



New England Surgical Society Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 2

August 2006

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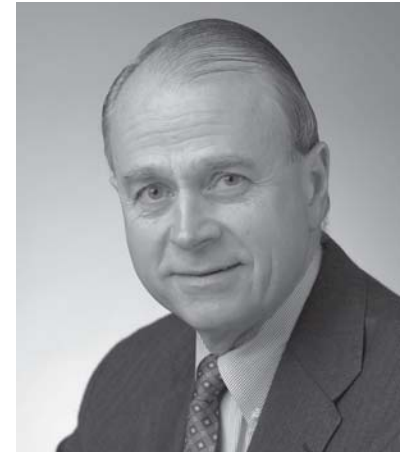
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The NESS has been successful in putting together a stimulating and entertaining program for our 87th Annual Meeting planned for Mystic Connecticut the weekend of September 15th-17th 2006. Under the leadership of Desmond Birkett, the Program Committee (Richard Barth, Theresa Graves, Rocco Orlando, John Louras, James Whiting, and Neil Yeston) has selected 17 podium presentations, 12 brief reports, and 32 posters from 103 submitted abstracts. The first place clinical and research papers from the 13th Annual Surgical Resident/Fellow Research Presentation Day will also be featured.

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Robert M. Quinlan, M.D.



Reminder

NESS Participation Requirement

The year of amnesty for those members who have not yet fulfilled their NESS participation requirement expires with the 2006 Annual Meeting. Make your plans to attend this year's annual meeting in Groton. Not only will you fulfill your participation requirement, but you will also benefit from an exceptional scientific and educational experience. Check out the details inside!

Editor's Corner

Bruce J. Leavitt, M.D.

I know it will be a hard act to follow, but I have assumed the role of editor for the NESS Newsletter. Dr. Ed Walworth has done an outstanding job as editor. His writing and surgical stories will be missed. I believe it is one of the best newsletters that is published by a regional society. It is my hope to have the NESS Newsletter continue to reflect the news of the society in a timely fashion. I plan no major changes to the way our newsletter is published. Any suggestions or comments are always welcome.

To initiate my role as editor, I thought you may want to know a little about me - how my life brought me to becoming a surgeon in New England and how

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**Preliminary Scientific Program Highlights of the
87th Annual Meeting of the New England Surgical Society
September 15-17, 2006 / Marriott Mystic Hotel, Groton, Connecticut**

Friday, September 15, 2006

SCIENTIFIC SESSION I

Prediction of Patient Survival by Multiplexed Quantitative (AQUA™) Analysis of Tissue Biomarkers in Primary Cutaneous Melanoma

Aaron J. Berger, Robert L. Camp, Gretchen Graff, Harriet Kluger, Stephan Ariyan, David L. Rimm

Hepatic Trisegmentectomy Preceded by Portal Vein Embolization Reduces Post-Operative Hepatic Insufficiency

Min P. Kim, Scott Johnson, Khalid Khwaja, Seth J. Karp, Douglas W. Hanto

Radiofrequency Ablation of Hepatocellular Carcinoma is Safe and Effective in Controlling Tumor Growth in Wait Listed Liver Transplant Candidates.

Paula A. Ferrada, Michael P. Curry, M.D., Scott R. Johnson, M.D., Khalid Khwaja, M.D., Seth Karp, M.D., Mark Callery M.D., Douglas W. Hanto

Evolving Patterns in the Detection of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors (PNETs): The Massachusetts General Hospital Experience from 1977–2005

Parsia A. Vagefi, Oswaldo Razo, Vikram Deshpande, Deborah McGrath, Gregory Y. Lauwers, Sarah P. Thayer, Andrew L. Warshaw, Carlos Fernandez-Del Castillo

Biliary Complications Following Hepatic Trauma: The Importance of ERCP

Graciela Bauza, Elliot Servais, David Lichtenstein, Suresh Agarwal, Peter A. Burke, Erwin F. Hirsch;

Should the Possibility of Late Failure Prevent Early Discharge After Non-Operative Management for Splenic Injuries?

Robert S. Crawford, Malek Tabbara, Robert Sheridan, Konstantinos Spaniolas, George Velmahos

Endoscopically Assisted Laparoscopic Resections of Submucosal Gastric and GE Junction Tumors — A Novel Approach to Resection Based on Tumor Location

Laurence E. McCahill, Alicia Privette, Rick Zubarik, Nicole Messier, Edward Borrazzo

Gastric Electrical Stimulation as a Treatment for Gastroparesis

Stacie E. Perlman, Randolph B. Reinhold, Steven Yood

Development and Characterization of Parathyroid Hormone Microspheres for the Treatment of Hypoparathyroidism

Peter Fong, Osama Abdelghany, W. Mark Saltzman, Robert Udelsman, Christopher K Breuer

Surgery for Hyperparathyroidism in Image-Negative Patients

Rodney K. Chan, Daniel T. Ruan, Atul Gawande, Francis D. Moore, Jr

SCIENTIFIC SESSION II

Enhancing Compliance with Medicare Guidelines for Surgical Infection Prevention (SIP) — An Institutional Experience with a Cross Disciplinary Quality Improvement Team

Laurence E. McCahill, John Ahern, Linda Gruppi, Jim Limanek, Jessica Sussman, Gail Dion, Christina McCaffrey, Richard Single

Quality Assessment in High-Acuity Surgery: Volume and Mortality are Not Enough

Charles M. Vollmer, Jr., Wande Pratt, Tsafir Vanouou, Shishir K. Maithel, Mark P. Callery

Surgeon Profiling: A Key to Optimum OR Utilization

Suzanne M. Sokal, David L. Craft, Warren S. Sandberg, Yuchiao Chang, Peter F. Dunn, David L. Berger

Degree of Weight Loss Is not Correlated With Improvement in Insulin Resistance Following Gastric Bypass in the Severely Obese

Richard Perugini, Vera Freeman, Joshua Felsher, Donald Czerniach, Demetrius E. Litwin, John Kelly

Bariatric Surgery Is Safe and Effective in Patients Over 65: A Report from the Massachusetts Morbid Obesity Study Group

Joshua Felsher, Liam Haveran, Vera Freeman, Robin Mason, Don Czerniach, Rich Perugini, John Kelly

STATE CAUCUS MEETINGS

Saturday, September 16, 2006

SCIENTIFIC SESSION III

Surgical-Office-Based vs. Radiology-Based Breast Ultrasound: A Comparison of Efficiency, Cost and Patient-Satisfaction

Rakhshanda Layeequr Rahman, Tracey Hall, Diane Bavosi, Robert M. Quinlan

Sonographic Hematoma Guided Versus Wire Localized Lumpectomy for Breast Cancer: A Comparison of Margins and Volume of Resection

Rakhshanda Layeequr Rahman, Elaine Iuanow, Sybil Crawford, Robert M. Quinlan

Initial Experience With Laparoscopic Inferior Epigastric Vessel Ligation for Delayed Tram Flap Breast Reconstruction

Thadeus L. Trus, Dale Collins, Christopher Demas, Carolyn Kerrigan

Preoperative Chemoradiation for High Stage Extremity Sarcoma Facilitates Limb Salvage

Harold J. Wanebo, Walley B. Temple, Martin B. Popp

Of Mice and Men: The Role of Aberrant Crypt Foci as Surrogate Endpoint Biomarkers of Colorectal Cancer

Nancy L. Cho, Mark Redston, Adelaide M. Carothers, Ann G. Zauber, Andrew Wilton, Monica M. Bertagnolli

Contribution of Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) to Preoperative Staging in Resected Pancreatic and Periampullary Neoplasms

Paul R. Sturrock, John Hayward, Mary Sullivan, Jennifer Tseng, Wahid Wassef, Dana Andersen, Giles Whalen

PANEL DISCUSSION

Laparoscopic Colectomy, When, Why and Who To Learn It

Moderator: David J. Schoetz, Jr., M.D.

When should laparoscopy be used in colonic resection for cancer? What are its advantages and disadvantages over open resection?

Neil H. Hyman, M.D.

How do you get trained and credentialed in laparoscopic colon procedures?

Peter W. Marcello, M.D.

What is the place of laparoscopy in the treatment of benign colonic disease?

Jeffrey L. Cohen, M.D.

BREAK with POSTER SESSION

What Does a Negative Sestamibi Scan Reveal About Single Parathyroid Adenomas?
The Influence of Postoperative Morbidity on Long-Term Survival Following Resection for Pancreatic Cancer
Staple Line Reinforcement Reduces Postoperative Pancreatic Stump Leak After Distal Pancreatectomy
Open Lysis of Adhesions (LOA) Is More Effective in Decreasing Adhesion Reformation Than Laparoscopic LOA in a Rat Model
Local Excision of Rectal Cancer: A Meta-Analysis
Analysis of Strategies to Reduce Technical Errors in Surgery
Gastrointestinal Graft-Versus-Host Disease: An Emerging Surgical Dilemma in Contemporary Cancer Care
National Trends in the Treatment of Upper GI Bleed
Contemporary Analysis of Invasive Breast Cancer in Rhode Island, 1991–2005
Filling a Void: Thyroid Cancer Surgery Information on the Internet
Cancer of Unknown Primary Origin: A Decade of Experience in a Community Based Hospital
National Outcomes After Gastric Resection for Neoplasm
Minimally Invasive Treatment of Pilonidal Disease with a Flowable Soft-Tissue Scaffold
Rectal Mucosa Advancement Flaps: Do They Work?
Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Corrects Gastric Outlet Obstruction Following Vertical-Banded Gastroplasty
Long-Term Quality of Life Following Transhiatal Esophagectomy for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma
Indices of Inflammatory and Oxidative Stress Following Antifibrinolytic Therapy in Cardiac Surgical Patients
Contemporary Surgical Treatment of Neuroendocrine Tumors of the Pancreas
Toll-like Receptor 4 Deficiency Ameliorates the Local Injury Following Limb Ischemia and Reperfusion
Compressive Orthotics; A New Paradigm in the Non-Operative Correction of Pectus Carinatum in Children
Adrenocortical Insufficiency Secondary to Traumatic Bilateral Adrenal Hemorrhage in a Child
Minimally Invasive Management of the Abdominal Compartment Syndrome: Initial Experience at a Level I Trauma Center
Atorvastatin Increases Myocardial Indices of Oxidative Stress in a Porcine Model of Hypercholesterolemia and Chronic Ischemia
Intragraft Immunological Response Characterized by GeneChip Analysis from the First Living-Related Small Bowel Transplant in New England
Improved Safety of Cardiopulmonary Bypass with the Use of Thrombo-Resistant Surfaces in Closed Perfusion Systems
Initial Experience Using a Small Axial Flow Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)
Negative Predictors of Survival After Colectomy in Patients with Fulminant *Clostridium Difficile* (C. Diff) Colitis
A Simplified Technique for Single Stage Breast Reconstruction
Relative Adrenal Insufficiency in the Adult Burn Intensive Care Unit
Does High Volume Bariatric Surgery Fellowship Training Affect Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass Outcomes?
Palliative Procedures in Patients with Stage IV GI Tract Cancer
Neoadjuvant Therapy Use as an Indicator of Quality in Breast Cancer Surgery

SCIENTIFIC SESSION IV

Increased Organ Donation and Organ Donor Conversion Rate at a Tertiary Care Urban Hospital With a Free-Standing Transplant Program by Implementing a Multifaceted Program of Known Best Practices

Judith L. Pepe, Jami Tyska, Orlando C. Kirton, Michael E. Ivy

Improved Outcome Following Colectomy for Fulminant Pseudomembranous Colitis (PMC)

Syed O. Ali, John P. Welch, Robert J. Dring

Anti-Reflux Surgery Reduces the Prevalence of Esophageal Cancer — A National Survey

Joshua S. Hill, Liam A. Haveran, James T. McPhee, Frederick A. Anderson, Demetrius E. Litwin, Richard A. Perugini

Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy: Experience at a Community Hospital

Jeremiah T. Martin, John A. Federico, Alicia A. McKelvey, Kristina Spate, Thomas Fabian

Survival of Octogenarians Undergoing Concomitant Mitral Valve Surgery and Coronary Artery Bypass in Northern New England

Bruce J. Leavitt, Cathy S. Ross, Elaine M. Olmstead, Robert A. Clough, Felix Hernandez, John H. Braxton, David C. Charlesworth, Mitchell C. Norotsky, Gerald T. O'Connor

Sunday, September 17, 2006

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - Members Only

1ST PLACE RESEARCH DAY PRESENTATIONS

Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) Accelerates Compensatory Lung Growth

Sang Lee; Childrens Hospital, Boston, MA

A Novel Cost-Benefit Analysis of Prophylactic Octreotide for Pancreatic Resections

Tsafir Vanounou; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

SCIENTIFIC SESSION V

Predicting Future Staffing Needs at Teaching Hospitals: Use of an Analytical Program with Multiple Variables

Christine Mitchell, Stanley Ashley, Michael Zinner, Francis D. Moore, Jr.

Mid Level Practitioner (MLP) Work Force Analysis in a Multi Specialty Department of Surgery at a University-Affiliated, Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital with a General Surgery Residency Program and Sub-Specialty Fellowships Under the Constraints of the ACG

Orlando C. Kirton, Michael E. Ivy, Marilyn A. Folcik, Rebecca Calabrese, Eric D. Dobkin, Judith L. Pepe, John W. Mah, Kevin P. Keating, Marc D. Palter

Time to Definitive Care Is Prolonged in Elderly Trauma Patients

Bernard J. Benedetto, Walter L. Biffi, David T. Harrington, Hieu Ton-That, Charles A. Adams, William G. Cioffi

Additional Meeting Details and Groton Area Attractions appear on the next page

Things to see and do in Connecticut....



MYSTIC SEAPORT

A renowned 19th century village of historic buildings and tall ships, Mystic Seaport offers exhibit galleries brimming with the culture of seafaring lives and a unique shipyard where the nearly lost art of wooden shipbuilding endures.

HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM

Tour the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, Historic Ship NAUTILUS, and visit the U.S. Navy's official submarine museum. Experience the rich heritage of the US Submarine force, from the Revolutionary War to the present. Groton has a long history as a shipbuilding city starting in the early 1700s. In 1900 the newly founded Electric Boat Company (EB) sold the first submarine to the Navy for \$150,000. The first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus, was built at General Dynamics' Electric Boat Division in 1950. Many of our U.S. Submarines were built here at EB. They are currently working on the last of the Seawolf class submarines and are preparing for the first of the Virginia class.



ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT RIDE

Just 30 minutes from Mystic. Family fun aboard authentically restored 1920's steam train and multi-deck riverboat. Scenic 2-hour excursion throughout the beautiful Connecticut River Valley.

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

This dazzling facility traces the rich cultural heritage and tumultuous history of the Mashantucket Pequot Indians. A 22,000 square-foot recreation of a 16th century Pequot village. The latest in computer interactive and touch-screen 3D graphics. Original 70mm film "The Witness" portrays key events of the 17th century Pequot War.

PROJECT OCEANOLOGY

From exploring a lighthouse to trawling for lobsters – bring the whole family aboard this floating classroom for a unique Long Island Sound Experience.



STONINGTON VINEYARDS

Experience a real working winery just minutes from Mystic! Open year round, including Sunday. Wine tasting from 11 am – 5 pm and conducted tours at 2 pm daily.

SPA TREATMENTS - ELIZABETH ARDEN RED DOOR SPA

The NESS is pleased to offer an opportunity to schedule spa treatments for spouses and members at the well-known Elizabeth Arden Red Door spa in the Mystic Marriott for a reduced price. You will receive 20% off any service and 15% off retail items. Scheduled slots are currently available from 10 AM - 12 PM on Saturday, September 16th. Book

now as space is limited and appointments are on a first-come first-serve basis. To schedule an appointment please contact Courtney Guarneri directly at 860-446-2500 ext. 399 and mention the NESS Annual Meeting.



NESS Meeting Highlights

22ND ANNUAL SAMUEL JASON MIXTER LECTURE

Murray F. Brennan, M.D., FACS

Sunday, 9:40 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Robert M. Quinlan, M.D.

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday, September 16 / 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

This event is included in your registration fee. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the Mystic Aquarium, and embark on an exciting adventure that will take you away from shallow sunlit seas to the dark reaches of the deep ocean. Features include shark's tooth chills and seal lion's whis-kers among many fascinating tanks of underwater crea-tures. The Beluga whales are a site not to be missed as they gracefully swim through a large open tank. A new-born Beluga whale will also be available for viewing dur-ing the reception. Transportation will be provided from the Marriott's North Entrance at 6:45 PM.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & DINNER

Saturday, September 17 / 7:00 pm

North Lawn & Marriott Ballroom Salons D, E, F

“The Future is Bright”

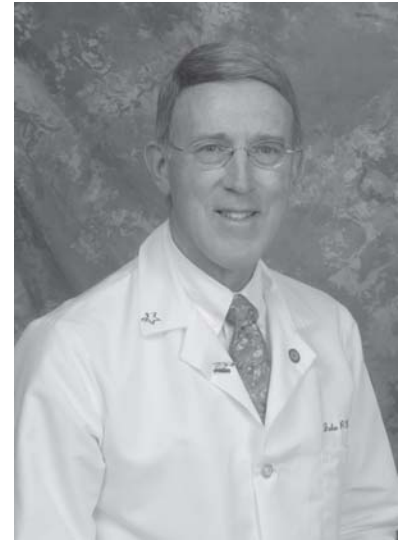
I am honored to be chosen as your President-elect this year. Of all the surgical societies, I feel the highest commitment to NESS.

This year's meeting is being held in my home state of Connecticut for the first time since the meeting in New Haven in 1948. The glossy flier of the Preliminary Program sent out (12 pages long!) shows that the coverage of clinical topics will be broad and comprehensive, and the nearby attractions will be plentiful for families.

The future of our society appears bright at the present time. We had a very strong attendance at the fall 2005 meeting at the Mount Washington Hotel, and residents and new members were actively involved in the educational program. One of the best indicators of success is the persistent large number of quality abstracts submitted for the annual meeting - 65 in 2005 and 103 in 2006, compared to only 26 in 2002, a time when the Executive Committee was very concerned with the actual viability of NESS. NESS, as an organization of many types of surgical specialists, needs to compete with specific national meetings that are a magnet for specialists and for residents seeking competitive fellowships. To counter this trend, active participation by invited guests and by numerous members from all the New England states—whether in the form of podium presentations, brief reports, poster presentations or discussions - will keep us vibrant. This year, panels and invited lectures are being kept to a minimum to allow space for all the presentations, that include the best clinical and research papers presented in the spring of this year at the Annual Resident Research Presentation Day. In 1916 our first President, Samuel Mixter, emphasized the importance of interplay between members, “not as strangers or neighbors, but as members of the same family,” and this activity remains the foundation of the educational side of NESS as we approach our 87th Annual meeting.

What issues will the Executive Committee focus on during the coming year? A major and ongoing challenge is to keep our younger members involved and to continue to recruit them, including minorities and women. The American College of

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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These papers reflect not only quantity but quality. The essence of that quality can best be appreciated by your **review** of the program book and your **attendance** at the meeting. The best reward for the author's efforts is an active discussion. Better understanding and new ideas spring from this interchange. This represents the soul of our society and a respite from the dreary paperwork and often meddlesome bureaucracy of healthcare.

The home base hotel will be the Marriott at Groton. The hotel is strategically located amidst the local color of Mystic Seaport, Old Mystic, New London's Sub Base, The Coast Guard Academy, the colorful villages of Stonington and Essex, and slightly farther afield Foxwoods Resort and Casino. Free time in any of these areas will be well worth the trip for you and family.

Friday, September 15th will feature papers and state caucuses to consider new candidates for membership in 2007. I would ask that you come prepared to nominate candidates. Future years will be especially important for these choices since we are close to our limit of 300 active members and yearly additions might well be fewer than in recent years. There are too few women in our ranks despite the increasing numbers in active practice and in our surgical training programs.

Friday night's reception will be at The Mystic Aquarium with a special baby whale show. Saturday morning will feature more papers and a symposium debating the Laparoscopic and Open Approaches to Benign and Malignant Colon Disease. Saturday's Annual dinner will be held in Groton with an after dinner Comedy Show about Health Care in America.

Sunday morning's Mixter Lecture will be given by Dr. Murray F. Brennan, Chair of Surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering and former President of the American Surgical Society. Murray is known to many of our members and will certainly be a highlight to our meeting. His talk will be a tough act to follow for your President's address but I will do my best!

The infectious camaraderie of last year's meeting in the mountains of New England spoke to our society's renewed vigor. Register ASAP for our 2006 Annual Meeting by the waters of New England and keep the ball rolling. Visit the NESS website (www.nesurgical.org) for quick and easy registration. Thank you.

The infectious camaraderie of last year's meeting in the mountains of New England spoke to our society's renewed vigor.



Highlights of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING June 7, 2006 / Waltham, Massachusetts

Dr. Robert M. Quinlan, President, introduced and welcomed the new representative to the ACS Board of Governors, Dr. Charles M. Ferguson.

Total assets as of April 30, 2006 were \$215,740, versus year-to-date 2005 assets of \$188,878. The Reconciliation portion of the Balance Sheet indicates beginning cash of \$222,319 on July 1, 2005, and the current operating deficit on April 30, 2006 of \$6,580. For the year, receipts totaled \$209,717; and disbursements, \$216,296, for the net operating deficit of \$6,580.

A financial report of the Charitable Foundation for the ten-month period ending April 30, indicated total assets as of April 30, 2006, of \$197,403.

Drs. Quinlan and Welch commented on a successful total number of 103 abstracts submitted for this year's meeting in Groton. 17 podium presentations were selected; of which 4 were resident prize and 2 were new member prize candidates. In addition there are 12 brief reports and 33 posters. As was done for the 2005 Annual Meeting, the presenters of the two prize-winning clinical and basic science papers from the Resident Research Day, already selected as two of the 17 podium papers, will be invited and given time on the Sunday morning portion of the meeting; since these papers have already won prizes at the Resident Research Day, they would not be eligible for the Resident Award.

Dr. James C. Hebert, Representative to the American Board of Surgery, circulated the ABS Spring Newsletter. Dr. Hebert reported that Dr. Richard H. Bell had been hired as the Assistant Executive Director of the ABS. Dr. Hebert thanked the Executive Committee for the opportunity to serve as the NESS Representative to the ABS; he commented that his participation with this position has been one of the most enjoyable things he has done. Dr. Lenworth M. Jacobs, Jr., will be the new representative to the ABS.

Dr. Bruce J. Leavitt has agreed to become the new Editor of the NESS Newsletter.

NESS State Representatives

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If any member of the NESS has an issue to be brought to the attention of the NESS Leadership, please contact your local representative.

The ISSUES Committee Invites all NESS Members to its Next Meeting

Saturday, September 16 / 12:15 (at the Annual Meeting)

The Issues Committee invites all members (and not just those recently inducted) to its next formal meeting in Groton, Connecticut, on Saturday, September 16, 2006, from 12:15 to 1:15 PM, in Conference Room 4 of the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa. The Issues Committee wants to gauge interest and level of potential membership involvement in a variety of projects it is considering undertaking, including a collaborative research effort across the NESS, and the development of one section of the 2007 Annual Meeting program. The meeting takes place after the adjournment of the last Saturday Scientific Session, so as not to coincide with any other scheduled events. Please join us; the committee hopes to involve as many members as are interested.

David L. Berger, M.D., Chair

Editor's Corner

(continued from page one)

several members of the NESS affected my surgical career. (I may ask other members of the NESS to be featured in future issues.)

I was raised in Waterville, Maine by two great parents. One was a school nurse and one an engineer. My father taught me carpentry, land surveying and drafting skills. These skills certainly helped me in my surgical career. My mother taught me the caring skills needed by a person entering the field of medicine. She provided an incredible amount of health care to the students and families of SAD #49 in Fairfield, Maine.

The University of Maine was where I chose to go to college with a pre-dental course planned. After three years of zoology, I decided to rethink my dental school plans. The summer before my senior year at the University of Maine, I removed the adrenal glands from mice for a research project. Though, I am not sure I could do that surgery now, it changed my mind and I was fortunate to be accepted and to attend the University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine.

I can still remember sitting in anatomy class during my first semester and watching a 16mm movie of cardiac surgery that was being performed and narrated by Dr. Lawrence Coffin. I think that was the day that started my pathway in cardiac and thoracic surgery. For the past seventeen years I have given that same thoracic surgery clinical correlation lecture to the first year medical students taking anatomy at UVM. Needless to say I remind the students that I listened to the same lecture many years before and look what happened!

William Cioffi and I rotated with Dr. Jim Hebert, who at that time was a surgical resident at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont. Drs. Jerome Abrams and John Davis were surgical mentors from whom Bill and I learned a great deal. I graduated from UVM College of Medicine in 1981 and traveled to Maine Medical Center (MMC) in Portland. I married Ms. Anne Stickney during my third year of surgical residency.

Our son, John Leavitt, was born two months before I finished at MMC. NESS members I learned from at MMC were Drs. Robert Kramer, Ferris Ray, David Clark, Michael Curci, Albert Dibbins, Walter Goldfarb, Robert McAfee, Jeremy Morton, Douglass Pennoyer, Frederick Radke and Clement Hiebert. Obviously, I learned a great deal about the NESS from these distinguished members of our society.

In 1986 our family moved to Syracuse, New York to begin a 2 year residency in cardiac and thoracic surgery at Upstate Medical Center. Dr. Carl Bredenberg was an attending and my role model during my CT fellowship there. My only job since completing my residency has been at UVM and Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC).

Allison (1989) and Haley Leavitt (1991) were born here in Vermont like their mother, grandparents, and great-grandparents. I have had the pleasure of working with Drs. Coffin, DeMeules, Littleman, Norotsky and Schmoker in our division over the past eighteen years. Dr. Norotsky will be inducted as a NESS member at our upcoming meeting. Currently I am Professor of Surgery at UVM and an attending in cardiac and thoracic surgery at FAHC. I have been a member of NESS since 1992 and the Vermont Representative since 2002. I know that I have not mentioned all of the NESS members that have had an impact on my surgical career. To those not mentioned, I apologize.

See you in Mystic!

I can still remember sitting in anatomy class during my first semester and watching a 16mm movie of cardiac surgery that was being performed and narrated by Dr. Lawrence Coffin.

From the President-Elect

(continued from page 5)

Surgeons has set a good example in this regard. The ad hoc Issues Committee will likely need financial support in its efforts to increase collaboration amongst younger members. Reserving a portion of the meeting for presentations organized by this Committee is planned, and the Executive Committee has discussed a retreat by this group as well. We will continue to seek sponsors for special educational sessions since our endoscopy course held in Bretton Woods received favorable comments.

Our active membership is approaching the limit of 300 and the issue of expanding our society even further has been raised. This raises a dilemma, since enlarging our society could limit our choice of rural meeting locations, and diminish some of the ambience that can only be felt at a regional gathering of close professional colleagues and friends. Given our densely populated, but geographically small area containing numerous academic and community surgeons, our society has unique opportunities. Such attributes should facilitate organization by NESS of regional databanks and collaborative outcome studies, data that is actively sought by government and by the insurance industry. The time is now.

One of the best indicators of success is the persistent large number of quality abstracts submitted for the annual meeting - 65 in 2005 and 103 in 2006, compared to only 26 in 2002, a time when the Executive Committee was very concerned with the actual viability of NESS.



www.nesurgical.org

New England Surgical Society
Established in 1916

The New England Surgical Society is pleased to offer a comprehensive and robust website. We encourage NESS members to check out the website at www.nesurgical.org where you will find Society news and more:



- ◆ The complete Annual Meeting Program with an individual link to every abstract being presented during the meeting;
- ◆ Register Online for the Annual Meeting;
- ◆ Society activities and information on upcoming events;
- ◆ Link to *Archives of Surgery* for reviewing and submitting papers;
- ◆ Society Archives to review past annual meetings and past issues of the Newsletter;
- ◆ A “Members Only” area.



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