



Post-Congress Edition

2011

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☛ Chair's Report

As the new chair of the Residents Associate Society (RAS) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I am delighted to welcome all of the readers of this e-Newsletter, our first newsletter of our new year that runs from Clinical Congress to Clinical Congress (most years in October). If you have received this, you are a member of RAS. I invite you to read on so that you can become an ACTIVE member of RAS.

Below, you will find brief reports from our four standing Committees: Education,

Communications, Issues, and Membership. As you read about the mission of each Committee and the goals established by each for the upcoming year, consider what your interests are and what professional skills (for example, writing articles, social media for the surgical profession, peer-to-peer outreach, or health policy and advocacy) you would like to enhance. Becoming active in one or more of these Committees is an outstanding opportunity to address professional development needs that are often not part of typical surgical training. Volunteer involvement on one of our initiatives can be as simple as one hour a month on a conference call or as time-intensive as you want. Throughout the ACS, there is need for our voices to be heard. As such, there are RAS liaisons and representatives (L/R) on many standing Committees of the College.

As a former L/R to both the Women in Surgery Committee and the Advisory Council in General Surgery, I can tell you that being the only trainee among a group of renowned Fellows of the College is a privilege. Our opinions are taken seriously; the efforts of RAS L/Rs are shaping the College even as you are reading this. L/R positions are for a three-year term terminating after the Clinical Congress. L/Rs are required to participate in 75 percent of committee/council meetings and submit an annual report plus an e-Newsletter blurb following each Clinical Congress.

Read reports from some of our current and outgoing L/Rs. Typically, new L/R appointments occur in the early fall before Clinical Congress but, owing to our value to the American College of Surgeons, we are continually asked to submit more RAS L/R so keep your eyes open for calls for applications for L/Rs in future issues of this e-Newsletter.

RAS is a dynamic, catalytic group within the ACS so get involved. I look forward to working with you to promote your own professional future and the future of our premier professional organization.

Heena P. Santry, MD, MS

heena@santry.org

Assistant Professor of Surgery and Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Worcester

Associate Fellow, ACS

Chair, RAS-ACS

The Committees reports that follow are all the results of meetings that were held immediately before or during the ACS Clinical Congress, October 23-27, in San Francisco, CA.

● Report from the Education Committee

The Education Committee extends thanks to all members who attended the annual business meeting. At the meeting, we discussed our accomplishments during the year, numerous new ideas we will pursue over the coming year, and re-established the importance of collaborating with the other committees. We elected Nina Glass, MD, from New York University Hospitals Center, to serve as Vice-Chair for the Education Committee.

The Education Committee updated the objectives and goals of the committee that appear in the RAS-ACS bylaws, published online on the RAS-ACS Web portal. The Education Committee will continue to work with Mark W. Boyer, MD, FACS, and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) on the proposal to implement surgical jeopardy at the regional surgical society meetings (Southwest, Southeast, and New England

Surgical Congresses), aiming to launch at the 2013 meetings. The Education Committee is looking for volunteers to help moderate these sessions at meetings. The Committee also hopes to publicize the RAS-ACS Facebook page by providing education-directed materials on a weekly or monthly basis; the contents will vary depending on the needs of different members of the RAS (Residents, Fellows, and recent graduates). These educational materials will also be published through the RAS newsletter as the Education Committee's monthly participation in the new format of the newsletter.

The Communications Committee has assigned the following topic "Surgeons with dual degrees and its implication on leadership," for the Education Committee's participation in the August *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*. We are looking for a maximum of four authors to draft our perspectives. If you are interested, please contact Osama Hamed, MBBS, at hamed_os@yahoo.com.

The Education Committee hopes to increase cooperation with the Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) curriculum to help improve resident education. This effort will attempt to provide feedback from residents to the SCORE leadership and will provide the opportunity for fellows and recent graduates to help author SCORE modules based on their interest and expertise.

The Education Committee strongly encourages members to join our monthly conference call on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Please e-mail Osama Hamed at the address noted above, or Nina Glass (Nina.Glass@nyumc.org) with any questions.

Osama Hamed, MD

Chair

RAS-ACS Education Committee

Nina Glass, MD

Vice-Chair

RAS-ACS Education Committee

Report from the Communications Committee

The RAS Communications Committee met during the annual RAS meeting in San Francisco on October 23.

Leadership: Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD, is now the Committee Chair. We elected Joseph Sakran, MD, Vice-Chair. Juliet Emamallee, MD, was appointed the e-Newsletter Editor. We thank Haytham Kaafarani, MD, for the hard work and fine effort he put into his role as editor. Shankar Raman, MD, will continue to be the RAS Facebook Editor, and Jeffrey Dehmer will continue to serve as Web portal Editor until we appoint his successor soon.

Facebook: The Facebook page is the main focus of our agenda this year. Our goal is to increase membership and content of the Facebook page. With the help of Jerry Schwartz, Managing Editor, ACS Web portal, we are discussing improvements to the current Facebook page. We envision new content with information that would be useful to all residents, including clinical content and videos. . Each standing committee of the RAS will update content on to the page. We hope to make the RAS Facebook page a common forum for residents to interact with each other and express their views. To make any suggestions or comments, please e-mail sangee125@yahoo.com.

RAS theme Bulletin issue: The RAS-sponsored issue of the Bulletin of the American

College of Surgeons will be published in August 2012. The theme for this issue is "Surgical Leadership."

We will have six articles from RAS, including the Chair's message.

The other proposed articles (and lead authors) include:

1. Value of additional degrees (for example, MBA or MPH) and its effects on leadership (Osama Hamed, MD)
2. Women leaders in surgery (Juliet Emamaullee, MD)
3. Surgical leadership and political activism (Ross Goldberg, MD)
4. Surgical leadership across generations (Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD)
5. Issues Committee (to be decided)

We need a maximum of four authors for each article, and the lead authors will be responsible for recruiting additional authors. If anyone is interested in contributing to any of these articles, e-mail sangee125@yahoo.com.

RAS banner Bulletin articles: The Communications Committee is responsible for submitting articles to the *Bulletin* under the RAS banner. We welcome well-written articles from resident members. Articles must be no longer than 3,200 words, including references, and contain no more than three photographs, charts, illustrations, graphs, and/or figures. Please submit articles to sangee125@yahoo.com.

Essay content: Last year's essay contest topic "Caring for the dying patient" was well received. We received 16 submissions of which 10 were selected for publication in the Bulletin. The winner was Nicole Lamb, MD, from St. Elizabeth's Medical center, Boston, MA. The topic for this year is yet to be decided. If you have any suggestions for the topic, please e-mail the Essays Chair, heena@santry.org.

E-Newsletters: We are reformatting the newsletter format and content. We will continue the "theme of the month" initiative, which gives residents an opportunity to provide feedback on various issues related to their training. Any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, contact juliet.em@gmail.com.

FACS Web portal: We are trying to upgrade to a more user-friendly layout. More educational content is planned, specifically from the American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination or board review material, keeping in mind the copyright issues involved. We aim to increase interest in the various communities and improve member usage of the Web portal.

Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD

Chair

RAS-ACS Communications Committee

Joseph Sakran, MD

Vice-Chair

RAS-ACS Communications Committee

Report from the Issues Committee

Another year for the Issues Committee concluded at the 2011 Clinical Congress with the RAS-ACS Symposium: What Is the Future of Surgery: Autonomous Professionals or Stuck as Employees?

Special thanks to Philip R. Corvo, MD, MA; Demetrius Litwin, MD, MBA; and Robert C.

Moesinger, MD, for serving as panel experts. Thanks also to the essay competition winners and panelists Kerianne H. Quanstrum Holman, MD, MSc, and Ronald Derrick Collier, MD.

We also send a special thank you to Kimberly Ruscher, MD, who has served this past year as the Issues Committee Chair. Her leadership was invaluable. The new Vice-Chair for the Issues Committee is Maya Babu, MD.

We look forward to an exciting year. We invite everyone to join the Issues Committee conference calls which take place the first Wednesday of each month. Feel free to contact Dr. Babu (mayababu@gmail.com) or me (amy.liepert@hsc.utah.edu) with questions. We welcome ideas for next year's symposium topic.

Amy Liepert, MD

Chair

RAS-ACS Issues Committee

amy.liepert@hsc.utah.edu

Report from the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee expresses its thanks to all the residents who have participated in the Member's survey.

We were pleased with the level of participation at the RAS meeting during the ACS Clinical Congress and we look forward to reaching several goals during the upcoming year:

Data from the Members and Program Director Surveys will be analyzed and reported. These data will help RAS identify its strengths and weaknesses and guide services development and program improvement.

The Liaison Program's goals and objectives will be revised in order to have a more dynamic participation from individual program liaisons. We will work on recruiting a junior and a senior resident for each program to improve membership recruitment and involvement within state chapters and RAS initiatives. If you are interested in becoming a regional/local representative for your city/state, contact us at <http://facs.org/ras-acs/index.html>.

The International Medical Graduates Subcommittee will strive to increase opportunities for international collaboration and extension of membership to other countries.

A warm welcome is extended to Nicolas Mouawad, MD, the Committee's new vice-chair, who brings new enthusiasm to the group.

Daniela Molena, MD

Chair

Membership Committee

Report from the Advisory Council on Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Liaison

The Advisory Council to Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery, meeting in San Francisco, heard an excellent summary of College activity in Washington, DC, by Raymond F. Morgan, MD, FACS. We then brainstormed about potential Plastic Surgery applications/procedures as part of the "Surgical Patient Education" program of the American College of Surgeons Division of Education. In addition, we reviewed the accepted courses/symposia for next year's Clinical Congress and began to lay the

groundwork to create new educational programs.

Donald W. Buck II, MD

Resident Surgeon, PGY6
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Northwestern University

● **RAS Representative to the ACS Women in Surgery Committee (WiSC)**

The Women in Surgery Committee (WiSC) met during the 2011 Clinical Congress and developed the following list of new projects for 2012.

- Women in Surgery Programs
- Covidien–JHU “Women in Surgery Program” at Johns Hopkins, May 31 to June 2. For more information, go to <http://www.covidien.com/wis/pages.aspx>
- University of Utah will also sponsor a similar event in Salt Lake City, March 30-31
- Panels for the 2012 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress
- “Taming the Unruly Colleague”
- A session on parenting as a successful surgeon
- Challenges facing junior surgeons – working on a collaboration between YFA, WiSC, and possibly RAS on this one – stay tuned for more details!
- Mentorship Program—an excellent opportunity to keep in mind as you graduate from RAS. Through this program, early career surgeons are matched with mentors to help the mentees achieve promotion and reach other career goals.

Jillian K. Smith

RAS Liaison to the Women in Surgery Committee

ACS Advisory Council for General Surgery Liaison Report

The Advisory Council for General Surgery (ACGS), which met on October 22, offered appreciation to David Feliciano, MD, FACS, who, over the past decade, has provided invaluable leadership to the ACGS. Now that Dr. Feliciano is retiring from this role as chair, E. Christopher Ellison, MD, FACS, will assume the role of ACGS Chair. Kenneth W. Sharp, MD, FACS, was elected as ACGS Vice-Chair.

Kathleen Heneghan, ACS Assistant Director, Patient Education in the Division of Education, presented current work on reviews specifically tailored for patient education that are being created.

The ACGS has submitted a number of topics that are under review for sessions at next year’s Clinical Congress. The number of sessions has been reduced from approximately 150 to 99.

Donald Trunkey, MD, FACS, delivered the Excelsior Surgical Society/Edward D. Churchill Lecture at the 2011 Clinical Congress. . A few excellent candidates were chosen as potential speakers for this lecture next year; stay tuned for the announcement.

The ACGS recognized Heena Santry, MD, for her commitment over the past years as RAS representative to the committee.

Joseph V. Sakran, MD, MPH

RAS Representative

● **Advisory Council for General Surgery RAS Liaison to the ACS Committee on Medical Student Education**

The major responsibility of the Committee on Medical Student Education is to organize the annual Medical Student Program. The Program at the 97th Annual Clinical Congress was a tremendous success with participation of more than 400 medical students in their first to fourth years from the U.S. and around the world. The Program consisted of three days of keynote addresses from American College of Surgeons (ACS) leadership and national leaders in surgical education, presentations on topics relevant to medical students interested in surgery, the third annual ACS National Medical Student Research Poster Competition, and several interactive workshops.

Presentations were held in parallel for junior and senior medical students to ensure that students were presented with relevant information for their training year. Receptions included opportunities to meet surgeons from various practice types to learn about training and lifestyle, program directors, and surgery residents in training. For the reception with surgeons from varying practices, approximately 25 surgical areas were represented, including: academic, community, rural, military, private, international, as well as the major sub-specialties (including general, trauma/critical care, transplant, minimally invasive, pediatric, colorectal, endocrine, surgical oncology, cardiothoracic, vascular, gynecologic, neurosurgery, ENT, plastics, and orthopedic). For the reception with the program directors, institutions were well-represented geographically. Students most enjoyed the interaction with residents, highlighting the need to solicit even more resident representation next year. For the ACS National Medical Student Research Poster Competition, faculty and resident judges in the poster session praised the caliber of the research and professionalism of the presenters.

Only 30 of the nearly 100 submitted abstracts could be presented at the meeting, but they all reflected the students' interest and motivation. Winners of the competition were presented with a certificate and a commemorative plaque, and had a photograph taken with Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FACS, FRCSC, and Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS. Workshops included a popular, newly implemented residency interview training session.

The number of attendees has continued to increase annually, demonstrating the importance of this program and the strong interest in it. The Committee is also involved in organizing the medical student portal on the ACS website, assisting in the revision of the "So You Want to Be a Surgeon" publication, standardization of institutional Surgery Interest Groups, and continuing to ensure that students' interests are represented to the Division of Education.

Michael D. Kluger, MD

Medical Student Committee of the American College of Surgeons,
RAS Representative
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation
Weill Cornell Medical College – New York-Presbyterian Hospital
RAS Liaison to the Advisory Council on Vascular Surgery

● **RAS Liaison to the Advisory Council on Vascular Surgery**

During this year's meeting, the Advisory Council on Vascular Surgery discussed past and current attendance at vascular events at the ACS Clinical Congress. This information will be used to plan upcoming Society for Vascular Surgeons (SVS) and ACS meetings. We also thanked Patrick O'Hara, MD, FACS, for his service as

chairman of the Advisory Council, and we welcomed incoming chairman, Michael Golden, MD, FACS. The ACS Division on Education presented tools that could be used or modified for vascular patients. Current projects include a smoking cessation package and anticoagulation management education. Finally, we briefly compared resident membership in the College to that in the SVS. The Advisory Council will meet again in June at the SVS annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Mike Boros, MD

RAS Liaison to the Advisory Council on Vascular Surgery

● RAS Liaison to the Advisory Council on Colon and Rectal Surgery

The ACS Advisory Council for Colon and Rectal Surgery meeting focused on developing ACS programs for supporting surgeons. The meeting commenced with a briefing from Christian Shalgian, ACS Director of Advocacy and Health Policy. Mr. Shalgian detailed the College's efforts and plans for handling the uncertainty of American health policy in the face of looming cuts to surgeon reimbursement and graduate medical education. There was a renewed call for Fellows of the College to support the American College of Surgeons Professional Association (SurgeonsPAC) so that surgeons' voices are heard on Capitol Hill. A presentation by Robert Lorenz, MD, FACS, proposed development of a College-wide maintenance of certification (MOC) program applicable to all surgical specialties. This MOC "Boot Camp" would enable all specialties to recertify with their respective boards through the collective auspices of the College. Committee Chairperson Patricia Roberts, MD, FACS, updated the Advisory Council on the development of the Colorectal Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skill (COSATS) exam. The program will test applicant competency on several fundamental colorectal procedures for examinees taking the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery certification exams beginning September 2012.

Kathleen Heneghan, Assistant Director, Patient Education, of the ACS Division of Education, presented innovative patient educational materials. Beginning with a home study "Ostomy Kit," the Patient Education program is rolling out an ambitious plan to develop a variety of pre- and post-operative multimedia materials for patients undergoing commonly performed surgeries.

Michael F. McGee, MD

American College of Surgeons Residents and Associate Society Representative
Advisory Council for Colon and Rectal Surgery
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Northwestern University

● ACS Clinical Scholars in Residence Program Announcement

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is offering a two-year onsite fellowship in surgical outcomes research, health services research, and healthcare policy. The application process for positions starting July 1, 2013 has begun. Applicants must have completed two years of clinical training, be a United States citizen, and obtain two years of program funding from his/her home institution or other granting agency.

The Clinical Scholar will work in multiple areas within the ACS Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care to advance the quality improvement initiatives of the ACS, offering opportunities to perform research relevant to ongoing projects within the ACS. Participants will also earn a Masters degree during their two years in Chicago at the ACS. Strong clinical, statistical, and health services research mentorship will be provided through the ACS. The prior participants since 2005 have had excellent,

productive experiences that have launched careers in this field.

Important Dates:

Application process opens: December 15, 2011

Application deadline: March 15, 2012

Interview notification: April 2, 2012

Interview process: May 2-14, 2012

Notification of appointment: June 15, 2012

Starting date: July 1, 2013

For more information, go to: <http://www.facs.org/ropc/clinicalscholars.html>.

If you have additional questions, please contact the ACS Clinical Scholars Program at clinicalscholars@facs.org

RAS Executive Committee

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Brian Santin, MD, Vice Chair

Rob Winfield, MD, Secretary

Joshua Mammen, MD, FACS, Ex-Officio

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Mehul Raval, MD

Joseph Sakran, MD

Renee Solomon, MD

For additional information regarding the benefits and activities of the RAS-ACS, please contact Peg Haar at ras-news@facs.org

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