

**REPORT ON ACSPA/ACS ACTIVITIES**  
**October 2009**

**Michael J. Zinner, MD FACS**  
**Chair, ACS Board of Governors**

**American College of Surgeons Professional Association (ACSPA)**

As of September 15, 2009, the ACSPA-SurgeonsPAC (<http://www.facs.org/acspa/index.html>) raised \$465,709. Forty-two percent of the U.S. Governors contributed \$42,820 and 44 percent of the U.S. Officers and Regents contributed as well. PAC contributions were made to 45 candidates, leadership PACs, and party committees.

**American College of Surgeons (ACS)**

**Board of Governors (B/G)**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Governors (<http://www.facs.org/about/governors/boardgv.html>) held its five telephone conference calls scheduled for the year. In addition, two face-to-face meetings were held during the Clinical Congress.

The Board of Governors annual survey communicates to the College's leadership the concerns and recommendations of the Fellows regarding major issues related to surgery. The results of the survey are presented to the Board of Regents as it considers future College endeavors. The top five issues of concern to the Fellows of the College in 2009, as reported by the Governors, are listed here.

1. Health Care Reform
2. Physician Reimbursement
3. Professional Liability/Malpractice
4. Workforce Issues
5. Graduate Medical Education

The Board of Governors and the Board of Regents (B/R) (<http://www.facs.org/about/regents/regents.html>) held a joint session during the annual business meeting of the Governors. The session focused on the College's draft 2009 statement on health care reform. The draft was a major topic of discussion at both the business and adjourned meetings of the B/G. The 2009 draft evolved in part from the 2008 ACS Statement on Health Care Reform, with added emphasis on medical liability reform. As the College did with its 2008 statement, it will use its finalized 2009 statement to form the basis of its interactions with Congress on health care policy. The finalized document is expected sometime in November.

**ACS Health Policy Research Institute (ACS HPRI)**

ACS HPRI is engaged in a variety of projects including analysis of surgery workforce trends. HPRI is also engaged in the development of an interactive atlas of the U.S. surgical workforce.

The HPRI launched its Web site in July at <http://www.acshpri.org/> . The site links to the ACS Web site <http://www.facs.org/> .

### **ACS Health Policy and Advisory Council**

The Board of Regents approved the formation of a Health Policy and Advisory Council which will be a subgroup of the Health Policy and Advocacy Group. Establishment of the Council will allow for better outreach to, and input from, the Fellows on health policy matters. The Council will be composed of Governors, Young Fellows, RAS members, ACS Health Policy Scholars, and other Fellows with expressed interest or expertise in health care policy.

### **ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP)**

While important and substantial advances are being made in both the programs' technical and clinical aspects, the most progress has been achieved in the joint quality improvement efforts with a variety of different groups; e.g., shared efforts with CMS to develop ACS NSQIP-based performance measures, working with the Joint Commission (JC) to improve surgical safety, and collaborating with many surgical societies to further expand ACS NSQIP's content and reach. Overall, ACS NSQIP is reaching an important "tipping point" as the program's proven technical aspects are advancing, clinical improvement is building on the expertise of internal initiatives, and surgical improvement efforts are being shared with organizations such as CMS, JC, IHI and others.

### **Addition of "Procedural Skills" to the ABMS/ACGME Core Competencies**

Since the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) defined the six core competencies several years ago, there has been widespread concern about the omission of technical skills for the list of the competencies. The College addressed this gap by focusing specifically on technical skills through a variety of innovative competency-based educational programs that addressed psychomotor skills, cognitive skills, judgment, and teamwork. Leaders from across the surgical specialties have supported the notion of adding a seventh core competency to address technical skills, or have addressed this competency through approaches similar to the one adopted by the College. The ABMS and the ACGME appointed a Joint Task Force on Technical Skills to discuss this matter and develop appropriate recommendations. The Task Force unanimously endorsed inclusion of technical skills as a core competency, and named the new core competency "Procedural Skills." Subsequently, the Board of Regents voted to approve the addition of "Procedural Skills" as the seventh core competency.

### ***Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)***

Online and fax *JACS* CME submissions currently exceed 278,000 credits provided as a member benefit. The efficiency and economics of the *JACS* CME-1 program is beneficial to all members, especially in this time of heightened emphasis on maintenance of certification. It would benefit the ACS Chapters to include information for their members during their meetings about the *JACS* CME-1 program.

### **New Chapters**

The Board of Regents approved the formation of the College's 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> International Chapters: the ACS Pakistan Chapter and the ACS Austria-Hungary Chapter. This brings the total number of ACS chapters to 102: 35 International, 2 Canadian, and 65 U.S.

### ***HealthCareers* (a.k.a. Job Bank)**

As of September 2, 2009, there were 1,072 active jobs listed on the site with 265 posted résumés. This is a valuable service for all members of the College.

### **Resident-Associate Society (RAS)**

RAS (<http://www.facs.org/ras-acs/index.html>) gave special recognition to Mark D. Boyer, MD, FACS, for his efforts on behalf of the Surgical Jeopardy program. Jacob Moalem, MD, FACS, hosted the first RAS Town Hall meeting during which the discussion focused on resident work hour restrictions. RAS continues to focus on educational opportunities and is thankful for the fund that has supplied scholarships for the Resident members. New ideas continue to be generated on how to increase those funds in order to offer new opportunities for deserving young surgeons.

### **Young Fellows Association (YFA)**

The YFA held its inaugural meeting during the Clinical Congress on Monday, October 12, 2009. Mark A. Malangoni, MD, FACS, a former chair of the former Committee on Young Surgeons, provided the welcoming remarks at the inaugural meeting. The YFA consists of four workgroups: Advocacy, Communications, Education, and Member Services. Nearly 100 Fellows have joined a workgroup. Visit the new YFA Web page at <http://www.facs.org/memberservices/yfa/>.

### **Web Portal**

Top pages visited during the second quarter of 2009 included “My Page,” “My Profile,” “My Cases,” and “My CME,” closely followed by member services, member tools, and member benefits. The most-visited communities were minimally invasive surgery, rural surgeons, general surgery, breast cancer surgery, and Residents and Associate Fellows. The “Communities & Specialties” area of the portal continues to provide quality content targeted to main interests of members of the College.

### **Operation Giving Back (OGB)**

In the past year, there have been nearly 23,000 unique visitors who have conducted more than 3,500 page views of the OGB Web site <http://www.operationgivingback.facs.org/>. Since June, there have been 51 new volunteer opportunities posted to the Web site with 196 opportunities currently, actively available.

### **Executive Director**

Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, will retire from his College position as Executive Director on December 31. Dr. Russell has been the College’s Executive Director for ten years. During its business meeting, the Board of Governors expressed its appreciation for all of Dr. Russell’s accomplishments on behalf of surgery and patient care.

The Board of Regents met in Executive Session during the Clinical Congress and heard presentations from finalists for the position of Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons. After all candidates made their presentations, the Regents voted to approve the selection of David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS, of Orange, California, as the next Executive Director of the College. The College welcomes Dr. Hoyt as he begins his new venture on Friday, January 1, 2010.

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