

EXCELSIOR SURGICAL SOCIETY



January 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My role as the elected President of the Excelsior Society is truly humbling and a privilege. During my time on the Executive Council, as Navy Representative and Secretary, I have developed a strong sense of the need to foster the Society as the “Home” for military surgeons including Active Duty and Reservists in Surgery as well as Surgical Sub-specialties.

At the end of World War II, combat surgeons gathered to develop a sense of community and to discuss war-time lessons learned. The meeting was held at the Excelsior Hotel in Rome, Italy and the original Excelsior Surgical Society (ESS) was founded. The society faded with the passing of founding members. The society was re-born with the established partnership between the Military Health System and American College of Surgeons (MHSSPACS) in 2014.

Excelsior serves as the military chapter of the American College of Surgeons and continues to evolve in ways to serve the military surgery community members. This year we are formalizing the several committees and, once the leadership is established, encourage our membership to be involved to shape our society with participation.

Overall the purpose of our Society remains as outlined in the by-laws:

- A. Support the objectives of the Military Health System Strategic Partnership with the American College of Surgeons (MHSSPACS). These objectives include improving surgical education, optimizing systems-based practices, and fostering surgical research.
- B. Serve as a specialty society providing a forum for the exchange of surgical knowledge as it relates to the practice of military surgery.

- C. Provide a forum for military tri-service (Army, Navy, and Air Force) exchange of information as it relates to optimization of wartime and peacetime care of military personnel.

In order to meet the intent outlined above, the Executive Committee has proposed to focus on the following three goals: support the MHSSPACS efforts on Quality and Readiness; develop a ‘home’ for all military surgeons (active, reserve, guard, retired, supporters); and support military surgeons as they enter and leave the Military Health System. Structurally, we have formally established the following six committees to meet these goals:

- 1) Program
- 2) Diversity & Inclusion
- 3) Membership
- 4) Mentorship
- 5) Outreach
- 6) Research.

We are thankful for the transition of the well-established Senior Visiting Surgeon (SVS) program from the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the Society for Vascular Surgery to our society. Similar to how surgical “giants” provided consultation to the Surgeon General of the Army during World War II, the SVS arranged senior civilian surgeons, since 2005, to provide mentorship for military surgeons overseas, namely at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany during recent active wartime. Our society has arranged successful SVS visits to Tripler Army Medical Center by Drs. M. Margaret Knudson, MHSSPACS Medical Director, and to the Naval Medical Center San Diego by Joseph Galante, Trauma Medical Director at UC Davis Medical Center. The program will be expanded to the full scope of military surgery beyond trauma and foster this military-civilian exchange. Visiting surgeons will provide direct academic partnership, facilitation of research activities and career guidance. Our Mentorship Committee will send a needs assessment to the membership to provide guidance and suggestions for future SVS visits.

In conjunction with the 2020 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Chicago, the Excelsior Program Committee will hold the 5th Annual Excelsior Surgical Society meeting entitled, “*Enterprise-wide Surgical Care*” on Sunday, October 4th. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) assumed administrative and management responsibilities for all military facilities in 2019 with the goal of creating a more integrated, efficient and effective system of medical readiness and health care delivery. This transformation of the Military Health System will demand frequent, productive communication and energetic flexibility. The DHA leadership along with the Army, Navy and Air Force surgical consultants – active duty and reservist- are invited to address the military surgical community. We will continue to

the host the Region 13 Committee on Trauma paper competition as well as provide resident and junior surgeon oriented topics of developing a clinical and/or research career in the military. We look forward to visiting with our membership during this informative event.

Our request from our near 400 Society members is feedback and engagement. Please get involved with the committees and help us serve our membership. For additional membership information on the Excelsior Surgical Society at any level please contact Garrett G. Kirk at excelsior@facs.org. Additional information is available on the Excelsior website <https://www.facs.org/member-services/mhsspacs>.

We would like to thank you for your service and keep your thoughts and prayers focused on our service members deployed that ensure our safety and freedom

Very respectfully,

Gordon G. Wisbach, MD, MBA, FACS
CAPT, MC, USN
President, Excelsior Surgical Society

“How can I help you and what do you need?”

Donald D. Trunkey