

ACS Residents as Teachers and Leaders

August 1-3, 2025 | Chicago, IL



Dear Exhibitor,

On behalf of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Division of Education, Residents as Teachers and Leaders Faculty and Staff, we cordially invite you to join us for the welcome reception at the 20th RATL Course held at the ACS Headquarters in Chicago, IL on April 17, 2026. The exhibits will be located on the 28th Floor directly across from the course conference room.

The ACS is a non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to improving the care of the surgical patient and safeguarding standards of care in an optimal and ethical practice environment. To learn more about the ACS, visit our website: [About ACS | ACS](#)

The goal of this course is to help surgery residents develop some of the essential nonclinical skills that will be critical to their success as senior-level residents and practicing surgeons. The course faculty are nationally renowned clinical and educational professionals who will provide an interactive learning environment. Residents will learn to lead a team more effectively, resolve conflict, be better teachers, give constructive feedback, and apply these skills during and after residency. The number of participants is limited to allow ample interaction with faculty and to facilitate networking with other attendees. This course is targeted for mid- to senior-level residents, but all trainees who are currently in a surgical residency program are welcome to attend.

Course Content

The course will address the following essential skills for residents' lifelong roles as teachers, leaders, and practicing surgeons:

Effective Teaching

- Establishing a positive learning climate
- Finding time to teach
- Teaching in ambulatory settings and the operating room
- Giving feedback on performance

Successful Leading

- Developing and leading productive teams
- Resolving conflict
- Using different leadership styles effectively
- Maximizing various working styles

WHO ARE THE FACULTY?



COURSE CHAIR

Kyla P. Terhune, MD, MBA, FACS
Associate Professor,
Surgery and Anesthesiology
Associate Dean,
Graduate Medical Education
Vice President,
Educational Affairs
Vanderbilt University



Brian C. George, MD, MAEd, FACS
Assistant Professor,
Surgery and Learning Health Sciences
Associate Program Director,
General Surgery Residency and Surgical
Critical Care Fellowship
University of Michigan



Cary B. Aarons, MD, MSEd, FACS
Vice Chair of Education,
Department of Surgery
Program Director,
General Surgery Residency Program
Columbia University



Ajita S. Prabhu, MD, FACS
Associate Professor, Surgery
Program Director,
General Surgery Residency Program
Cleveland Clinic

Course Schedule*

Friday, April 17, 2026	
12:30 – 1:00pm	Registration
1:30 – 4:45pm	Course
3:45-4:30pm	Exhibits Setup
4:45 – 6:15pm	Networking Reception w/ Exhibitors
Saturday, April 18, 2025	
7:30 – 12:30pm	Course
Sunday, April 19, 2025	
7:30 – 11:30am	Course
11:30am	Adjourn

* Schedule subject to change.

Who Attends?

The course attracts senior level residents and represents multiple specialties across the house of surgery. From 2007 – 2024, the total residents that participated in the RATL Course is 1,759.

1,049 out of 12,658 of all residents from 2007-2017 who had the opportunity to attend RATL, were in attendance and those who completed residency during this period, continue to teach others. Presently, 359 sitting Program Directors, 158 had the opportunity to attend RATL and 14 were in attendance.

Who Exhibits?

Organizations who provide their expertise, teaching materials, products and services that intend to enhance the learning experience and support nonessential skills of residents.

What is the Exhibit Fee?

Exhibit Package: \$500

- One tabletop exhibit space (includes: one 6' draped table, 2 chairs and ID sign) during the opening networking reception on Friday, April 17.
- Recognition from the podium on event signage and in the recipient course book
- Complimentary link on the meeting webpage

My company wants to attend! How do I get started?

[Click here](#) to complete an online exhibit space application. After an application is received, a confirmation will be sent. **Space is limited.**

Please reach out to Kate Poetker at kpoetker@facs.org with any questions.

Exhibit Rules and Regulations

Upon receipt of the Exhibit Space Application, the ACS assumes that you have read the terms outlined below and agree to abide by them. The application is subject to acceptance by the ACS. Written confirmation will be sent upon receipt of the application and full payment.

Eligibility to Exhibit

The meeting is intended for companies related to the profession, including those involved in providing education, supplies, and services to the medical profession, pharmaceuticals, instrumentation, practice management, publications, computer software, and so on. The ACS reserves the right to determine the eligibility of any applicant as an exhibitor according to their Principles of Governing Corporate Support. With a limited number of exhibitors permitted, the committee reserves the right to deny exhibitors after the limit is reached.

All products must be directly related to the practice of surgery or medicine and approved by the ACS in their sole and absolute discretion. Exhibitors shall not exhibit products or services other than those described in the application and approved by ACS. A “investigational device or drug” product must be clearly marked as such. Exhibitors must ensure that with respect to all such devices or drugs, only permissible preapproved dissemination of scientific and educational information is provided at the exhibit, and that appropriate disclosure and cautionary notices are included with the devices or drugs. An exhibitor shall not in any manner directly or indirectly imply that the ACS’s endorsement or approval of the exhibitor’s product or service has been given merely because the ACS approved such product or service for display as an exhibit. Applications deemed ineligible will be returned with full payment.

Cancellation and Refunds

Written notification of a space cancellation must be received by the ACS on or before March 15, 2026, to be eligible for a refund. A \$100 service charge will be assessed for each canceled space. No refunds will be given after March 15, 2026.

Limitation of Liability

In no event shall the exhibit facility, the ACS, and their owners, managers, officers or directors, agents, employees, independent contractors, subsidiaries, and affiliates (collectively “the ACS parties”) be liable to the Exhibitor or any third party hired by or otherwise engaged by the Exhibitor for any lost profits or any other indirect, special, punitive, exemplary, incidental, or consequential damages, including attorneys’ fees and costs, arising out of this application and agreement or connected in any way with the use of or inability to use the services outlined in this application and agreement or for any claim by the Exhibitor, even if any of the ACS parties have been advised, are on notice, and/or should have been aware of the possibility of such damages. The exhibitor agrees that the ACS parties’ sole and maximum liability to the exhibitor, regardless of the circumstances, shall be the refund of the exhibit booth fee. The exhibitor agrees to indemnify and defend the ACS parties from any claims brought by a third party hired by or engaged by the Exhibitor for any amount beyond the exhibit booth fee. Further, the Exhibitor agrees to pay all attorneys’ fees and costs incurred by

the ACS parties arising from or in any way related to this application and exhibit. The Exhibitor shall be solely responsible for its attorney's fees and costs.

Indemnification

Exhibitors shall be fully responsible for any claims, liabilities, losses, damages, or expenses of whatever kind and nature relating to or arising from an injury to any person or any loss of or damage to property, where such injury, loss, or damage is an incident to, arises out of or is in any way connected with the Exhibitors' participation in the Exhibition. Exhibitors agree to indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless the ACS and its officers, directors, agents, members, and employees, and each of them, from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs, and expenses (including attorneys' fees and expenses) with respect to any breach of the foregoing representations and warranties or negligence, gross negligence or willful misconduct of Exhibitor, its employees, agents, or contractors. The terms of this provision shall survive the termination or expiration of these Policies and Procedures. The ACS owns and sponsors this meeting to promote advances in surgery and other areas of surgical science. The information presented through the programs and exhibits is not verified or endorsed by the ACS. Exhibitors and their presenters are solely responsible for content.

Exhibit Hours

All exhibits must be staffed during open exhibit hours. It is agreed that no exhibitor will dismantle or remove any part of their exhibit before the exhibition closes.

Exhibit Standards

Each exhibitor is entitled to a reasonable sightline from the aisle regardless of the size of the exhibit. Exhibits must conform to the booth contracted and must be of such character or arrangement so as not to obstruct the view or interfere with the exhibits of others. All demonstrations and exhibits must be confined to the contracted space. Questionable exhibits shall be modified at the request of ACS staff. The fastening of materials to booth drapery, building walls, ceilings, floors, carpeting, or columns is expressly prohibited.

Use of Space

No sharing, subletting, or assignment of space is permitted. The ACS shall have the right to prohibit any exhibit or part of an exhibit that, in its opinion, is not suitable to or in keeping with the character or purpose of the meeting. Exhibitors are encouraged to verify helium balloon usage with the facility and will be held accountable for any charges resulting from their use. Exhibitor personnel are prohibited from working in aisles or other public areas. Smoking will not be permitted in the exhibition area.

Special Restrictions

- Giveaways are permitted only if approved in writing by the ACS before the meeting.
- Fire hose cabinets and exits must always be accessible and in full view. Decorations and displays must either be made of non-flammable material or treated with an approved fire prevention method. All display material must be flameproofed and subject to inspection by the Chicago Fire Marshal. No flammable fluids or substances may be used or shown in booths.
- Displays may not be dismantled or any packing begun before 8:30pm on Friday, April 17, 2026.

FDA Regulations

Exhibitors must abide by all applicable Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, including but not limited to any or all approved requirements. Exhibitors are reminded that the FDA prohibits the advertising or other promotion of investigational or unapproved drugs and devices and forbids the promotion of approved drugs or devices for unapproved uses. For additional information, contact the FDA at 888-463-6332 or fda.gov.

Force Majeure

The performance of this Agreement by either party is subject to acts of God, war, government regulation, disaster, fire, epidemic, threatened or imminent strikes, civil disorder, curtailment of transportation facilities, threats or terrorist attacks, or other similar occurrence beyond the control of the parties, making it illegal, impossible, or commercially impractical to carry on the Exhibits or fully perform the terms of this Agreement. This Agreement may be terminated, or performance may be excused without penalty for any one or more of such reasons by written notice from one party to the other.

Indemnification and Insurance

Each party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other, its agents, and employees from and against all claims, liabilities, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from acts, omissions, or breach of this Agreement by the party or its agents or employees. The parties shall each maintain appropriate and sufficient insurance to cover their obligations under this Agreement.

License of Intellectual Property

The ACS and the exhibitor are each the sole owner of all rights, title, and interest to ACS's and the Exhibitor's respective information, including such party's logo, trademarks, trade names, and copyrighted information, unless otherwise provided (collectively, "Intellectual Property"). ACS and the Exhibitor hereby each grant to the other a limited, nonexclusive license to use certain of the granting party's Intellectual Property, including names, trademarks, and copyrights, in connection with the promotion of the exhibit program.

Term and Termination

This Agreement is effective as of the date of last signature and will terminate (i) upon conclusion of the post-promotion of the Exhibits, or (ii) upon the occurrence of a material breach (including failure to make timely payments) by either party if such breach is not cured within thirty (30) days after written notice of such breach is received, or (iii) upon thirty (30) days' notice by the ACS to Exhibitor, with or without cause. In the event of termination for material breach by the ACS and/or TQIP, or termination without cause by the ACS and/or TQIP, ACS, and TQIP will refund payments made by Exhibitor. Upon any termination of this Agreement, all rights, and privileges for use of the other party's Intellectual Property shall expire, and each party shall discontinue the use of the other party's Intellectual Property.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Exhibitors shall be fully responsible for compliance with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerning their exhibit space, including (but not limited to) wheelchair access provisions. Exhibitors shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend ACS, its officers, directors, agents, members, and employees from and against any claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses (including attorneys' fees and expenses) resulting from or arising out of the exhibitors' failure or allegations of exhibitors' failure to comply with the provisions of the ADA.

Miscellaneous

This Agreement supersedes all prior writings or oral agreements and constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on the subject hereof; it may be amended only in writing and clearly setting forth the amendments and signed by both parties. This Agreement is binding on the parties, their successors, and assigns, provided that no party may assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.

Either party's waiver of or failure to exercise any right provided for in this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any further or future right under this Agreement. All notices required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and sent to the parties at the addresses provided by the parties. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

Interpretation and Application of Rules and Regulations

All matters and questions not specifically covered by these Rules and Regulations are subject to the decision of Jacquelyn Mitchell, Associate Director of Convention and Meetings, American College of Surgeons, and Kate Poetker, Exhibits Manager, American College of Surgeons. The ACS is a member of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA), and the International Association for Expositions and Events (IAEE), and the HealthCare Convention & Exhibitors Association (HCEA).

For more information, please contact Kate Poetker, Exhibits Manager, at kpoetker@facs.org.