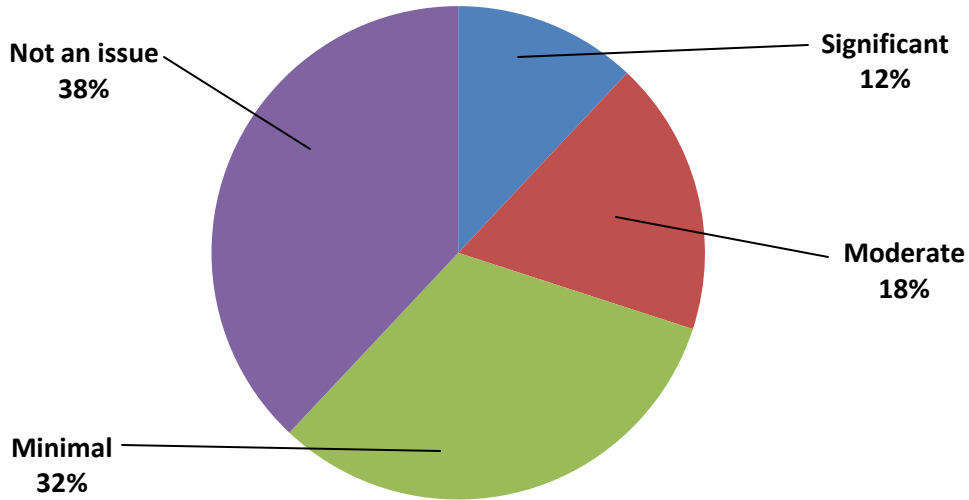
**Initial Impression:**

**Question 32 - How much of a financial barrier is there for surgeons in your nation to become members of the ACS local Chapter?**

**Data:**



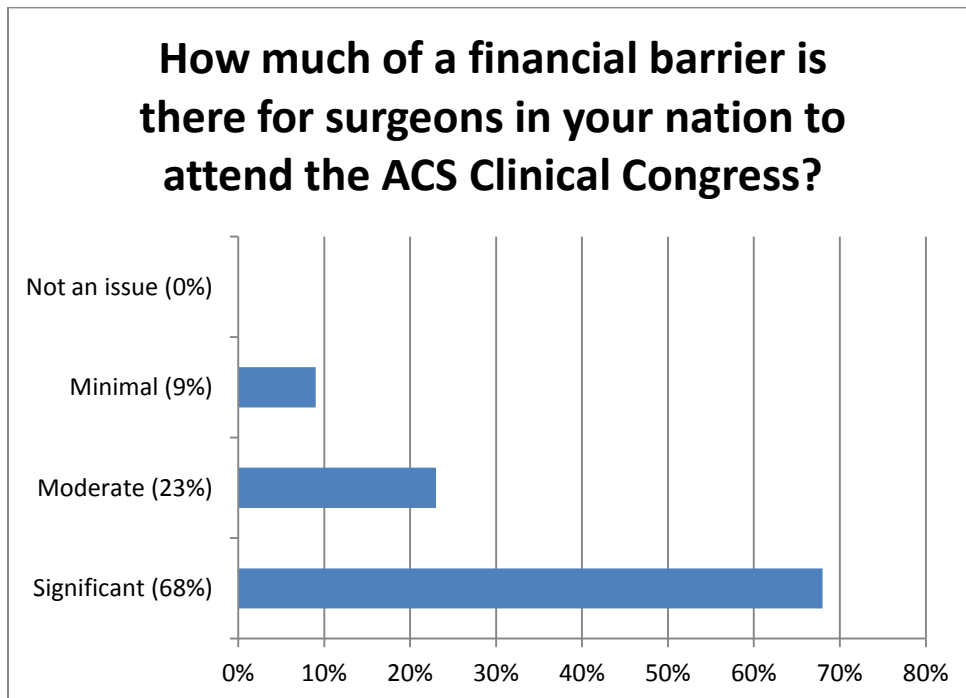
**How much of a financial burden is there for surgeons in your nation to become members of the ACS local Chapter?**



**Initial Impression:**

**Question 33 - How much of a financial barrier is there for surgeons in your nation to attend the Clinical Congress of the ACS?**

**Data:**



**Initial Impression:** There doesn't appear to be much of a financial barrier for International surgeons to join their local ACS Chapter, however this financial barrier increases as an International surgeon considers joining the ACS, and the financial barrier becomes even more significant when International surgeons consider attending the ACS Clinical Congress.

**Question 34 - As an International Governor, please list any pressing issues the ACS is not currently addressing, or issues the ACS should be spending more resources on:**

**Data:**

1. International education cooperation – 7 respondents
2. Financial help – 5 respondents
3. Increased ACS communication – 4 respondents

**Respectfully submitted on 11-21-16 by members of the Governors Survey workgroup:**

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