

ACS NewsScope

A Weekly News Update from the American College of Surgeons

September 18, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK:

- * ACS Evaluates Proposed Senate Finance Committee Legislation
- * Ravdin Lecture in Basic Sciences to focus on Regenerative Medicine
- * Call for 2010 Residents Trauma Papers Competition
- * Pelvic Robotic Surgery Course to be Offered at ACS Clinical Congress
- * EAST Now Accepting Applications for Two Research Scholarships
- * 2009 Clinical Congress Offers Wide Variety of Sessions
- * Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award Announced
- * Chapter Showcase during Clinical Congress to Focus on Collaboration
- * Donate Your Old Loupes at the Clinical Congress
- * Surgery Oral Examination Course Scheduled for October

ACS EVALUATES PROPOSED SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION

On September 16, Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, released proposed health care reform legislation titled "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009." At press time, staff of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Division of Advocacy and Health Policy were studying the bill and weighing its potential effects on patient access to surgical care. In addition, the ACS Health Policy Advisory Group is meeting in Washington to develop a formal response to the proposal.

While the bill does not include measures to reform the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula used to calculate Medicare payments, it would replace a scheduled 22 percent Medicare payment cut in 2010 with a 0.5 percent increase. Hence, the SGR would remain in place for future years; as a result, Medicare payments would be scheduled to be cut between 25 and 30 percent in 2011. The proposal also contains several other provisions of interest to surgery that College leadership and staff are closely evaluating in advance of the bill's consideration in the Senate. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet to consider the "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009" on September 22. For more information about the "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009," go to <http://finance.senate.gov>.

RAVDIN LECTURE IN BASIC SCIENCES TO FOCUS ON REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

"Reparative, Replacement and Regenerative Medicine" will be the topic of the I.S. Ravdin Lecture in Basic Sciences, to be presented on Wednesday, October 14, from 2:30 to 3:15 pm during this year's Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL.

The named lecture will be given by Michael T. Longaker, MD, FACS, director, children's surgical research, department of surgery, Stanford (CA) University School of Medicine. Dr. Longaker's work in regenerative medicine has centered on the scarring process and why wounds from injury scar rather than regenerate. The current status of stem-cell biology and potential ways for locating and deriving stem cells will be explored as well as the connection between the trend toward less invasive surgery and regenerative medicine.

The I.S. Ravdin Lecture has been sponsored by the I.S. Ravdin Surgical Society since 1964 to honor I.S. Ravdin, MD, FACS, by promoting the application of the basic sciences to surgery.

For more information, visit
<http://www.facs.org/clincon2009/scientific/lectures.html>.

CALL FOR 2010 RESIDENTS TRAUMA PAPERS COMPETITION

Papers are now being accepted by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma for the 2010 Residents Trauma Papers Competition, which will be held during the Committee on Trauma Annual Meeting, March 10-12, 2010, in Las Vegas.

The Residents Trauma Papers Competition is open to general surgery residents, surgical specialty residents, and trauma fellows. The papers should describe original research in the area of trauma care and/or prevention, categorized as either basic laboratory research or clinical investigation.

The papers competition is funded by the Eastern and Western States Committees on Trauma, Region 7 Committees on Trauma, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the National Trauma Institute, and the ACS.

Papers should be sent to the appropriate ACS State/Provincial Chair. A list of chairs can be found at <http://www.facs.org/trauma/regional.html>.

The dates for regional competitions will vary, but the deadline for submission of papers to the Region Chiefs is November 13, 2009. For additional information, visit <http://www.facs.org/trauma/traumapapers.html>, contact bblackwood@facs.org, or call 312-202-5380.

PELVIC ROBOTIC SURGERY COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT ACS CLINICAL CONGRESS

The didactic postgraduate course PG18 Pelvic Robotic Surgery will be held on Sunday, October 11, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL. The session will provide a collaborative atmosphere in which interested general surgeons, gynecologists, and urologists can review detailed pelvic anatomy, general robotic techniques, and suturing, as well as specific procedures on a wide range of pelvic conditions. Advanced minimally invasive surgical techniques will also be presented. The course will include multiple video presentations, lectures, and case presentations.

For more information, visit
http://web2.facs.org/cc_program_planner/Detail_Session_2009.cfm?CCYEAR=2009&SESSION=PG18&GROUP=CP&KEYWORD=

EAST NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TWO RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) is accepting applications for two scholarships supported by the EAST Foundation--the Trauma Research Scholarship and the John M. Templeton, Jr., MD, FACS, Injury Prevention Scholarship.

September 30, 2009, is the application deadline for the Trauma Research Scholarship. For more information, visit
<http://www.east.org/Portal/Default.aspx?tabid=58>.

October 31, 2009, is the deadline for the John M. Templeton Jr., MD, FACS, Injury Prevention Scholarship <http://www.east.org/Portal/Default.aspx?tabid=192>.

The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma provides leadership and development for young surgeons active in the care of the injured patient. For additional information on these two research scholarships or EAST, visit

<http://www.east.org/>.

2009 CLINICAL CONGRESS OFFERS WIDE VARIETY OF SESSIONS

The American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL, will feature numerous sessions to accommodate all specialties. The Committee for the Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems has selected more than 300 abstracts to be presented in 29 Surgical Forum sessions. In addition, a broad-range of Panel sessions will also be available.

The following Surgical Forum sessions will be presented throughout the Clinical Congress, and each session will take place separately on Thursday, October 15, from 8:00 to 11:00 am.

Critical Care III

Moderated by: Lorne H. Blackbourne, MD, FACS, and Thomas J. Esposito, MD, FACS

Alimentary Tract III

Moderated by: John C. Alverdy, MD, FACS, and Ali Tavikkolizadeh, MBBS, FRCS

Quality, Outcomes and Costs III

Moderated by: Janice N. Cormier, MD, FACS, and Louis L. Nguyen, MD, FACS

Plastic Surgery III

Moderated by: H. Peter Lorenz, MD, FACS, and Jason A. Spector, MD

Vascular Surgery II

Moderated by: Matthew J. Eagleton, MD, FACS, and Heitham T. Hassoun, MD, FACS

For more information, visit <http://www.facs.org/clincon2009/scientific/forum.html>.

Also to be presented on Thursday is the panel session "How to Succeed in the Highly Competitive World of Grant Funding," moderated by Leigh A. Neumayer, MD, FACS, and Geoffrey C. Gurtner, MD, FACS. The objectives of this session are to provide an overview of the role of the surgeon-investigator in advancing research and in clinical surgery; discuss the importance of identifying and framing the research project; review the steps involved in the preparation of a grant proposal; and describe how a grant is processed, evaluated, and scored after submission.

For more information, visit <http://www.facs.org/clincon2009/scientific/panel.html>.

MENTORED CLINICAL SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARD ANNOUNCED

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) have announced the Clowes ACS/AAST NIGMS Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award, a shared award to provide supplemental salary funding of up to \$75,000 per year for an individual who has received a K08 or K23 from the National Institute for General Medical Science. This award program offers a means to facilitate the career development of individuals pursuing careers in trauma surgery research.

Pre-existing applications and awards are not eligible for consideration, and awardees must be members in good standing of the College and eligible for membership in AAST. The application deadline is October 12, 2009. For further details, visit <http://www.facs.org/memberservices/acs-aast-nigms.html> or contact kearly@facs.org.

CHAPTER SHOWCASE DURING CLINICAL CONGRESS TO FOCUS ON COLLABORATION

The annual Chapter Showcase, which is an education program that focuses on new programs and activities being led by chapters of College, will be held during Clinical Congress on Tuesday, October 13, beginning at 2:00 pm, at McCormick Place Convention Center (Room W-193A, Level 1).

The theme for this year's showcase is "collaboration," and two chapters (Ohio and Tennessee) will share their chapter experiences and reveal how these new relationships have benefitted their chapters' visibility and influence. In addition, chapter leaders also will have an opportunity to discuss how corporate sponsorship is affecting their education programs.

The Chapter Showcase agenda can be viewed at <http://www.facs.org/about/chapters/showcase2009.html>. For more information, call the chapter hotline at 1-888-857-7545, or contact acschapters@facs.org.

DONATE YOUR OLD LOUPES AT THE CLINICAL CONGRESS

Loupes Around the World, in partnership with Designs for Vision, Inc., can recycle your old loupes into new custom loupes for surgeons who would otherwise be unable to obtain this technology. As part of the "Recoup the Loupes" program, old loupes (from any manufacturer) will be collected during the Clinical Congress at the Operation Giving Back and Designs for Visions, Inc. booths in the Exhibit Hall, in the West Building of the McCormick Place Convention Center. Donations are tax deductible.

Loupes Around the World is a unique and charitable organization established by David Clough Knight, MD, FACS, in 2007 after visiting several hospitals in Cambodia and Vietnam where surgeons were operating without the aid of loupes.

For further details on this program and other ways to contribute, visit <http://www.loupesaroundtheworld.org/>.

SURGERY ORAL EXAMINATION COURSE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

The Dartmouth Clinical Performance & Oral Examinations in Surgery course will be offered October 14-16, near the end of the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL. This three-day course will provide an opportunity for surgeons who did not pass the certifying examination or senior residents who anticipate having difficulty with the certifying examination to receive individual feedback on their oral communication skills and knowledge base from a selected national faculty. All participants will be videotaped in a mock certifying examination and then assigned a debriefing session. Each debriefing will include a behavioral analysis, discussion of areas of weakness, a plan for improvement, and questions for review along with a DVD of the participant's mock examination.

For a full description of the course and registration information, visit <http://oralboardreview.net> or contact Pamela.Rowland@Dartmouth.edu.

