



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:  
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

**Region 15 Minutes  
International Governors & Chapter Presidents Meeting  
Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**

**Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Golden Gate 5, Lobby Level**

**Attendees:**

Norbert Senninger, MD FACS  
Nadey S. Hakim, MD FACS  
Antonio Di Cataldo, MD FACS  
Paulo Matos da Costa, MD PhD FACS FRCS  
Georgios Tsoulfas, MD PhD FACS

Luis Grande, MD FACS  
Ernst Klar, MD FACS  
Albert Tuchmann, MD FACS  
Natalie Bell, MS (ACS Staff)

1. **Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions** **5:00 pm**  
Norbert Senninger, MD, FACS, Region 15 Chair
  - Meeting begins at 5:11 PM
  
2. **Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2018 Clinical Congress Meeting** **5:10 pm**  
Norbert Senninger, MD, FACS
  - Minutes unanimously approved by all meeting attendees
  
3. **Group Discussion Topics** **5:15 pm**
  - Gratitude to Brian Frankel for organizing the agenda and meeting logistics
  - New trends in the training of residents in general surgery
    - Antonio Di Cataldo, MD, FACS, Governor, Italy Chapter: In Italy, the new generation of surgeons has many differences than the older generation, including the desire to study a subspecialty rather than General Surgery
    - 1,000 surgeries are required to become an independent surgeon in the UK, but don't need to have a mentor present during the surgeries, providing more autonomy for the young surgeon
      - 700 are needed in Portugal
        - Drastic differences in standardization between the countries
        - The College cares about and pays attention to the differences in training and is working on standardization, which is why we are here
    - The discussion will inevitably change because robotics are becoming more relevant. We need to look at the training of the future and who is going to observe the residents
  - Support needed from ACS
    - In order to communicate the needs of Region 15, it is requested that one page per country is written with ways the College could be better supporting the chapters financially
      - Overlooked from last meetings minutes



- “The ACS is listening more than ever before”
- Clinical Congress:
  - Still need more international panelists
  - Dr. Turner: Not as many as she would like to have on the program either
    - Dr. Turner is aiming to add a non-US surgeon to the sitting committee for the program. In order to assist, it would be helpful to have written communication from the Region 15 Governors.
    - 1/3 of the Initiates this year were international, and the program should be reflective of our growing international presence within the College.
    - List of panelists this year who are from abroad
- Finances
  - Frustration around the fees of Clinical Congress increasing but no financial help for international chapters
  - Courses need to be more accessible for international members
    - Review Course in Surgery
    - Dr. Turner: One approach could be for Member Services to pay for the course(s) and distribute to the chapters
      - Division of Education must approve
  - Dues conversation: Dr. Turner-- the challenge with breaking down a percentage of the chapter dues and redistributing funds to chapters is that all chapters have different circumstances
    - Raise the dues and then pass back to the chapters?
    - Would have to have all chapters participate or none participate
    - Action item: Put asks into writing
  - Many Initiates in Region 15 countries but few can attend Congress for various reasons, and primarily financial reasons
- Region meeting in Kuwait November 2019
- Region meeting in Egypt March 2020
  - Dr. Senninger will be attending and is encouraging others to as well
  - March 4-6, 2020
  - Dr. Rusch is attending
  - Joint meetings can be encouraging
- The Concept of Region 15
  - Have had many successes across the various regions
  - Communities came out of this group

#### 4. Chapter Updates

5:45 pm

- Austria-Hungary
  - Notes that no officers have visited the chapter in the past ten years
  - Expectations are low because the importance of the ACS is not that high



- Members have positions within the chapter but do not fulfill the expectations of the roles
- Germany
  - “How can we represent the added value of the ACS to young surgeons?”
  - “What can the ACS add in Germany?”
    - Trauma ASSET Course
    - Attended the course during Congress and experienced support from the US side
      - 2021 is the goal to have it implemented in Munich
- Greece
  - New President / Governor knows the chapter and is very involved
  - Use ACS educational materials to attract membership
- Italy
  - # of Italian Fellows has increased which has made it easier to organize events
  - Next May is the Annual Congress in Rome
- Portugal
  - Hoping to finish the bylaws shortly
  - Several workshops next year
- Spain:
  - Ministry of Health recognized the chapter, which means they are officially a society of the country
- *(Plus: United Kingdom)*
  - Next October, the UK will become a chapter
- Not represented: Belgium, France, Ireland, Israel, Nigeria, South Africa, Switzerland

**6. Adjourn**

Norbert Senninger, MD, FACS

**6:33 pm**

Minutes submitted by Natalie Bell.