



AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

REPORTS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES

- American Board of Surgery
- American Board of Surgery
Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) Advisory Council
- American College of Surgeons Board of Governors
- American College of Surgeons Advisory Council for General Surgery
- American College of Surgeons Surgical Research Committee
- American College of Surgeons
Emergency General Surgery Standards Development Committee
- Association of American Medical Colleges
Council of Faculty and Academic Societies

Board Update American Board of Surgery

February 2021

1. Meeting

The Board of Directors met in January 2021, with their next meeting scheduled for April 2021. Dr. John Mellinger is the current chair of the board of directors, with Dr. O. Joe Hines as vice chair. We are pleased to submit the following information.

2. General Surgery Qualifying Exam Solution

The 2020 General Surgery Qualifying Exam (QE) has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 15, and will be held at Pearson VUE exam centers across the country. In recognition of the negative impact of participating in the administration of the July exam, candidates who had registered for the 2020 QE will receive:

- A \$400 discount on the next exam, bringing the new price to \$950.
- A one-year subscription to SCORE
- Credit and ID monitoring for two years
- Letters to employers upon request

In recognition of the importance of certification timelines, candidates who wish to do so can take the General Surgery Certifying Exam (CE) before taking the QE. Both exams will be required for certification. To date several hundred candidates have chosen this option.

In addition, if a candidate chooses not to take the QE during the 2020-2021 academic year, their certification eligibility will be extended by one year.

A cybersecurity investigation was undertaken by an outside firm, which revealed no evidence of security breaches for candidates' personal information during the exam.

3. Specialty Exams

The 2020 Vascular Surgery QE, Pediatric Surgery QE, Complex General Surgical Oncology QE and Surgical Critical Care CE have been rescheduled to be held at Pearson VUE exam centers across the country. Candidates are able to choose from a range of dates between April 1 - April 30, 2021.

4. Certifying Examinations

All ABS oral exams are being given virtually in the 2020-21 exam year. This includes five general surgery exams, two vascular surgery exams, and one exam each in pediatric surgery and complex general surgical oncology. To date, over 900 candidates have taken the virtual exam in general surgery, and over 160 in vascular surgery. Post-exam surveys have shown a high degree of satisfaction with the quality and delivery of the exam, and pass/fail rates mirror those of the traditional in-person exam.

5. Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)

The ABS has now completed the feasibility pilot for EPAs. The two-year pilot began in July 2018 with participation from 28 community and academic programs across the country. This pilot has allowed ABS to investigate the use of EPAs in general surgery residency as a way to move toward competency-based education. As a feasibility study, we are satisfied that we have demonstrated that broad implementation of EPAs, while challenging, is indeed possible. At the April 2020 meeting, the directors voted to reconvene the writing groups and write the entire portfolio of general surgery EPAs. Dr. George Sarosi, chair of the Assessment Committee, and Mary Klingensmith, ABS Vice President, are the physician leads on this project.

6. Video-Based Assessment

ABS has appointed a 12-person task force to explore the use of video-based assessment (VBA) as a tool to

assess resident training (either formative or summative), and/or as a tool to fulfill Continuous Certification requirements. This group is chaired by Dr. Aurora Pryor and staffed by Dr. Andrew Jones, Director of Psychometrics and Research.

7. Alternative Pathway to Certification for Internationally Trained Surgeons

An alternate pathway into the ABS certification process is now available for surgeons who are International Medical Graduates. Surgeons who trained internationally in non-Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) programs may be eligible.

The application process will occur annually in two phases, with specific materials due by Oct. 7 and Dec. 1. ABS has already received a number of applications from surgeons interested in taking advantage of this new pathway to certification. Extensive eligibility requirements must be met; full details about this new pathway are available on the ABS website.

8. Diversity Initiatives

The ABS held a retreat on systemic racism in surgery in September, which was attended by all specialty board directors as well as the governing board. As a result of the retreat, an ad hoc task force was formed to make recommendations to the Council and the Board of Directors at their January meeting. This builds upon existing work at the ABS, which had already developed a number of tools and resources to address concerns related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Implicit Bias training is provided annually to new and existing oral examiners, and was recently presented internally to all ABS staff. Two demographic surveys have been administered; the first is a leadership survey to analyze ABS leadership, both internally on staff and externally among volunteers; the second is a diplomate survey in order to get a baseline of the ABS diplomate population. Additional steps are planned at the recommendation of the DEI ad hoc task force.

In 2019, ABS moved to a competency-based nomination process for the board of directors. Competencies may include specific skills or expertise, practice areas, physical location (urban vs. rural), or other competencies to assure a wide set of voices at the table. A similar process was approved at the January meeting by the Council and the Board of Directors. Your society will be contacted with further details.

SCORE Update

By Rosemary Kozar and Neil Hyman

SCORE has had a number of notable developments in the past year.

After merging with the American Board of Surgery in December 2019, SCORE became the educational division of the ABS. With this successful merger, SCORE has continued its mission to support and serve the needs of residency programs by providing high-quality and peer-reviewed educational material via the SCORE Portal.

Although COVID-19 has brought a range of challenges this past year, SCORE subscriptions continue to remain strong. Renewals for the upcoming academic year (2021-22) are also on target with years prior.

Figures as of March 18, 2021:

Subscribers:

- 10,671 resident users, 2,900 faculty users
- 301 ACGME GS programs
- 17 Canadian programs
- 52 International subscriptions (8 LMICs)
- 1412 individual subscriptions

Subscription pricing for 2021-2022:

- Pricing remains the same as last year:
 - \$175 per resident
 - \$500 program fee stays the same; includes accounts for the program director, program coordinator, and 5 faculty/administrative personnel
 - \$325 for individuals

SCORE continues to update its content to align with the needs of its users. Since June 2020, 67 General Surgery patient care and medical knowledge modules have been revised to include key bullet points for just-in-time learning. The corresponding multiple-choice questions have also been updated to include clinical scenarios, updated references, and robust answer rationales.

This year, SCORE has expanded its non-patient care contents to include Diversity and Inclusion, which has been added to the professionalism section of the [General Surgery Curriculum Outline](#). This new section includes 6 modules which address discrimination, harassment, and ally-ship in the surgical setting, and will be published this year.

The Additional Resources page was updated to include more resources for surgical trainees and their programs. For example, the Surgeon Wellness Resources now includes a toolkit on bullying and harassment, authored by the Women in Surgery Committee of the American College of Surgeons. Other resources that have been added to the page include training requirements for residents and "SCORE Journal Corner," which provides links to important articles collated by the SCORE Resident Advisory Group and vetted by the SCORE Editorial Board.

In collaboration with Emory University, SCORE has developed high-quality anatomical illustrations to support its portal content. As modules are revised, authors and reviewers identify content areas that could benefit from visuals. Illustrations are then commissioned, created, and uploaded with

corresponding content. As of March, 60 labeled illustrations have been created through SCORE's collaboration with Emory, with more illustrations to come. These images are categorized in SCORE's new image database site, Image Relay. In the future, SCORE plans to open the image database to authors and reviewers.

SCORE continues to expand beyond General Surgery by creating fellowship-level and subspecialty content for Pediatric Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Surgical Critical Care, Complex General Surgical Oncology, and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. Alongside the modules and questions, specialty-driven textbooks have also been added. The textbooks page now includes *Operative Standards for Cancer Surgery: Volumes 1 & 2* and *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Third Edition: Volumes 1, 2, & 3*. While these advanced-level resources are primarily intended for fellows and integrated residents, the subspecialty content is available to all SCORE subscribers.

Fellowship-level and subspecialty content are continuing to make progress:

- Vascular Surgery's outline is now complete.
- Pediatric Surgery has nearly completed their outline, with 10 modules in review.
- Surgical Oncology's outline is also almost complete, with 6 modules left to publish.
- Surgical Critical Care has completed over half of their outline with a goal to publish a majority of their modules in the next coming months.
- OMFS has a little over half of their modules completed as well.

SCORE's most popular feature, "This Week in SCORE" (TWIS), is now in its seventh year, under the direction and leadership of Drs. Jim Hebert and Kwame Amankwah. A new topic/content area from the General Surgery curriculum is addressed each week, featuring related modules and a weekly 10-question quiz testing important concepts found in those modules. The quizzes are made up of new clinical scenario-based questions written specifically for TWIS, which allows programs to cover all of the portal's core content at least twice within a five-year residency.

Programs can follow the set TWIS schedule provided by SCORE, or they can adjust the sequence of topics to suit their program's needs. Programs can pick the day the quiz releases to their residents and can also lock/unlock the entire TWIS sequence if they desire. SCORE has focused on allowing programs better customizing abilities; now, programs can add notes and PDFs to their TWIS assignments. TWIS has also expanded to fellowships to allow programs the ability to create a yearly quiz sequence that better suits their specialty. Vascular Surgery created their own TWIS sequence with plans to release their quizzes in July 2021.

In May 2020, in an effort to help programs cope with social distance learning during COVID-19, SCORE created "SCORE School," a weekly interactive live webinar based on the "This Week in SCORE" (TWIS) curriculum. SCORE School sessions moved from live webinars to a pre-recorded format to allow presenters and audience members flexibility in scheduling and viewing. SCORE School had continued through AY 20-21 with plans to continue through AY 21-22 to complete the two-year TWIS cycle. A successful addition to the portal content, SCORE School webinars are now being linked to specific modules and have been implemented into the video resources page. Users can check the most recent SCORE School presentations on the [Webinars](#) page, which also hosts a variety of videos.

All of the work described above has been done without any cost increases to its users and wouldn't have been possible without the help of the countless number of surgeons donating their time and expertise to the SCORE Portal. The next Advisory Council meeting is planned for April or May 2021; details will be forthcoming.



Board of Governors

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Board of Governors Update

Amalia Cochran and Larissa Temple
Governors, American Surgical Association



Executive Committee

Eight members

- **Coordination with Board of Regents**
 - 3 officer positions serve as ex officio members on Board of Regents and attend Board of Regents Meetings
 - Vice Chair of the Board of Regents (Dr. Steven D. Wexner) serves as an ex officio
- **Collaboration with ACS Divisions**
 - Five ACS Pillars are represented by an Executive Committee member who serves as a Pillar Lead
 - Vice Chair also serves as Diversity Pillar Lead
 - Pillar Leads hold quarterly calls with Division Directors
- **Activities**
 - Hold monthly virtual meetings
 - Host Governor Orientation Webinars/Meetings
 - Plan Annual Business Meeting at Clinical Congress
 - Develop B/G activities for Leadership Summit

Executive Committee – Officers



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, FACS
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Iowa City, IA

Chair, Board of Governors

Executive Committee – Officers



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Nancy L. Gantt, MD, FACS

St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital Center
Youngstown, OH

*Vice-Chair, Board of Governors
Diversity Pillar Lead*



Andre R. Campbell, MD, FACS

San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, CA

*Secretary, Board of Governors
Chair, Fiscal Affairs Committee*



Executive Committee – Pillar Leads



Mark A. Dobbertien, DO, FACS

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Flagler Hospital
St. Augustine, FL

Member Services Pillar Lead



Ross F. Goldberg, MD, FACS

Creighton University School of Medicine
and Valleywise Health, Phoenix, AZ

Advocacy Pillar Lead



Executive Committee – Pillar Leads



Bryan K. Richmond, MD, MBA, FACS
West Virginia University Physicians of
Charleston and West Virginia
University/Charleston Division
Charleston, WV

Communications Pillar Lead



Anne G. Rizzo, MD, FACS
The Guthrie Clinic
Sayre, PA

Education Pillar Lead



Executive Committee – Pillar Leads



Danielle Saunders Walsh, MD, FACS, FAAP
East Carolina University Brody School of
Medicine, Greenville, NC



Quality, Research & Optimal Patient Care
Pillar Lead

2020-2021 Governor Demographics



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

293 Governors

- 205 Governors-At-Large (i.e., Chapters)
- 88 Specialty Society Governors (includes military)
- 230 Male
- 62 Female
 - 7% increase from 2019-2020
- 164 in First Term
- 129 in Second Term
- 48 Countries Represented (Outside U.S./Canada)
- 14 Specialties Represented
- 23 < 45 years of age



Recent Accomplishments



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Diversity Pillar Added



The Board of Governors Diversity Pillar will collaborate with the existing five Board of Governors Pillars to:

- Implement the recommendations of the B/R Anti-Racism Task Force
- Work with the ACS Staff Office of Diversity to assess the diversity within the BOG across a span of metrics, developing benchmarks and goals
- Identify the structural, procedural, and cultural areas the ACS Governors need to improve.
- Facilitate implementation of substantive changes that need to be made at all levels of the ACS.
- Develop pipeline strategies in collaboration with ACS Committees/Workgroups/Advisory Councils to enhance/augment support the underrepresented surgical workforce in an effort to minimize healthcare inequities. To work on these issues, two new Board of Governors Workgroups have been created:
 - **Board of Governors Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives Workgroup**
 - **Surgical Workforce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup**

B/G Workgroup Changes



- Revised scope/purpose of two advocacy workgroups to better distribute efforts at the local and federal levels, as well as improving alignment with HPAG, HPAC, and *SurgeonsPAC*
- Newsletter workgroup was changed to the Governor Communications & Outreach workgroup to better focus on all activities of communications between Governors and Fellows and from the Governors to the Regents of the College
- New workgroup on telehealth was created to ensure the effective use of telehealth for practicing surgeons

New Governor Requests Approved



- The B/G Executive Committee approved:
 - A request for a seat on the Board of Governors from Costa Rica as they work to establish a Chapter
 - A request for a seat on the Board of Governors from the Fellowship Council



Regent Liaisons Appointed



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

- Members of the Board of Regents added as Liaisons to B/G Pillars:

Advocacy

Dr. Gary Timmerman

Communications

Dr. Douglas Wood

Diversity

Dr. Tim Eberlein

Education

Dr. Henri Ford

Member Services

Dr. Enrique Hernandez

Quality

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

Overall

Lena M. Napolitano



The Board of Governors'

Awards Program

FEATURING:

- **Inspirational stories** from the 2020 ACS-Pfizer Surgical Volunteerism and Humanitarian Awardees
- **Remarkable achievements** by ACS Chapters
- **Special recognition** of retiring Governors
- **Appreciation** of the 2019-2020 Executive Committee of the Board of Governors

facs.org/BOGAwards

Upcoming Activities



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Leadership & Advocacy Summit



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

May 15-17, 2021

- Board of Governors Workgroups Meetings to be held in April/May
- Joint Board of Governors and Advisory Council Pillar Meetings to be held in April/May
- Leadership Summit: May 15
 - International Governors to be invited to attend virtual Summit
- Advocacy Summit: May 16-17
 - Advocacy Summit participation encouraged but not required
- Advocacy webinar to be held before Summit for Governors





October 23-28, 2021 in DC

- Workgroup/Pillar Meetings (10/23)
- B/G Annual Business Meeting (10/24)
- Convocation (10/24) (*Robing room reserved for Governors*)
- B/G Reception & Dinner (10/26)
- B/G Adjourned Meeting (10/27)
 - Pillar Competition Results Presented
 - Chapter Recognition
- Annual Business Meeting of Members (10/27)
- Taste of the City (10/27)

**tentative schedule – events may be held virtually*



Upcoming Strategic Discussions

- Succession planning for B/G Executive Committee
- Succession planning for B/G Pillars and Workgroups
- Selection of members for the Nominating Committee of the Board of Governors



B/G Pillar Overview



Board of Governors
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Division of
Advocacy &
Health Policy

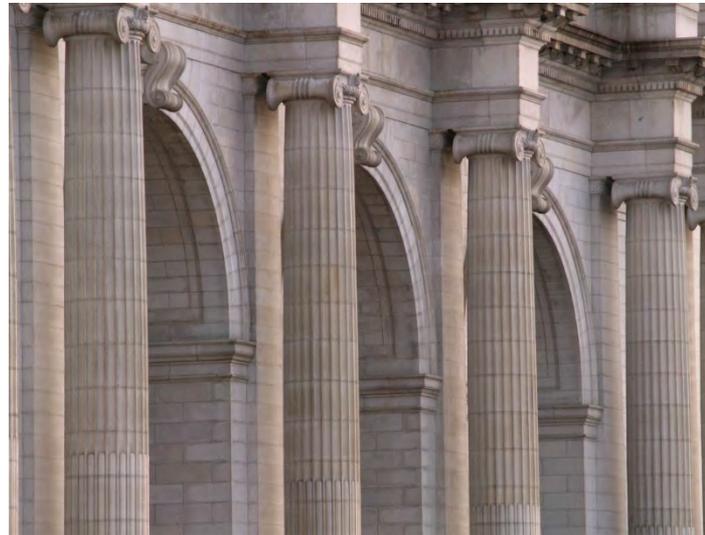
Division of
Education

Diversity

Division of
Integrated
Communications

Division of
Member
Services

Division of Research
& Optimal Patient
Care





Advocacy Efforts

- Revised scope/purpose of B/G workgroups to better distribute efforts at the local and federal levels, as well as improving alignment with HPAG, HPAC, and *SurgeonsPAC*
- Encouraged participation in Surgeon's Voice regarding CMS cuts and surprise billing
- Implementing the distribution of *SurgeonsPAC* individual giving sheets to Governors
- Held several panel and special sessions during Clinical Congress 2020
- Several session proposals approved for Clinical Congress 2021:
 - Beyond the Bedside: A Surgeon's Guide to Advocacy
 - Out of Network/Surprise Billing: What are the Solutions?
 - Stop the Bleed: From Sandy Hook to Now - Lessons Learned and Future Initiatives
- Increasing emphasis on advocacy efforts at the local level via the Advocate at Home program and Chapters (lobby days, presentations, etc.)



Communication Advances

- Analyzed results from the 2020 B/G Annual Survey on “Retaining Control as a Surgeon,” “Peer Review,” “Evolving Practice Trends,” and COVID-19 Practice Impact”
- Drafting several *Bulletin* articles analyzing data from the 2020 B/G Annual Survey
- Selecting topics for 2021 B/G Annual Survey and drafting questions
- Revised scope/purpose of B/G Newsletter workgroup to better align with the strategic direction of the College’s communication efforts
- Published *Bulletin Brief* article on Elevator Chat: A Two-Minute Strategy to Showcase the Benefits of Becoming an ACS Fellow
- Developing future *Bulletin Brief* articles
- Participating in ACS Tweet Chats
- Increasing ACS Community posts and awareness of Governor activities



Diversity Projects

- Created Diversity Pillar and two workgroups
- Collaborating with the B/R Anti-Racism Task Force on tasks and charges
- Establishing partnerships and liaisons with like-minded external organizations and ACS Committees





Education Initiatives

- Published *Bulletin Brief* article on A Brave New World: Resident Selection in a Pass/Fail Environment
- Held several Clinical Congress 2020 panel sessions
- Several session proposals approved for Clinical Congress 2021:
 - Priming The Surgical Pipeline for the Underrepresented
 - Taking Better Care of My Patients Through Quality Improvement
 - Understanding ABS Continuous Certification
- Developed survey on M&M conferences to help improve educational experiences for trainees and surgeons
- Provided guidance to Division on 1)improving Clinical Congress learning objectives; 2)concierge educational offerings; 3)better informing members on CME/other regulatory requirements; 4)aligning ACS' educational offerings to the ABS' Continuous Certification Program; and identifying quality improvement-related activities for CME; and 5)evaluating impact of education on individual/institutional performance and patient care outcomes.



Member Engagement

- Published several *Bulletin Brief* articles:
 - Advocacy and Recruitment Grants Available for ACS Chapters
 - Board of Governors' Member Services Workgroups Focused During COVID-19
 - The ACS International Surgeons: Global Social Media Impact in Times of Covid-19
- Collected Annual Report data from domestic and international chapters and after analysis, customized reports were shared with chapters
- Implemented a Member Recruitment Grant Program to offer small grants to chapters to help with recruitment activities
- Collaborated with the ACS Program Committee to increase international presence at Clinical Congress by submitting ideas for the Special Cases Panel for Clinical Congress 2020, as well as topics for Clinical Congress 2021
- New award category created for 2021 Surgical Volunteerism and Humanitarian Awards: Academic Global Surgeon Award



Quality Improvements

- Held several panel and special sessions at Clinical Congress 2020
- Several session proposals approved for Clinical Congress 2021:
 - Disruptive Surgeon
 - Fostering an Effective Rural-Military Collaboration to Ensure Workforce Competency and Coverage
 - Perioperative Nutritional Assessment and Optimization
 - Treatment of Rectal Cancer in the Community
- Published *Perioperative Pain Management after Ambulatory Abdominal Surgery: An American College of Surgeons Systematic Review* in JACS
- Drafted manuscript on disseminating and implementing an evidenced based guideline
- Published *Bulletin Brief* article on Ergonomics in Surgery: Simple Interventions, Substantial Gains
- Drafting several *Bulletin Brief* articles on telemedicine, wellness, and volunteering during a pandemic
- Revising 2016 ACS Aging Surgeon Statement

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
Summary of Advisory Council for General Surgery
September 30, 2020

The Advisory Council for General Surgery met via video meeting on September 30. In attendance were Drs. John Stewart, Chair, Christopher McHenry, Vice Chair, Kevin Billingsley, Edward Borrazzo, Rebecca Britt, Carlos Brown, Ginny Bumgardner, Daniel Dent, Celia Divino, Timothy Eberlein, Liane Feldman, Kelly Hunt, Kenji Inaba, Robert Martin, Katherine Morgan, M. Timothy Nelson, Jonathan Saxe, David Urbach, and Kyle Vincent. Dr. Douglas Douchoe was a guest. Mark Peterson and Dr. Patrick Bailey were ACS staff present.

The summary from the spring 2020 video meeting was approved as submitted.

Board of Regents

Dr. Eberlein reported on recent activities of the Board of Regents. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the June meeting was held virtually. Regular meetings with the Board have also been held to address social injustice issues, and a Regental Task Force on Racial Issues has been formed. It will focus on race or diversity, equity and inclusion. Five focus areas for progress developed are: just and inclusive environment, cultural competency, diversity in the workplace, public health research, and advocacy and legislative reform. The establishment of an ACS staff office on diversity was also recommended.

A new class of inductees was received in the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. A task force from the current membership was developed to research educational methods utilized during COVID. Dr. Eberlein encouraged the Advisory Council member to submit nominations for Academy membership.

The ACS Statement on Lactation Support was approved.

The Regents will meet next virtually in October 2020.

ACS Division of Advocacy and Health Policy

Dr. Bailey provided an advocacy report from the DC office. Two topics covered were surprise billing and Medicare physician payment cuts due in January 2021. The ACS is actively working to stop these cuts. The ACS Surgical Coalition is also working with the Surgical Care Coalition, which includes representation from the SVS, on this issue.

ACS Political Action Committee (PAC)

- PAC contributions from ACS members improve access to legislators and influence with legislators and the access of the ACS is respected.

Advisory Council Pillars

Dr. VanderMeer volunteered to serve on the Advisory Council Advocacy Pillar.

Advisory Council e-newsletter

A copy of the Advisory Council summer e-newsletter was included for information.

Advisory Council membership

Recommendations for newly-appointed specialty society representatives, reappointments, and Council elections: Rebecca Britt – SSA; Douglas Gouchoe – ACS Resident and Associate Society. The Advisory Council voted to recommend Dr. McHenry for a second one-year term as Vice Chair.

Call for Nominations

Nominations are open to fill six seats on the Board of Regents and three officer-elect positions (President-elect, First Vice President-elect, Second Vice President-elect). Dr. McHenry will convene the ACGS Nominating Committee to determine a slate for these positions. The ACGS membership will approve the slates before they are submitted. The deadline for nominations is February 19, 2021.

Clinical Congress

The Clinical Congress 2020 is being presented virtually October 3-7, and registration is free. The scientific forums are scheduled for the weekend, and panel sessions are scheduled during the week.

Dr. Nelson reviewed the programs approved for the 2021 Clinical Congress, including panels and courses sponsored and co-sponsored by the ACGS.

This year's ACS Initiate class of 2120 members is the largest and includes 1267 general surgeons.

Next Meeting: To be determined. A video meeting prior to the Leadership and Advocacy Summit was suggested.

ASA Representative to the ACS Surgical Research Committee

Lillian S. Kao, MD, MS

March 2021

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the ASA Representative to the ACS Surgical Research Committee (SRC). The activities of the past year have included:

- Selection of the Jacobson Promising Investigator Award (JPJA) recipient: This award recognizes an outstanding surgeon engaged in research who is within six years of completing surgical training. The 2020 recipient was Scott Damrauer from University of Pennsylvania.
- Participation in a brainstorming session for the ACS National Surgeon Scientists Program: This was an initial foray into understanding barriers and facilitators to success as a surgeon scientist, a phenotype that is very much threatened. Additionally, there was discussion on how to leverage and unify stakeholders to ensure future success of surgeon scientists.
- Submission of a response to the NCI/NIH: The ACS SRC submitted a response to a request for comments on reducing protected percent effort requirements for K08 applicants from 75% to 50% (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-21-027.html>). The proposal was a response to the observation that surgeon applicants for K08 awards decreased by 27% from 2007-2014.
- Development of gap analysis and session proposals for the Clinical Congress

Of note, there was apparently confusion and I was included in the above activities but left off of the invite list to various meetings. This error has been corrected.

American Surgical Association Update
ACS-AAST Emergency General Surgery Standards Development Committee
Kimberly A. Davis MD MBA FACS FCCM

Goals: To identify optimal resources for the care of the emergency surgery patient

Key stakeholders: American College of Surgeons
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American Surgical Association
Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons
General Surgery Advisory Board
Rural Surgery Advisory Board

Process: Multiple in-person and virtual meetings to design a pre-review questionnaire and criteria in a document similar to other ACS quality programs. The underpinning of ACS quality improvement programs are the following four key principles: set the standards; build the right infrastructure; use the right data; and verify with outside experts.

Progress to date:

- The pre-review questionnaire has been completed
- The final draft of the Optimal Resources Document (ORD) has been written.
- A pilot launch is in process, which will begin to on-board EGS centers of excellence and identify opportunities for improvement. The first iteration will not be a “pass/fail” visit. The pilots will inform revisions to the ORD prior to more formal role out.

Still in progress: EGS encompasses both operative and non-operative management of patients with surgical disease. Only patients managed operatively are currently captured in NSQIP. Ongoing work will identify and begin to build the EGS registry to capture nonoperatively managed EGS patients.

**REPORT OF AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES
COUNCIL OF FACULTY AND ACADEMIC SOCIETIES**

March 2021

We would like to submit our Annual Report regarding activities of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS), for the period 2020-2021. This Report highlights major activities of CFAS, and is being respectfully submitted for review and consideration by the American Surgical Association (ASA) Council.

CFAS represents Medical School Faculty and Academic Societies within AAMC. CFAS is one of only three AAMC Councils, which gives it direct representation on the AAMC's Board of Directors. The current CFAS membership is 336, which includes 216 medical school representatives and 120 society representatives. Of the total representatives, 47% are women. The charge to CFAS is to identify critical issues facing medical school faculty and academic societies, provide a voice for the faculty and academic societies to guide AAMC's programs, services, and policies, and participate in bi-directional communications among various constituencies regarding the core missions of academic medicine. CFAS has been engaged with developing manuscripts and other documents relating to important issues of interest to academic medicine, participating in development of sessions for the Annual AAMC Meetings, convening an Annual Meeting for CFAS representatives in the Spring, engaging in national collaborative ventures, and networking throughout the year.

Major issues with which CFAS has recently been involved have included NIH and GME funding, gender equity and harassment, political influence in science and medicine, faculty identity and leadership, faculty well-being and resilience, biomedical research advancement, the teaching and learning environment, health equity and diversity, and professional development and training of faculty. Given the recent national challenges and imperatives, CFAS has spent considerable effort in addressing issues relating to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on programs and activities within academic medicine, and the societal imperatives relating to anti-racism, with clear focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. CFAS has offered academic societies opportunities to sign-on to letters sent to the federal government regarding major national issues of concern. Recent letters have focused on NIH funding, funding for Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, and GME funding. The CFAS committees have been very active throughout the year in addressing a broad spectrum of important issues.

The Annual AAMC Meeting was held virtually on November 16-18, 2020. During the AAMC Leadership Plenary Session, Joseph Kerschner, MD, Immediate Past Chair of the AAMC Board of Directors, discussed curricular changes and highlighted the new model for reporting of results of the Step 1 Examination. He also emphasized the need for a national strategy to address the debt of economically disadvantaged students. He called for medical schools and academic institutions to pledge to become anti-racist and implement institution-wide practices relating to unconscious bias training for all faculty, staff, learners, and admissions committee members. The AAMC President and CEO, David J. Skorton, MD, underscored the triple threat of the global pandemic, the severe economic downturn, and systemic racism. He called for national efforts to address these critical challenges. Dr. Skorton mentioned that the AAMC had decided

to rename the Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service in Medical Education, and to call it the AAMC Award for Excellence in Medical Education, because of AAMC's concerns regarding racism and sexist ideologies articulated in the Flexner Report and the AAMC's commitment to be a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist organization. Dr. Skorton articulated key questions regarding the current national imperatives for researchers, educators, learners, and leaders. Prominent Invited Speakers during the AAMC Meeting included Ibram X. Kendi, PhD, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Professor of History, and Founding Director for the Center of Anti-Racist Research at Boston University. Dr. Kendi spoke on "Is There a Cure for Racism?" A Panel on "COVID and Beyond: Where Do We Go From Here?" addressed many timely and critical topics. Panelists included Francis Collins, MD, PhD, NIH Director, and Anne Schuchat, MD, Principal Deputy Director of CDC. The Panelists spoke specifically about the vaccines for COVID-19 and the need for ongoing vigilance to reduce the potential for another pandemic in the future. Anne Curry, Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer, delivered an address on "We All Have a Story to Tell: The Power of Human Connection" and emphasized the importance of empathy.

There was no CFAS-sponsored Session at the 2020 Virtual AAMC Meeting. Also, the 2020 CFAS Spring Meeting was not held because of the pandemic. The 2021 CFAS Spring Meeting will be virtual and held jointly with the Group on Faculty Affairs on April 14-16, 2021. Also, a decision has been made to implement the 2021 Annual AAMC Meeting virtually.

As representatives of ASA, we will continue to highlight the important role of academic societies and work with the leadership of CFAS to explore new strategies to define and address issues of relevance to ASA. Such efforts should provide ASA important opportunities to steer national directions in academic medicine. It is a great privilege for us to represent ASA in CFAS, and we look forward to continuing guidance from the ASA Council. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

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