

ACS NewsScope

A Weekly News Update from the American College of Surgeons

August 28, 2009

Editor's note: Because of the Labor Day holiday, ACS NewsScope will not be published on September 4. Publication of the newsletter will resume on September 11. Best wishes to all of our readers for a safe and happy holiday.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK:

- * Surgical Community Responds to President's Comments
- * Scholarship Grants Awarded to the ACS Foundation
- * Clinical Congress Scientific Papers Sessions Feature Original Research
- * Last Week for Clinical Trials Methods Course Discounted Sign-Up Fee
- * APSA Issues Call for Abstracts for Annual Meeting
- * ACS-COT/STN to Host Optimal Trauma Center Program in October
- * ACS-Sponsored Professional Liability Carrier Wins Award
- * Recent ACS Presidential Addresses Now Available in ACS Online Archives
- * College to Sponsor Panel at International Society of Surgeons Meeting
- * Next Practice Management Webcast on Dealing With Difficult People

SURGICAL COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

On August 20, the American College of Surgeons and 18 other surgical organizations sent a letter to President Obama expressing concern about his recent comments regarding the care that surgeons provide. The College had issued similar statements previously on August 12 and July 25. The joint letter allowed the surgical community to collectively respond to comments the President had made suggesting that a surgeon's decision to remove a child's tonsils was based not on medical judgment, but, rather, on a desire to make money. In addition, the letter corrected the President's more recent comments at a town hall meeting in which he implied that surgeons make decisions about amputations based on the amount of money they are paid for that procedure. President Obama incorrectly stated that surgeons make between \$30,000 and \$50,000 for an amputation, when Medicare actually reimburses surgeons between \$740 and \$1,140 for a leg amputation. The letter goes on to express dismay at the possibility that the President's remarks could undermine the trust between surgeons and their patients--especially when patients are faced with potentially life-threatening conditions. To view a copy of the letter, go to <http://www.facs.org/hcr/potusletter.pdf>.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AWARDED TO THE ACS FOUNDATION

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Foundation is pleased to announce that two recent grants have been received in support of scholarships. A new Scholar-in-Residence scholarship has been established at the College through an educational grant from Genentech, Inc. The ACS Scholar-in-Residence in Surgical Oncology will receive a one-year fellowship to be announced this fall and to begin in July 2010. Working with the ACS Cancer Programs office, the scholar will focus on utilizing the power of the National Cancer Data Base to devise studies that will have an impact on patient care by contributing to the surgical quality programs of the College, including the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.

In addition, Ethicon, Inc. has awarded the College an educational grant to support its Resident Scholarship Fund. The ACS established the Resident Scholarship program in order to develop outstanding young surgeons and prepare them for

careers in academic surgery. The College has chosen to dedicate this grant to supporting surgical residents who are focusing on the healing of soft tissue and on minimally invasive surgery.

For more information about the ACS Foundation, visit <http://www.facs.org/acsfoundation/>.

CLINICAL CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC PAPERS SESSIONS FEATURE ORIGINAL RESEARCH

The Scientific Papers Session program at the 2009 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress will feature more original research than it has in the past. More than 125 papers will be presented in 18 different sessions covering topics such as Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Quality and Outcomes, Colorectal Surgery, Pancreatic and Digestive Surgery, Trauma Care, Esophageal Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery. Time will be provided during each session for audience members to have the opportunity to ask the presenters questions. A full list of Scientific Papers Sessions can be found at <http://www.facs.org/clincon2009/>.

LAST WEEK FOR CLINICAL TRIALS METHODS COURSE DISCOUNTED SIGN-UP FEE

The American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Surgical Research Committee will sponsor the ninth Clinical Trials Methods Course November 13-17, 2009, at ACS headquarters in Chicago. New this year are course didactics (including two added basic statistics lectures) that will be based on four successfully conducted clinical trials published in the literature. The four clinical trials will be distributed ahead of time to all participants.

This course is recommended for surgeons who plan to engage in clinical research at a leadership level. It includes concepts and development of skills in the design, implementation, and analysis of randomized clinical trials; observational studies; the use of large administrative databases; meta-analysis; funding mechanisms and budget development; outcomes (medical, patient-centered, and cost); and dissemination of results. Participants will work in small groups mentored by a surgeon and a biostatistician to develop a protocol.

Reserve your spot early because the course is limited to 50 participants, and it is only offered every other year. Preference is given to members of the American College of Surgeons. Register by September 4, to take advantage of the early sign-up discounted fee of \$2,250. The course fee after September 4 is \$2,495.

Visit <http://www.facs.org/cgi/src/clintrial.html> for additional information about the course, a preliminary course schedule, online registration, and a list of faculty members. Questions? Call 312-202-5319, or e-mail mfitzgerald@facs.org.

APSA ISSUES CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) invites members of the American College of Surgeons to contribute abstract submissions for its 41st annual meeting, to be held May 16-19, 2010, in Orlando, FL.

The APSA's annual meeting provides an opportunity to present to over 700 fellow pediatric surgeons from around the nation and internationally. The submission deadline is October 1, 2009, 5 pm Central time.

For more information on the APSA annual meeting and to access the abstract submission program and instructions, visit <http://www.eapsa.org/>.

ACS-COT/STN TO HOST OPTIMAL TRAUMA CENTER PROGRAM IN OCTOBER

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) and the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) have scheduled an Optimal Trauma Center Organization & Management program for just prior to the ACS Clinical Congress. The training program will take place on October 10, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel located at 540 N. Michigan Avenue.

Physicians and nurses will present the program with the goal of enhancing the system of care in trauma centers and improving patient care through the implementation of the ACS-COT Trauma Center Standards. This program is designed to assist participants in creating strategies, processes, and operations to support trauma center systems based upon their own environments. The training is highly recommended for trauma medical directors, trauma program managers, coordinators, and administrators.

For more information, visit

https://www.netforumondemand.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=stn&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=e262fa07-0069-4746-8d17-da39de71d4b1.

ACS-SPONSORED PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY CARRIER WINS AWARD

The Doctors Company, the sponsored medical liability carrier for the American College of Surgeons, has been named one of the 2009 Ward's 50[®] top performing insurance companies.

The Ward Group, a Cincinnati-based management consulting firm specializing in the insurance industry and the leading provider of benchmarking and best practices services, analyzed the financial performance of over 3,000 property-casualty insurance companies based in the US. The management consulting firm credits The Doctors Company with "Excellent returns and strong operating results" in achieving this year's honor which marks the eighth Ward's 50 top performing companies award for The Doctors Company.

For more information, visit <http://www.thedoctors.com/> or contact, TDCSales@thedoctors.com.

RECENT ACS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES NOW AVAILABLE IN ACS ONLINE ARCHIVES

The Digital Collections from the Archives of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), launched during the 2008 Clinical Congress in San Francisco, now has links to PDF files of recent College presidential addresses on the History and Archives page located at <http://www.facs.org/archives/>. More addresses will be appearing shortly, beginning with the most recent and going back to the earliest available in the Archives.

Over the past year, the collections have been accessed by Fellows, historians, medical students, and other researchers.

The Digital Collections can be accessed through the ACS public Web site at <http://www.facs.org/archives/> and through the ACS Web Portal's History & Philosophy community at <http://efacs.org/history>. The Archives can also be found in the table of contents located on the home page of the ACS public Web site and by searching the words "History" or "Archives" using the ACS home page's Google[®] search engine.

The site highlights four categories of historic records from the College's

archives:

--*The Clinical Congress Daily News*, 1911-1979.

--The Board of Regents photos, 1920-2006.

--The 1927 volume of the memoirs of College founder Franklin Martin, MD, FACS, and his wife Isabelle.

--Volume 4 of the 26-volume set of the Eleanor Grimm Notebooks. Ms. Grimm served as Franklin Martin's secretary from the College's founding in 1913 until his death in 1935, and then as a chief administrative officer of the College until her retirement in 1951.

After visiting the Digital Collections, complete a one-minute Web survey at <http://www.facs.org/archives/> and give us your feedback. For more information, contact srishworth@facs.org.

COLLEGE TO SPONSOR PANEL AT INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGEONS MEETING

Members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) are invited to attend a College-sponsored panel titled "Global Surgical Outreach - Partnering for Sustainable Solutions," on Tuesday, September 8, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm during the International Society of Surgeons meeting taking place September 6-10, in Adelaide, Australia. Invited speakers include prior ACS/Pfizer Volunteerism Award winner Van C. Knowles, MD, FACS; Catherine R. deVries, MD, FACS, Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Excellence in International Medicine recipient; and Russell Gruen, MD, PhD, FRACS, Chair of Surgery and Public Health at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. The panel will be moderated by Operation Giving Back (OGB) Director, Kathleen M. Casey, MD, FACS.

In addition, OGB will cosponsor a reception with the Global Burden of Surgical Disease Working Group that Tuesday evening in the Blakes Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 6 to 7:30 pm. Featured speaker, Theo Vos, MD, Director of the Center for Burden of Disease and Cost Effectiveness, Queensland, Australia, will discuss "Measuring the Role of Surgeons in Reducing the Burden of Disease."

For more information visit, <http://www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/isw2009/>.

NEXT PRACTICE MANAGEMENT WEBCAST ON DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and Economedix will present a live Webcast titled "Dealing with Difficult People" at 1 pm Eastern time on Wednesday, September 2. This course will provide strategies for confronting negative behaviors that affect the performance of the surgical office.

Other upcoming Webcasts are scheduled as follows:

September 16 - Maximizing Patient Collections

September 30 - Scheduling Techniques for Improved Productivity

October 21 - ICD-9 Coding and Changes for 2010

November 4 - E & M Coding ... Beyond the Basics

November 18 - CPT Coding & CPT Updates for 2010

Each 90-minute Webcast will be conducted by Tom Loughrey, MBA, CCS-P, starting at 1 pm Eastern time and ending with a question-and-answer period. Each program will be recorded for registrants who want to listen to the course a second time or who miss all or part of the program. ACS Fellows and their practices may register for individual Webcasts for \$99, a package of seven live Webcasts for \$497, or for the annual practice management Webcast series consisting of 24 courses for \$997. To register online, go to <http://www.YourMedPractice.com/ACS>; to sign up by fax, go to <http://www.YourMedPractice.com/PMWebcasts.pdf>. For additional information, contact Economedix by e-mail at rley@economedix.com or by phone at 877-401-9655. For practice management questions, go to

<http://www.yourmedpractice.com/Ex/12/PMQs-ACS.htm>. Questions will be answered via e-mail free of charge.

