

Young Surgeons Essay Competition

American College of Surgeons | History and Archives Committee

The History and Archives Committee (HAC) is sponsoring its annual Young Surgeons Historical Essay Competition. This contest recognizes and supports young surgeons who are interested in the historical roots of our profession and are dedicated to studying it. The objective is to produce a scholarly manuscript for publication using original historical research that will advance our knowledge of the past.

Young surgeons are invited to submit an essay on a historical topic of their choosing. The winner will be invited to submit their paper to an ACS publication, with publication costs covered, if accepted.

How:

- Entrees are invited from young surgeons who must be the first and primary author.
 - Young Surgeons are defined as:
 - Fellows 45 or younger
 - Associate Fellows 45 or younger
 - Resident members
 - Medical student members, who must be the first and primary author.
 - Fellows above 45 years of age may serve as additional or senior authors.
- Authorship is restricted to no more than five individuals.
- Essays may cover any aspect of surgical history, broadly conceived, but must represent original historical research.
- Essays are limited to 5000 words, not including references/captions.
- Essays must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, double spaced in 12 pt font with 1-inch margins
 - Please keep the actual essay document anonymous, excluding author names and institutional affiliations but including the title.
 - submit a separate title page that includes the title, authors' names, affiliations, and email addresses
- You may not win two years in a row. You may not submit the same entry more than two years in a row.
- Essays must be submitted to Justin Barr, MD, PhD at justbarr@gmail.com by the due date.

Awards:

- Essays will be judged by an *ad hoc* HAC committee. The winner will receive a certificate and an invitation to submit their article to an ACS publication. If accepted, the publication fee will be covered. The exact ACS publication is to be determined.

Timeline

- September 15th, 2025 – Call for Essays Open
- January 12th, 2026 – Essays Due
- February 28th, 2026 – Essay authors will be notified of the results no later than the end of February.
- September 28th, 2026 – Winner announced at the HAC Community Breakfast at Clinical Congress.

Questions can be directed to Justin Barr, MD, Chair of the HAC Program Subcommittee at justbarr@gmail.com.