



New England Surgical Society Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 1

December 2004

2004-2005 Executive Committee

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



A. Benedict Cosimi, M.D.

It's hard to believe that the new year is upon us and it's been four months since the New England Surgical Society held its 85th Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on October 1-3, 2004. This was an enormously successful meeting. The Program Committee under the direction of Jim Hebert, did an excellent job of putting together one of the most interesting and interactive programs in recent memory. In contrast to what had appeared to be a declining number of abstracts being submitted in previous years, 65 abstracts were received for consideration at the 2004 meeting. Twelve were selected for podium presentation and 18 as "Brief Reports"; a recently introduced concept that has proved to be especially popular and highly effective as an educational tool. Essentially all of the reviews that were turned in regarding the program this year included comments such as "exceptionally good," "well designed," "helpful" and "good discussions."

For the first time, poster presentations were also included. The geographic area provided for this part of the program proved to be somewhat inadequate and thereby limited, unfortunately, the number of visits to the posters - an issue we will

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Editor's Corner

Edward Z. Walworth, M.D.

Having harped on the issue of keeping track of senior members and asking for updated CV's when NESS members reach the age of 60, it occurs to me that I am about to reach that status myself. At the same time, my contemporaries and I often start talking or asking about retirement - who is making plans, when is one going to make that move, how much longer are we going to keep doing surgery?

I have started to keep a list of reasons to hang it up, starting with something as simple as the decision at my hospital to convert from cloth to paper in the OR. Where is the comfort of paper gowns in comparison to the silky and cool cloth gowns I have always worn? I suppose the suits and pencil pushers have done

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FUTURE NESS MEETINGS

September 30 - October 2, 2005
Mount Washington Hotel
Bretton Woods, New Hampshire

September 15 - 17, 2006
Mystic Marriott Resort & Spa
Groton, Connecticut



**Annual Meeting of the New England Surgical Society
The Hilton Bonaventure in Montreal, Quebec / October 1-3, 2004**



Walter B. Goldfarb gives his Presidential Address, "Frederick Henry Gerrish, M.D. (1845-1920): Portland's Prescient Polymath"



The 20TH ANNUAL SAMUEL JASON MIXTER LECTURE was given by Irv Kron, M.D. (left) pictured with Dr. Goldfarb. Dr. Kron's topic was "Changing Clinical Practice in Surgery."



The NATHAN SMITH AWARD was presented to Susan Briggs, MD, Boston, Massachusetts for her paper, "A Century of Disaster Medical Response by Surgeons: Changing Priorities and Challenges."



INVITED GUEST SPEAKER *Ms. Julie Fenster, signs copies of her book, "Ether Day." Ms. Fenster spoke on "Confidence Man – William Morton's Role in the Introduction of Surgical Anesthetics in 1846"*



Michael Clough (left) and John Wain



James and Stella Sise



Several NESS meeting attendees with new member James Whiting (far left) and his wife Cecily (2nd from right)



The 2003 NESS New Members are welcomed and presented with their certificates during the New Member Reception.



The **PANEL DISCUSSION** on “Incorporating Technology in Your Practice” included moderator Rocco Orlando, III (podium) and panelists: David W. Rattner and Ajit K. Sachdeva.



The passing of the gavel to Dr. Cosimi (left) from Dr. Goldfarb.



A trio of Maine Medical Center docs: (l. to r.) Michael Curci, Carl Bredenberg, and Albert Dibbins



(l. to r.) Joel LaFleur; John Shaw and Edward Walworth

The First Annual NESS Poster Session.... A Success



Resident Prize Award Winners

First Place

Hong T. Hua, M.D.
Poly ADP-Ribose Polymerase (PARP) Inhibition Modulates Skeletal Muscle Injury Following Ischemia Reperfusion

Second Place

Desarom Teso, M.D.
Carotid Endarterectomy in 1,650 patients under 60 years old: Implications for Screening

Third Place

Nicole Piscatelli, M.D.
Localizing Colorectal Cancer by Colonoscopy: Are We Missing the Boat?

New Member Prize

George A. Perdrizet, M.D.
Reduction of Hyperglycemia and Nosocomial Infections in a General-Surgical Intensive-Care Unit

have to continue to refine.

Immediate Past President, Walter Goldfarb, worked tirelessly to complement the program with interesting speakers. We were all rewarded on Saturday with two unusually fascinating historical reviews, one by Miss Julie Fenster of Morton's "discovery" of ether and the second by Dr. Gert Breiger of the many, often overlooked messages a painting can convey. Sunday morning's program started with the presentation of the Nathan Smith Award to Susan Briggs who provided us with just a glimpse of her team's responses to worldwide disasters. We later enjoyed Dr. Irv Kron's both interesting and humorous Samuel Jason Mixture lecture on the changing clinical practices in cardiac surgery. Of course, the highlight of the meeting, if we don't count the splash the new ties created, was Dr. Goldfarb's Presidential Address detailing the life of Dr. Frederic Gerrish.

I hope everyone is making plans to attend the 86th annual meeting to be held September 30-October 2 at Mt. Washington. We will certainly be challenged to meet the standard that has now been set for the program's content. Discussions are continuing regarding issues such as parallel programming, incorporation into the program of more formal didactic sessions, and the possibility of seeking corporate financial support for parts of the annual meeting. All of these have become fairly widely accepted practices in other regional and national meetings, but of course, would represent a departure from the traditional NESS program format. As I indicated in our previous newsletter, the future of the NESS is vitally dependent upon the active involvement of our younger members, many of whose careers have been directed to more specialized practices. Parallel programming with one session having a more specialized focus might be one approach to making the annual meeting more attractive and useful for these individuals. Another might be something like a half-day pre-meeting educational event, for example, presenting some

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new technology. I certainly have seen, in other meetings, an incredible increase in the interest and participation of the younger members when they are given primary responsibility for actually developing such a section for the annual program.

The issue of corporate support continues to be a controversial subject, particularly for a Society that has never sought or required reliance on the corporate community to achieve financial stability for our activities. A number of possible support opportunities ranging from simple acknowledgement in the program booklet, to the institution of annual corporate-sponsored scientific awards, to advertisements on the inside cover pages, to actual exhibit booths at the meeting, exist. None of these have to date been acceptable, particularly to the more senior members. We are, however, continuing to address this topic and I would welcome any input (pro or con) on this topic or any of the others that the membership would like to provide to me.

Rounding out other fronts, 26 new members voted into the NESS last year were welcomed into the Society at this annual meeting and an additional 25 individuals were elected to active or senior membership and will be introduced at the next annual meeting. One of the issues to be addressed by the Executive Committee this year will be whether the new member approval process could be streamlined to shorten the currently required two years. Dr. Robert Quinlan was selected as President-Elect. We all look forward to Bob's reassuming an active role on the Executive Committee where he has proved to be so effective in the past as Treasurer and as Chair of the NESS Charitable Foundation.

In conclusion, may I extend my personal wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all of the membership. With this outline of a few of the issues we will be addressing this year, I again seek your ongoing advice and input.

I suggest again: Get Involved.

The Annual Meeting Attendance Rule - What Do You Think?

The Executive Committee discussed Article II, Section j, of the By-Laws (The Attendance Rule) "*Any active member who is absent from three consecutive annual meetings without excuse deemed valid by the Executive Committee and who during the same period presents no contribution to the proceedings of the Society shall be automatically dropped from membership.*" Given the changing times and the increasing complexity of commitments since the By-Laws were written, the Executive Committee questioned the validity of automatic removal from the Society roll. Is the paying of dues enough of a "contribution to the proceedings of the Society" to avoid forfeiture of membership? Or is attendance at Resident Research Day a substitute for attendance at the Annual Meeting?

The Executive Committee wants to know what you, the members, think of "The Attendance Rule". Please send your comments to the NESS Administrative Office, 900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915, (978) 927-8330 / FAX: (978) 524-8890 / E-Mail: ness@pri.com. If a majority of members agree to modify the rule, a proposed By-Law change will be put for vote at the 2005 Annual Business Meeting. In the meantime, no member will be automatically dropped until this issue is resolved.



Highlights of the ANNUAL BUSINESS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

October, 2004 - Montreal, Quebec

Report of the Secretary

Current membership statistics: 672 Surgeons; 277 Active, 352 Senior, 41 Associate, and 2 Honorary Members.

The following proposed amendment to the By-Laws regarding succession of Offices of the Society (disseminated in the Newsletter) was approved:

Article III – Officers

Section a. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Recorder. During any vacancy or disability in the Office of the Secretary, the President shall issue or cause to be issued all notices. If a vacancy occurs in the Office of the President, the duties of the President shall be assumed by the President-Elect for the remainder of the vacated term. The President-Elect may ask the Nominating Committee to select both a President for the succeeding year and a new President-Elect at the subsequent Annual Meeting of the Society. If the President becomes disabled, the duties of the President may be assumed by the President-Elect until the period of disability is over. If a vacancy occurs in the Office of President-Elect, the President may ask the Nominating Committee to select a new President-Elect and succeeding President-Elect at the next Annual Meeting of the Society. If a vacancy or disability occurs in the Offices of Secretary, Recorder, or Treasurer the President may assume the responsibility of the Office until the Nominating Committee chooses a new Secretary, Recorder, or Treasurer at the next Annual Meeting of the Society. The President may ask the President-Elect to assume a portion of the responsibility by mutual agreement.

Necrology

John J. Byrne, M.D.	Marion, Massachusetts
John H. Crandon, M.D.	Winthrop, Massachusetts
Robert G. Fisher, M.D.	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Edward D. Frank, M.D.	Brookline, Massachusetts
Howard A. Frank, M.D.	Brookline, Massachusetts
Gordon N. Johnson, M.D.	Houlton, Maine
Eugene G. Laforet, M.D.	Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
William R. MacAusland, Jr., M.D.	Dedham, Massachusetts
William T. Mosenthal, M.D.	Hanover, New Hampshire
Omar T. Pace, M.D.	San Bruno, California
James M. Shannon, M.D.	Marblehead, Massachusetts
Robert S. Shaw, M.D.	New Ipswich, New Hampshire
Max Taffel, M.D.	Woodbridge, Connecticut
Radford C. Tanzer, M.D.	Hanover, New Hampshire
George L. Wilson, M.D.	Naples, Florida
Hastings K. Wright, M.D.	Branford, Connecticut

The Membership stood for a moment of silence in memory of the departed members.

Dr. Bagley then read the list of outstanding memorial statements and asked for members who may have known one of those listed to contact his/her State Representative with any information.

Clifford Agnew, M.D.	Massachusetts
Benjamin Barnes, M.D.	Massachusetts
Thomas Botsford, M.D.	Massachusetts
Warren Eberhart, M.D.	New Hampshire
Robert G. Fisher, M.D.	New Hampshire
Gordon Johnson, M.D.	Maine
Thomas Lacey, M.D.	New Hampshire
Eugene G. Laforet, M.D.	Massachusetts
Carroll Miller, M.D.	New Hampshire
Robert Rix, M.D.	New Hampshire
Ernest Sachs, M.D.	New Hampshire
Robert S. Shaw, M.D.	New Hampshire
Edward Twitchell, M.D.	New Hampshire
George L. Wilson, M.D.	Connecticut

Report of the Treasurer

Dr. Nicholas P.W. Coe, Treasurer, noted that total assets as of June 30, 2004 (at the end of the fiscal year), were \$147,229. Receipts from the Income Statement for the fiscal year totaled \$157,601 and total disbursements totaled \$180,385. The proposed budget for 2004-05 forecasts a projected surplus of \$13,776, predicated on all Active members paying their dues, and the income and expense projections for this 2004 Annual Meeting being realized.

The Audit Committee (Robert A. Kozol and Jack M. Monchik) reported they had found the financial records of the Society to be in order.

Report of the Recorder

Dr. Thomas A. Colacchio reported that the tenure of Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr., Editor of the *Archives of Surgery*, would end on January 1, 2005, and stressed the importance of quickly contacting and establishing a relationship with Dr. Organ's successor. (It was later learned that Dr. Julie A. Freischlag was named Editor.) The quality of papers presented at the NESS Annual Meeting, then submitted to the *Archives*, has dramatically improved, resulting in all but one manuscript being accepted for publication from the 2003 Annual Meeting. Dr. Colacchio recommended that the abstracts of the brief reports presentations be sent, as a formal record of the Annual Meeting, and that the Society and its new Recorder should get proactively aggressive with the new Editor regarding the publication of these abstracts.

Dr. Colacchio will continue oversight of the collection of, and interaction with the Journal regarding the 2004 Annual Meeting manuscripts.

(continued on next page)

Report of the Program Committee

Dr. James C. Hebert, Chair, reported that 65 Abstracts had been submitted for the Annual Meeting. Due to the popularity of the Brief Reports, this year's program was expanded to include more of them. There were 12 podium presentations, 18 brief reports, and 24 posters in a newly added sessions (23 poster authors attended).

Report of the Ad Hoc Issues Committee

Dr. David L. Berger, Chair, recounted how this new committee had been formed—that at the spring ACS meeting, Dr. Goldfarb asked any “new” NESS members (those with under seven years of membership) to gather and discuss the role of the NESS and what the direction should be for the Society. Out of this meeting rose the Issues Committee, whose ideas have been warmly received by the Executive Committee. Recommendations and concerns include: the role of the Specialist in the Society; parallel session programming; web-based NESS Job Bank; the impact of scheduling the Annual Meeting so close to the time of the ACS Clinical Congress in October; spouse activities at Annual Meetings; and the nascent idea of a New England Surgical Study Group, which would make the NESS the data repository for the region. Regarding this last suggestion, a smaller committee will be formed to generate a proposal on the exploratory/developmental process for the Study Group, to be presented at the Executive Committee's January meeting.

Report of the Representative to the American Board of Surgery

Dr. James C. Hebert recapped key issues, including: primary certificate in vascular surgery; ABS and ABTS certification; surgical residency curriculum development; oversight of post residency fellowships; computer-based examinations; change of time for the qualifying examination; online exam applications process; online resident rosters; re-entry into the certification process; and maintenance of certification.

Report of the Representative to the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors

Dr. Francis D. Moore, Jr. commented that given the start-up of the ACS PAC during an election year, it would be a year before the College received any feedback on how the PAC fared in influencing the issue of increasing malpractice costs and its adverse impact on physician supply. The financial position of the College had greatly improved; the College is leveraging this considerable position by opening its financial management services to other societies; and membership is increasing despite a recent dues increase. The American Association for Bariatric Surgery has formed a subsidiary corporation (“SRC”) for the purpose of certifying Centers of Excellence in Bariatric Surgery—a process that appears duplicative of the American Board of Surgery and of the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation and is also quite expensive. Dr. Moore opined that even though the SRC has implied that it has the support of the American College of Surgeons, he expects the ACS to issue a statement at the upcoming Annual Meeting that disavows any connection to the SRC.

Old Business

Dr. Goldfarb informed the Membership that curriculum vitae, which were already part of the initial application process, would need to be updated every five years.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Committee submitted the following slate, which was subsequently voted by the membership:

President

A. Benedict Cosimi, M.D., Boston, Massachusetts

President-Elect

Robert M. Quinlan, M.D., Worcester, Massachusetts

Vice President

Robert J. Touloukian, M.D., New Haven, Connecticut

Secretary

Frederick H. Bagley, M.D., Rutland, Vermont

Treasurer

Nicholas P.W. Coe, M.D., Springfield, Massachusetts

Recorder

Neil S. Yeston, M.D., Hartford, Connecticut

2004-2005 COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc ByLaws Committee

Walter B. Goldfarb, Chair

Ad hoc Issues Committee

David L. Berger, Chair

Guy Lancellotti

Kathleen A. LaVorgna

Bruce J. Leavitt

Thomas E. MacGillivray

Ronald F. Martin

Richard S. Swanson

Archives Committee

H. David Crombie, Chair

Walter B. Goldfarb

James O. Menzoian

Dominic Zazzarino

Program Committee

David E. Clark, Chair

Richard J. Barth, Jr.

Desmond H. Birkett

John Louras

Rocco Orlando, III

Thomas F. Tracy, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members: Frederick H. Bagley, A. Benedict Cosimi, Robert M. Quinlan, Neil S. Yeston

Nominating Committee

Roger S. Foster, Jr., Chair

Albert W. Dibbins

Walter B. Goldfarb

Editor's Corner (continued from page one)

the cost analysis, but I have visions of landfills and incinerators dealing with all the more medical waste. Next, I hear that the reusable scrub brushes will disappear in favor of the disposable types. Will this trend reach the logical end point of disposable surgeons?

Electronic medical records, anyone? As a physician discussing an operation with a new patient, I like to face that person, sizing him up as he considers me as his surgeon. I woke up to the brave new world of record keeping when my PCP, an old friend who came to town when I did, turned his back and used his keyboard and software while updating my medical history. Yes, I realize that the transmission of accurate and comprehensive medical information is enhanced by this technology, but how wearisome to change the style of practice at this late date.

HIPPA? This list is getting depressing. Now I need to shred half of the papers I just used to place in the recycling bin. Portable health insurance was a great idea. Just who came up with the privacy part?

The private practice of surgery - how quaint! The generation of surgeons who came to town in the 70's, 80's, and 90's are now looking at some newer hospital based surgeons who command a growing referral base – the increasing number of hospital based primary care doctors. Reputation built on years of service does not count for much when referrals can be guided by corporate hospital policy.

Doth he protest too much? Probably. The thrill hasn't entirely gone. It is satisfying to think along the lines of Sir Zachary Cope rather than allowing the CT scanner to diagnose the acute abdomen. As long as the cerebral computer and its physical extensions can perform and the simple rewards continue, so will I. But retirement is ever more a consideration.

NESS State Representatives

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New Members

Jeanne S. Capasse, M.D. *Connecticut*
Timothy C. Counihan, M.D. *Massachusetts*
Michael S. Dahn, M.D. *Connecticut*
Jonathan Dreifus, M.D. *Maine*
Raymond M. Dunn, M.D. *Massachusetts*
Richard S. Fox, M.D. *Massachusetts*
Eric S. Frost, M.D. *Vermont*
Brian F. Gilchrist, M.D. *Massachusetts*
Ronald I. Gross, M.D. *Connecticut*
Craig A. Hawkins, M.D. *Maine*
Robert E. Hawkins, M.D. *Maine*
David A. Iannitti, M.D. *Rhode Island*
John J. Kelly, M.D. *Massachusetts*
Paul H. Kispert, M.D. *New Hampshire*
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David P. Mooney, M.D. *Massachusetts*
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Charles H. Salem, M.D. *Vermont*
Joseph R. Snow, M.D. *New Hampshire*
Thadeus L. Trus, M.D. *New Hampshire*
Edward E. Whang, M.D. *Massachusetts*
Dean N. Willis, M.D. *Connecticut*
Okike N. Okike, M.D. *Massachusetts*

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