



New England Surgical Society Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 2

August 2008

2007-2008 Executive Committee

President

Thomas A. Colacchio, MD

President-Elect

Francis D. Moore, Jr., MD

Vice President

Jack M. Monchik, MD

Secretary

Thomas F. Tracy, Jr., MD

Treasurer

Nicholas P.W. Coe, MD

Recorder

Neil S. Yeston, MD

Past President

John P. Welch, MD

Representative to the ACS Board of Governors

Charles M. Ferguson, MD

Representative to ACS Advisory Council for General Surgery

Kristen A. Zarfos, MD

Representative to American Board of Surgery

Lenworth M. Jacobs, Jr., MD

Representative - Connecticut

Kenneth A. Ciardiello MD

Representative - Maine

Frederick R. Radke, MD

Representative - Massachusetts

Michael D. Stone, MD

Representative - New Hampshire

A. Ronald Grimm, MD

Representative - Rhode Island

Michael P. Vezeridis, MD

Representative - Vermont

Bruce J. Leavitt, MD

Office of the Executive Director
900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U
Beverly, Massachusetts 01915
(978) 927-8330 / (978) 524-8890 fax
ness@prri.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thomas A. Colacchio, MD

Thank you again for the privilege of being your President this year. It certainly has been a busy one for the Society and I am proud to report on some of the initiatives that have been undertaken by our organization in 2008.

Richard Barth, 2008 Program Chair, has been hard at work with the other members of the Program Committee on developing an excellent scientific program for our 89th Annual Meeting in Boston on September 26th to 28th. From the 66 abstracts that were submitted, Rick and his Committee selected 16 for Podium Presentation, 12 as Brief Reports, and 35 for Poster Presentation. The Basic and Clinical science winners from the Society's Research Day this past May will also be presenting their work and the program will kick off with a special Historical paper on Friday afternoon.

Other highlights of the 2008 Annual Meeting include:

- A Panel Discussion titled "When States Ensure Health Care Coverage: Lessons from Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont" with guest panelists from various organizations throughout New England
- Specialty Group Breakfast Sessions on Maintenance of Certification, Acute Care Surgery, and On-Call Reimbursement
- A special dinner for Young Surgeons & New Members
- A Satellite Symposium Highlighting Laparoscopic Liver Resection, Thyroidectomy and Bariatric Surgery, conducted by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, on Saturday afternoon

(continued on page 6)

Editor's Corner

Bruce J. Leavitt, MD

It is mid August in New England. Windows at night are open and a cool breeze helps us get good nights sleep. In fact, the weatherman tells me tonight in Vermont will have temperatures in the mid 40's. That means that fall is in the air. With fall comes the annual meeting of the New England Surgical Society. This year our members and guests will congregate in Boston, our largest city in New England. Us "country folk" from the northern reaches look forward to a trip to the "big city" for a little culture and excitement. This year's program is exciting and will be well worth attending. Dr. Walter Goldfarb will give a lecture on Harvey Cushing and the New England Surgical Society. Lucian Leape MD will give the 24th Annual Mixer Lecture. Dr. Colacchio, our president, will give the Presidential



(continued on page 7)



OBJECTIVE

The Annual Meeting is designed to provide one and one half days of comprehensive educational experiences in the fields of clinical surgery, experimental surgery and related sciences, surgical education and the socioeconomic aspects of surgical care. It is the Society's intent to bring together at this meeting the leading surgeons and scientists from New England to freely and openly discuss their latest clinical and research findings.

MEETING REGISTRATION

You can register for the 89th Annual Meeting online, via the NESS website. Visit www.NESurgical.org. This simple and fast tool enables you to receive your confirmation immediately. You may also choose to download and fax or mail the meeting registration form.

SEAPORT HOTEL

Seaport's fresh and inviting surroundings reflect its rejuvenating location on Boston's historic waterfront. Stunning views, convenient location and gracious staff set this Four-Diamond hotel apart. Once inside, Seaport delights with unparalleled service, sophistication and innovative amenities including a unique service-inclusive policy and technology that is always a step ahead.

89th Annual Meeting Highlights

24th Annual Samuel Jason Mixter Lecture

Lucian Leape, MD, Boston, MA

Presidential Address

Thomas A. Colacchio, MD
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Panel Discussion:

When States Ensure Health Care Coverage: Lessons from Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont

Moderator: Richard J. Barth, Jr., MD

Panelists: Steven Michaud, Nancy Turnbull, PhD,
and James Hester, PhD

Welcome Reception

This year's Welcome Reception will be held in the new Lighthouse Ballroom of the Seaport Hotel. Enjoy the view and lights of Boston Harbor and downtown Boston with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from 6:00 PM–7:00 PM.

Please note that only drinks and light appetizers will be served and dinner arrangements should be made in advance for that evening if you chose to do so.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM (Subject to Change)

Friday, September 26, 2008

SCIENTIFIC SESSION I

PRE-CENTENNIAL HISTORY LECTURE: An Historical Paper: Harvey Cushing and the New England Surgical Society

Walter B. Goldfarb

A Satisfying Surgical Practice: The Academic Trauma Service Model

Suresh Agarwal, Lejla Hadzikadic, Peter A. Burke, Andrew Glantz, James Becker, Erwin Hirsch

Outcomes Following Thyroidectomy and Parathyroidectomy in Pregnant Women in the US

SreyRam Kuy, Sanziana Roman, Leon Boudourakis, Julie Ann Sosa

Outcome of Living Donor Liver Transplantation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Khashayar Vakili, James Pomposelli, William D. Lewis, Fredric D. Gordon, Maryann Simpson, Roger L Jenkins, Elizabeth A. Pomfret

Living Donor Kidney Transplantation with Multiple Arteries: Recent Increase in Modern Era of Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy

Reza Saidi, Tatsou Kawai, Peter Kennealey, George Tsouflas, Nahel Elias, Martin Hertl, A.B. Cosimi, Dicken S.C. Ko

Medical and Life Insurance Difficulties for Living Organ Donors

Jennifer E. Verbese, Mary Ann Simpson, Elizabeth A. Pomfret

Adrenal Biopsy is Unhelpful in the Evaluation of Adrenal Incidentaloma : A Decade of Experience

Peter J. Mazzaglia, Jack M. Monchik

Outcomes From 3,144 Adrenalectomies in the U.S.: Which Matters More, Surgeon Volume or Specialty?

Henry S. Park, Sanziana A. Roman, Leon Boudourakis, Daniel C. Thomas, Julie Ann Sosa

Minimally Invasive Component Separation for Abdominal Wall Reconstruction

Charles M. Ferguson

Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Using an Acellular Porcine Dermal Implant

Russell Babbitt, Genevieve B. Broderick, Nelson L. Jenkins, Timothy Emhoff, Janice F. Lalikos, Richard A. Perugini, Raymond M. Dunn

SCIENTIFIC SESSION II

Low Morbidity and Zero Mortality in an Initial Experience of 500 Gastric Bypass Procedures

Jennifer E. Verbese, Pam O'Brien, Corinne Vigilante, Mary Ann Simpson, Dmitry Nepomnayshy, David Brams

Pediatric Rib Fractures May Not be a Marker for Worse Outcomes

Amanda Feigel, Felix Y. Lui, Kevin M Schuster, Kimberly A. Davis

Indications and Outcomes for Video Assisted Thoracic Surgical Sympathectomy

Bruce J. Leavitt

Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation for Non-neonatal Acute Respiratory Failure: The Massachusetts General Hospital Experience from 1990 to 2008

Deepika Nehra, Allan M. Goldstein, Daniel P. Doody, Daniel P. Ryan, Peter T. Masiakos

Hemoglobin A1c as a Predictor for Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery Complications

Krista E. Evans, Bruce J. Leavitt, Turner M. Osler, Mitchell Norotsky

What is the Evidence for Anastomotic Leak Testing in Colorectal Anastomoses

Rocco Ricciardi, Patricia L. Roberts, Peter W. Marcello, David J. Schoetz, Lawrence C. Rusin

Fulminant Clostridium Difficile Colitis: Patterns of Care and Predictors of Mortality

Elizabeth A. Sailhamer, Katherine Carson, Yuchiao Chang, Nikolaos Zacharias, Konstantinos Spaniolas, Malek Tabbara, Hasan B. Alam, Marc A. DeMoya, George C. Velmahos

State Caucus Meetings

Saturday, September 27, 2008

SPECIALITY GROUP BREAKFAST

PROGRAM DIRECTORS BREAKFAST MEETING

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SCIENTIFIC SESSION III

Increasing Rates of Colorectal Cancer Incidence and Mortality Among Racial Minorities in Connecticut

Stanley K. Frencher, Jr., Walter E. Longo, Paul A. Sullivan, Charles Cha, Robert A Kozol,

Distal Margins in Radical Resections for Rectal Cancer after Chemoradiation Therapy: How Short is Long Enough?

Victor E. Pricolo, Adam Abodeely, Mark Legolvan, Murray Resnick

National Patterns in the Management of Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasm: Are We Making a Difference?

Jessica P. Simons, Sing Chau Ng, Shimul A. Shah, Theodore P McDade, Giles F. Whalen, Jennifer F. Tseng

Identification of Quality Measures for Breast Cancer Surgery and Assessment of Surgeon Variation at the University of Vermont

Alicia R. Privette, Laurence McCahill, Ted James, Seth Harlow, Mary Stanley, David Krag, Johanna Sheehey-Jones

Panel Discussion: When States Ensure Health Care Coverage: Lessons from Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont

BREAK with POSTER SESSION

Factors Predicting Morbidity and Mortality in Emergency Colorectal Procedures in the Elderly

Edward A. McGillicuddy, Kevin M. Schuster, Kimberly A. Davis, Walter E. Longo

Merkel Cell Carcinoma: Evolution from Historical to Current Management Consensus

Bing Yi, Ponnandai Somasundar, James Kones, N. Joseph Espat

Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for Primary Breast Cancer: a Ten Year Institutional Experience

Hong Jun, John C. Russell, Charles Wiggins, Huining Kang

The Impact of Body Mass Index on Outcomes in Partial Nephrectomies for Renal Cell Cancer

Charles Dolce, William DeVoe, H. James Norton, David Iannitti, B. Todd Heniford, Chris Teigland, Kent Kercher

The Relationship of Gender and Associated Outcomes of Traumatic Diaphragmatic Hernias

Charles Dolce, Jennifer Keller, K. Christian Walters, H. James Norton, David Iannitti, Kent Kercher, B. Todd Heniford

Quantitative Analysis of Gene Expression and Production of Multiple Growth Factors in the Early Tendon Healing Stage: Implications in Molecular Therapy

Paul Liu, Jin Bo Tang, Chuan Hao Chen

Development of AAV2-VEGF for Gene Therapy- In Vitro Kinetics of Gene Expression

Paul Liu, Xiao Tian Wang, Qiang Zhong Ma, Anthony Bais

Upper GI Multidisciplinary Cancer Program and Efficiency and Quality of Care

Laurence E. McCahill, Alicia Privette, Nicole Messier, Joan Blondin

(continued on next page)

Can Aviation Based Team Training Contribute to Sustainable Personal Empowerment?

Harry C. Sax, Patrick Browne, Rebecca Burke, Nancy Coelho, Sandra Coletta, Kathleen Hittner

Immunohistological Characterization of Tissue Engineered Graft Remodeling in Severe Combined Immunodeficient/beige (SCID/bg) Mouse Model

Rajendra F. Sawh-Martinez, Narutoshi Hibino, Jason Roh, Tamar Mirensky, Christopher Breuer

Selective Anterior Sector Venous Outflow Reconstruction After Live Donor Liver Transplantation (LDLT): Effect on Patient and Graft Survival

James J. Pomposelli, Kenneth McPartland, Khashayar Vakili, William D. Lewis, Roger L. Jenkins, Mohamed Akoad, Elizabeth A. Pomfret

Parathyroid Devascularization: A Novel Operative Technique in Remedial Parathyroid Surgery

Tobias J. Carling, Patricia I. Donovan, Robert Udelsman

Laparoscopic Operative Skills are Predicted by Virtual Reality Simulator Performance

Lucian Panait, Kurt E. Roberts, Robert L. Bell, Michael Martinez, Stanley J. Dudrick, Andrew J. Duffy

Cumulative Initial Experience Using Hyaluronate-Iodine Complex in Wound Healing

Robert A. Brenes, Michael S. Ajemian, Stanley J. Dudrick

Eph-B4 Stimulates Endothelial Cell Migration by an Akt1-Dependent Mechanism

Tiffany T. Fancher, Akihito Muto, Tamara N. Fitzgerald, Dania Magri, Stanley J. Dudrick, Alan A. Dardik

Feasibility and Development of Trigger Tools for Surveillance of Adverse Events in Ambulatory Surgery

Haytham M.A. Kaafarani, Amy K. Rosen, Jonathan Nebeker, Stephanie Shimada, Hillary Mull, Peter Rivard, Brenna Long, Lucy Savitz, Kamal M.F. Itani

Professionalism in Consult Practices

Susana C. Wishnia, Keren Ladin, Jack Ansell, James Petros, Jennifer Rosen

A Neoadjuvant Strategy for Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Helps Patients Receive All Components of Care: Lessons from a Single-institution Database

May Piperdi, Theodore P. McDade, Joon K. Shim, Mary E. Sullivan, Giles L. Whalen, Jennifer F. Tseng

Ergonomics of the Endocrine Surgeon

Melanie Goldfarb, Sareh Parangi

Hyaluronic Acid/Carboxymethylcellulose (HA/CMC) Adhesion Barrier is Only Effective in Reducing Adhesion Formation at the Site of Placement in a Rat Model

Rizal Lim, Jonathan M Morrill, Ryan C. Lynch, Karen L. Reed, Adam C. Gower, Susan E. Leeman, Arthur F. Stucchi, James M. Becker

Sphingosine-1-phosphate Upregulates Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Expression in Human Neuroblastoma Cells via S1P2/ROCK/ERK Pathway

Fernando Ferrer, Meihong Li, Teresa Sanchez, Tim Hla

Catechin and Magnolol Ameliorate Oxidative Stress in Pancreatic Acinar Cells

Julie A. Alosi, Debbie E. McDonald, David W. McFadden

Medical Student Performance in Surgical Patient Simulation Correlates With End-Of-Clerkship Oral Examination Performance

Gladys L. Fernandez, Neal E. Seymour, David W Page

Early Graft Function in Pre-emptive Versus Previously Dialyzed Live Donor Kidney Transplant Recipients

Anthony Del Signore, Paul Morrissey, Staci Fischer, Reginald Gohh, Jason Machan, Anthony Monaco, Angelito Yango, Carolyn Young, Kevin P. Charpentier

Portal Venous Thrombi (PVT) Following Ileal Pouch-Anal Anastomosis (IPAA) for Ulcerative Colitis (UC): Is There a Need for Early Post-Operative Detection?

Kelly D. Gonzales, Avneesh Gupta, Jaroslaw Tkacz, Arthur F. Stucchi, Jorge Soto, Erwin Hirsch, James M. Becker

Surgeons' Volume of Colorectal Cancer Procedures and Collaborative Decision-making about Adjuvant Therapies

Selwyn O. Rogers, Jr., John Z. Ayanian, Clifford Y. Ko, Katherine L. Kahn, Alan M. Zaslavsky, Robert S. Sandler, Nancy L. Keating (Presented by Aundrea Oliver)

Do Learning Curves for Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Exist in the Era of Laparoscopically-Trained Surgical Residents?

Angela K. Moss, Bram A. Nijse, Suzanne M. Sokal, David L. Berger

Total Extraperitoneal Inguinal Hernia Repair Without Fixation: The Era of Minimal Pain and Negligible Early Hernia Recurrence is Here

Evangelos Messaris, Guy Nicastrì, Stanley J. Dudrick

Surgical Management of Two Consecutive Pediatric Paragangliomas with Aggressive Phenotypes

Christopher S. Muratore, Abigail Martin, Mimi S. Kim, Daniel S. Kim, Shamlal Mangray, Jose B. Quintos, Thomas F. Tracy

SCIENTIFIC SESSION IV

Trends in Presentation and Survival for Gallbladder Cancer Over More Than Four Decades. A Single Institution Experience

Ioannis Konstantinidis, David Berger, Carlos Fernandez-del Castillo, Kenneth Tanabe, Cristina Ferrone

Results of Aggressive Surgical Resection for Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma

Mohamed Akoad, Kashayar Vakili, Kenneth McPartland, James J. Pomposelli, Elizabeth A. Pomfret, David W. Lewis, Roger L. Jenkins

Current Trends in Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms: Watch and Wait, or Resect?

Cristina R. Ferrone, Camilo Correa-Gallego, Andrew L. Warshaw, William Brugge, David Forcione, Sarah P. Thayer, Carlos Fernandez-del-Castillo

Blunt Pancreato-Duodenal Injury: A Multi-Center Study of the Research Consortium of New England Centers for Trauma (ReCONNECT)

George C. Velmahos, Malek Tabbara, Ronald Gross, Peter Burke, Timothy Emhoff, Rajan Gupta, Robert J. Winchell, Lisa Patterson, Michael Rosenblatt, James Hurst, Bruce Crookes, Sheldon Brotman

Outcomes Following Severe Head Injury: An NTDB Based Comparison of Level I and Level II Trauma Centers

Fuad Alkhoury, John Courtney, Charles Bakhos, Judy O'Connor, Donald Kim, John Bonadies

ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY SYMPOSIUM
Highlighting Laparoscopic Liver Resection, Thyroidectomy and Bariatric Surgery.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & BANQUET

Sunday, September 28, 2008

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (Members Only)

1st Place Research Day Presentations
Clinical Paper- Is Hepatitis C (HCV) Recurrence Increased in the Recipients of Live Donor Right Lobe Liver Grafts?

Jennifer E. Verbese

Basic Paper - Improved Outcomes Following Peripheral Nerve Repair Using a Photochemical Technique

Francis P. Henry, MD

SCIENTIFIC SESSION V

Novel Therapeutic Approaches to Premature Lung Disease Utilizing Stem Cells

Christine Finck, Blair Roszell, Ariel Seaton, Guo-Hua Fong

Does an Academic Incentive Plan Encourage Previously Uncompensated Academic Pursuits in Surgery?

Chandrajit P. Raut, Christine C. Mitchell, Dennis P. Orgill, Michael J. Zinner, Stanley W. Ashley

BOOT CAMP: Implementation of an Intensive Simulation-based Educational Curriculum for New Surgical Interns

Gladys L. Fernandez, Neal E. Seymour, Richard B. Wait, Patrick C. Lee, Loki Skylizard, Myron St. Louis, Ronald Bush, David W. Page

24TH ANNUAL SAMUEL JASON MIXTER LECTURE

Lucian Leape, MD

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Health, Society and the Surgeon: The News

Thomas A. Colacchio, MD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FUTURE NESS ANNUAL MEETINGS

September 11-13, 2009
Hyatt Regency Newport
Newport, Rhode Island

October 28-31, 2010
The Saratoga Hilton
Saratoga Springs, New York

BOSTON & AREA ATTRACTIONS

SEAPORT DISTRICT ATTRACTIONS

- Black Falcon Cruise Terminal
- Boston Fire Museum
- Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
- Castle Island
- Children's Museum
- Harpoon Brewery
- John Joseph Moakley US Courthouse
- Spirit of Boston

MUSEUMS

- Institute of Contemporary Art
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- JFK Library & Museum
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Museum of Science
- New England Aquarium

SHOPPING

- Charles Street in Beacon Hill
- Copley Place
- Newbury Street in Back Bay
- Quincy Market
- Shops at the Prudential

SIGHTSEEING TOURS

- Boston Duck Tours
- Old Town Trolley Tours

HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

- Boston Common & Public Garden
- Bunker Hill Monument
- Faneuil Hall
- Massachusetts State House
- North End
- Old North Church
- Old State House
- Paul Revere House
- The Freedom Trail
- Trinity Church
- USS Constitution



FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page one)

Our long-term friend and colleague, Lucian Leape, will be our 24th Annual Samuel Jason Mixter Lecturer. In keeping with the heat of the political season now upon us I have also invited Susan Dentzer, a former correspondent for the *Jim Lehrer News Hour*, to be our guest speaker at the President's Dinner on Saturday evening.

Aside of the Annual Meeting, other actions undertaken by the Executive Committee this past year included working in tandem with the *Archives of Surgery* in meeting new requirements surrounding the publication of manuscripts from our Annual Meeting. In addition, ground has been broken on projects related to the 100-year celebration of the NESS in 2016 which included the establishment of a new Ad Hoc Centennial Celebration Committee. Another project related to this has been working with the Countway Library in Boston on the categorization of the Society's Archive into their "Finding Aid" online system; I encourage all NESS members to view what is now available from our expanding archive by visiting this "Finding Aid" site at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HMS.Count:med00102>.

In conclusion, I will again remind all members that the health and relevance of our Society is directly related to your involvement through regular attendance at the Annual Meeting; the educational impact from which becomes more and more comprehensive with each passing year. I, therefore, look forward to seeing you at this year's meeting at the Seaport World Trade Center and Hotel in Boston on September 26th to 28th.

In keeping with the heat of the political season now upon us I have also invited Susan Dentzer, a former correspondent for the *Jim Lehrer News Hour*, to be our guest speaker at the President's Dinner on Saturday evening.

Thomas A. Colacchio, M.D.

From the President-Elect

Francis D. Moore, Jr., MD



Thank you for the honor of being the New England Surgical Society President-elect and I am looking forward to another year of progress as we finish the reminder of 2008 and move into 2009.

During the last several months, I have had the privilege of working with others in the NESS Leadership, once again, on numerous important initiatives as well as the selection of quality scientific papers for presentation and

discussion during our upcoming Annual Meeting in Boston. Our Annual Meeting program is a very unique one and I am proud of our organization's 89-year achievement in providing a consistent quality educational forum that incorporates an enjoyable social element as well.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, a key item on our work agenda for this year will be the aggressive development of our other important educational forum – the spring NESS Resident and Fellow Research Presentation Day. For a number of years now, this program has been developing at a steady pace with an ever increasing number of young participants from academic programs throughout New England. It is time we take this event to the next level with an application for CME accreditation as well as expanded marketing efforts. Please remember that attendance of the

Research Day counts toward your NESS participation requirement; plan to attend in 2009 and you will be impressed by our younger colleagues and their accomplishments.

Other items on the NESS agenda for the coming year include the establishment of electronic membership balloting, online membership dues renewal through the NESS website, information exchange with the American College of Surgeons and the American Board of Surgery through our Society representatives, and continued efforts toward our 2016 Centennial Celebration project.

Thank you again for the privilege of being the next NESS President. I look forward to seeing you in Boston and feel free to share your ideas with me on how the NESS might enhance its service to membership.

Thank you again for the privilege of being the next NESS President. I look forward to seeing you in Boston and feel free to share your ideas with me on how the NESS might enhance its service to membership.

Editor's Corner

(continued from page one)

Address entitled "Health, Society and the Surgeon: The News" on Sunday. In addition to the poster presentations, brief reports, and podium presentations there will be a panel discussion on three of our New England state's ensuring of health care coverage. For the first time our society will host a dinner for new members and for members of the Ad Hoc Issues Committee. The society is trying to increase the interest and participation of new members and this dinner should serve as a wonderful start to the membership of our new initiates. Dr. David Berger will demonstrate the secret handshake at the dinner! I will be looking forward to seeing all of you in Boston. My camera and I will be on the lookout for candid shots of our members and guests.

We all know that summers are short in New England. In the northern locations of our region, our summer has seen its share of wild weather. Tornadoes in New Hampshire and flooding in Maine and Vermont occurred. I played golf in New Hampshire in the beginning of August. This photo tells it all about our rainy summer.



Earlier this month I was consulted on a young man with mild heart failure. He had a heart murmur even a first year medical student could appreciate. After multiple tests it was discovered that he had a fistula between the sinus of valsalva of the aorta and the right ventricle. A few clicks on

the keyboard connected me to the Internet. A quick search told me that this was a rare condition that would require high-risk cardiac surgery. We took the patient to the operating room for corrective surgery. The picture below was taken in the operating room during that procedure.



One notices that there are three surgeons intensely focusing on the operation. Two are scrubbed and my partner and division chief, Dr. Frank Littleman, is looking over the ether screen giving advice and support. In this picture, you can see the concentration of all involved. One important facet of surgery is the ability to call on your partners to help. It may not always involve their hands touching the patient, but good partners are always there for support. Computers and the Internet can provide information, but real surgical help comes from your partners. I am fortunate to have 3 excellent surgical partners including Dr. Mitch Norotsky who also is a New England Surgery Society member. As I have written about in a previous newsletter, members of the New England Surgical Society know that they can be called upon for advice from other members.

I will be looking forward to seeing all of you in Boston. Let us hope that the Boston Red Sox will be closing in on a playoff spot at the time of our meeting. The Evil Empire will be in town playing our boys during our meeting.

Have a great fall.

Bruce J. Leavitt, M.D.



Visit the New England Surgical Society's Website for the latest NESS News.

www.nesurgical.org

From the NESS Representative to the American Board of Surgery

Lenworth M. Jacobs, MD, MPH, FACS

Director Updates

The Board welcomed three new directors, selected by their respective organizations, to begin six-year terms on the Board: Bruce Schirmer, representing SAGES, Anthony Senagore, representing the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and R. James Valentine, representing the APDS. In addition, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery has selected Cameron Wright to begin a term on the Board, and he will attend the next meeting.

Directors completing their terms were Timothy Flynn, Chair of the Board, representing the APDS, James Fleshman, representing the ABCRS, and Larry Kaiser, representing the ABTS. Dr. Jo Buyske, who represented SAGES to the Board, is now a member of the executive staff of the ABS.

Staff Changes

After a national recruitment, Dr. Jo Buyske, previously Chief of Surgery at Presbyterian Hospital and a Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the staff of the ABS in January 2008 as Associate Executive Director and Director of Evaluation, and assumed full responsibility for this position July 1, replacing Dr. Robert Rhodes. Dr. Rhodes will reduce his work to half-time and will be Associate Executive Director for Vascular Surgery. In addition, he will assist with several special research projects and with the further development of the Maintenance of Certification program.

Curriculum Project and SCORE

The Surgical Council on Resident Education, under the direction of Dr. Dick Bell, and the General Surgery Residents Committee (GSRC), under Dr. Stan Ashley, continued to actively move forward with the further development of multiple aspects of the curriculum project. The scope of the diseases and operations to be included in the curriculum was finalized in late 2007 and early 2008, and presently the goals, objectives, and testing material for the first 117 modules within this curriculum are under development with volunteers from the GSRC and APDS.

Dr. Bell has secured contracts with B. C. Decker Publishing, current publishers of ACS Surgery and the Cameron Surgical Atlas, for full access to material in those publications, as well as with Lippincott and McGraw Hill for selective access to surgical educational material in their publications. In addition, SAGES, through President Mark Talamini, has generously offered their extensive library of teaching videos and written material, focused on minimally invasive surgery and endoscopy, to the SCORE project.

Materials from all of these sources will be incorporated into a SCORE website, a beta version of which is due to go online in September 2008, which will be used as source material for resident education, and will be presented within the context of the curriculum developed by the GSRC.

Construction of the website is being overseen by Mr. James Fiore, Director of Information Technology for the ABS, and is subcontracted to Mr. Mark Hickey, an external vendor. As noted, the initial debut of the website is scheduled for September, at which time it will be made available to a beta testing group of 33 surgical residencies which have been selected on a random basis to represent various characteristics in regard to size, type, etc. The beta test is planned for 8-10 months, with extensive feedback to be solicited during that time from users, and the final version of the website is projected to be available in July 2009, for rollout to all surgical residencies.

It is intended that the website will provide a "one-stop" location for varied and innovative educational material for surgical residents, structured according to the surgical curriculum defined by the ABS. In addition, it will provide questions and other assessment methodologies designed to allow residents to self-assess their educational progress during residency, and to compare themselves to national norms.

More formalized educational and assessment tools are under development on several fronts, and will be incorporated into SCORE as they become available. For example, Dr. Gary Dunnington, Chair of Surgery at Southern Illinois University, and his staff, have developed an intraoperative assessment tool focused on the objective evaluation of multiple operative procedures specific to various levels of surgical training. The ABS has recently agreed to underwrite the testing and validation of this tool by Dr. Dunnington over the next two years, with the intent of incorporating this into residency assessment when it has been fully proven.

Developmental costs of this project are being funded primarily by the ABS from institutional reserves; none of the costs are incorporated into operating accounts and therefore do not impact in any way on the costs of the examinations administered by the Board. In addition significant supplementary funding for the first three years has been provided by the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, and the Association of Program Directors in Surgery, all of whom are members of the SCORE advisory panel.

Resident Educational Requirements

The Board at its June meeting, after extensive discussion, voted to initiate new requirements for surgical residents in regard to the completion of structured formal courses in three different areas: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), and Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS). The first two of these courses have been widely incorporated into most surgical residencies at the present time, and this will formalize the requirement that a resident complete each of these courses at least once during residency. FLS

(continued on next page)

represents a new requirement, and is considered to be an excellent way of rapidly gaining knowledge and experience in the basics of laparoscopic surgery during the early years of residency. It has been developed over the last few years by SAGES, and wide experience has already been developed with its use and value.

Completion of these courses will be a requirement for residents finishing training in June of 2010.

Maintenance of Certification

The other major project on which the ABS staff is focusing is the further development of MOC, and in particular the specifics of Part IV – assessment of performance in practice. Most of the measures which have been publicized by external groups relative to medical quality have focused on processes of care. These are germane to primary and ambulatory care, but have a less relevant role in assessing surgical performance, where outcomes are more important. As a result, the ABS has been focusing on ways in which surgical outcomes can become more central to the assessment of MOC Part IV, and is actively working with the American College of Surgeons in the development of its Case Logging System and Web Portal for Fellows. Dr.

John Birkmeyer and Dr. Clifford Ko are working with Dr. Barbara Bass and the NSQIP Committee of the ACS, to evaluate new and innovative ways of logging surgical procedure outcomes which may be used in satisfying the requirements of Part IV. In addition, Dr. Frank Opelka and the Surgical Quality Alliance (SQA), with representation from the ACS and most of the surgical specialty societies, is actively exploring the development of a registry which would satisfy most of the outcome measures needed to define surgical quality, as well as other information relative to surgical performance. The Board is actively participating in all of these efforts and anticipates that the requirements of Part IV will continuously evolve in the next few years as improved measures become available.

Orientation Video for Certifying Examination Candidates

It has become obvious in the last few years that the oral examination for general surgery certification has become an object of irrational proportions in the eyes of many graduating surgical residents, and multiple myths, word-of-mouth speculation, and misinformation are propagated in regard to it. One of the consequences is that it is widely believed by surgical residents that “prep” courses are necessary to

prepare for the examination, and well over half of all candidates taking the examination now subscribe to such courses, which may well cost upwards of \$2500 and consume three or four days, despite the lack of evidence that such courses have any benefit. In reality, the CE focuses entirely on basic general surgical knowledge, does not test on esoterica, and is intended only to assess the basic competency and safety of a graduating resident.

To provide better preparatory information to examination candidates and help dispel some of the rumors, the Board is developing an informational orientation video which will be mailed to all candidates who are taking the examination for their use. This will be filmed later this fall, and will be scripted, narrated, and produced by Dr. Jack Pickleman and his wife Brenda, with the intent of being ready for the graduates in June 2009.

Necrology

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of the following Senior Members: Jesse E. Thompson, February 25, 2008, and James C. Thompson, May 9, 2008, and Michael E. DeBaKey, July 11, 2008.

AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY						
SUMMARY OF 2007-2008 EXAMINATIONS						
Examination	# of Examinees	# Pass	# Fail	Pass Rate	Fail Rate	Total # Diplomates
Qualifying	1293	1,010	283	78.1%	21.9%	
Recertification	1703	1,601	102	94.0%	6.0%	17,533
Vascular Surgery QE	106	95	11	89.6%	10.4%	
Vascular Surgery Recert.	174	163	11	93.7%	6.3%	1,612
Surgical Critical Care	128	116	12	90.6%	9.4%	2,473
SCC Recertification	101	89	12	88.1%	11.9%	1,146
Pediatric Surgery QE	64	61	3	95.4%	4.6%	
Pediatric Surgery Recert.	122	116	6	95.1%	4.9%	660
Hand Surgery	6	3	3	50.0%	50.0%	237
Hand Surgery Recert.	13	13	0	100%	0%	141
Vascular Surgery ITE	240	---	---	N.A.	N.A.	
Pediatric Surgery ITE	85	---	---	N.A.	N.A.	
ITE – Junior Level Exam	3913	---	---	N.A.	N.A.	
ITE – Senior Level Exam	3699	---	---	N.A.	N.A.	
Certifying	1290	1,034	256	80.0%	20.0%	54,802
Pediatric Surgery CE	70	64	6	91.4%	8.6%	1,059
Vascular Surgery CE	114	107	7	93.9%	6.1%	2,783
TOTAL	13,121					

N.A. = Not applicable.
5,184 examinees, excluding the ITE, VSITE and PITE.

From the NESS Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for General Surgery

Kristen A. Zarfos, MD

The Advisory Council for General Surgery to the American College of Surgeons met April 5, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois.

The Council is comprised of a representative from each of the eight U.S. regional surgical Societies, one each from the American Surgical Association, the American Society of General Surgeons, the Canadian Association of General Surgeons, the American Board of Surgery, the ACS Board of Regents, the ACS Candidate and Associate Society, the Young (under 45 yo) Surgeons Committee, five Members-at-Large, two ACS Staff Liaisons. The chairman is Dr. David Feliciano.

Reports to the Council included:

- ♦ Groundbreaking for a new American College of Surgeons building in Washington, D.C., to house the Washington ACS staff and several surgical societies was scheduled for May, 2008.
- ♦ The Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund (SDIF), in which the College has investments, is now available to individuals and surgical organizations.
- ♦ Meetings have been set for the Society of Thoracic Surgery and Society of Vascular Surgery to discuss potential collaboration in data collection and feedback using the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP).
- ♦ The ACSPA-Surgeons PAC was reported as doing well, with contributions made to Congressional leaders and other members of Congress who have supported the College's legislative agenda. ACS has continued meetings regarding Medicare payment reform.

Definition of General Surgery

A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to the creation of the definition of general surgery. Dr. Feliciano presented his draft "Description of a General Surgeon" and a lengthy discussion ensued, emphasizing the issue of the rapidly evolving field of what general surgery encompasses. Suggestions were discussed and collected. Dr. Feliciano was to present a final revision to the June 2008 Board of Regents meeting for approval.

Development of an Organization within the American College of Surgeons Devoted to General Surgery

June 2007 the Advisory Council for General Surgery proposed the establishment of an Academy of General Surgery within the American College of Surgeons to the Board of Regents. The Regents tabled the proposal. A great deal of time was spent at the April 5 meeting discussing this issue, with the consensus being that the concept of an "academy" be modified to reflect an Office for General Surgery. The initial directorship would be lead by a past ACGS chairman. Dr. Feliciano was to circulate a revised proposal with details of structure, governance, funding, and what role it would serve the ACS membership to the Advisory Council for approval and then to the Board of Regents.

Rural Surgery

Attention to the general surgical needs in rural America remains a priority of the Advisory Council. Issues of these needs and how to address them were discussed. The fifth annual Rural Surgery Meeting will be held during the 2008 Clinical Congress. ACS members are encouraged to attend.

Clinical Congress

The Clinical Congress was studied and reviewed at a Strategic Planning Retreat by the ACS Program Committee.

Action items approved by the Board of Regents included: (1) the implementation of discipline-based and thematic tracts, designating all sessions as plenary sessions, (2) expansion of the review process for the Papers and Posters portion to involve members of the standing committees and Advisory Council engaged in the development of the tracks, (3) charging a late registration fee after a cut-off date, and (4) the expansion of the Clinical Congress venues to include Boston and San Diego.

The 2008 Clinical Congress post-graduate courses and 2009 Advisory Council proposed courses were discussed. ACS members are invited to submit suggestions for presentations and panels. The 2010 Clinical Congress

will be moved to Washington, D.C. from the previous site of New Orleans.

Attention to the general surgical needs in rural America remains a priority of the Advisory Council. Issues of these needs and how to address them were discussed. The fifth annual Rural Surgery Meeting will be held during the 2008 Clinical Congress.

From the NESS Representative to the ACS Board of Governors

Charles M. Ferguson, MD

The Board of Governors met October 7, 2007, in conjunction with the annual Clinical Congress. The Governors have identified Reimbursement, Liability, and Work Force Issues as major areas of concern. The ACS continues to work diligently through the Washington office to address Medicare physician reimbursement cuts. All Fellows are encouraged to notify their senators' offices immediately to express concern over pending legislation which would further reduce physician reimbursement. Though numerous governors expressed cynicism as to the ability of Pay for Performance to have any true positive impact on patient care, it seems clear that this movement will continue to expand, and the ACS offers support via NISQIP and the Web Portal. Liability issues remain a major problem for multiple areas of the country. Tort reform at the federal level is felt to be dead, and though several states have initiated significant tort reform, others have such hostile environments that surgeon recruitment and retention is a problem. This further impacts all health care access, as on average General Surgery produces 40% of hospitals' margins, and the lack of availability of general surgeons effects the ability of hospitals to remain open. Work Force Issues are felt to be a major concern because of a projected deficit in surgeon availability by 2020. While several medical schools have expanded their class size and several new medical schools have opened, this will not increase surgeon availability as there has been no increase in surgical residency positions in over 20 years, and without a new source for funding, it will not be possible to increase the number of such positions. The College is to embark on a

major study on workforce in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health.

On a positive note, the College is in a good financial situation, with total assets of \$473,687,000. There is currently \$387,115,000 in investment assets, with 16.3% annual return. Overhead runs a respectable 28%. Fellows are reminded that the Surgeons Diversified Investment Fund is managed by the same investment firm as the College's investments, with similar returns, and is open to all Fellows.

The Board of Regents has identified a communication problem with the Board of Governors. This was quite evident at the Oct.7 meeting of the Board of Governors, when it was pointed out by a member of the Governors that all of the Regents had actually left the meeting (for a meeting of the Board of Regents) during the discussion period of the Board of Governors meeting. The Regents have subsequently had two "webinar" meetings open to all members of the Board of Governors to discuss issues and get direct feedback. These meetings have been quite informative for both groups, have been well "attended" (meetings are held on the internet, so attendance is "virtual"), and have been viewed quite positively by all.

Finally, the College has been quite active in legislative issues this year. All Fellows have received communication from the college regarding the proposed Medicare cuts and have been urged to contact their legislators in regards to their voting. These initiatives will certainly continue in the coming year, when health care reform is sure to be a political issue with the new administration.

2008 NESS Resident Research Day Winners

The New England Surgical Society's 15th Annual Surgical Resident and Fellow Research Presentation Day was held on Friday, May 16, 2008 at The Conference Center at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts.

BASIC SCIENCE

1st Place **Francis P. Henry, MD**
Massachusetts General Hospital

"Improved Outcomes Following Peripheral Nerve Repair Using a Photochemical Technique"

Runner-Up **Alan A. Thomay, MD**
Rhode Island Hospital

"The Lack of IL-1 Signaling Decreases Fibrosis in Sterile Wounds With No Effect on Tensile Strength"

CLINICAL SCIENCE

1st Place **Jennifer E. Verbese, MD**
Lahey Clinic

"Is Hepatitis C (HCV) Recurrence Increased in the Recipients of Live Donor Right Lobe Liver Grafts?"

Runner-Up **Heather Lynn Yeo, MD**
Yale University

School of Medicine
"Tomorrow's Surgeons: Expectations of the US General Surgery Categorical Intern Class of 2007"

About The NESS Charitable Foundation

The NESS Charitable Foundation was established in the early 1980s and exists to provide financial support for the betterment of surgery in New England, through the education offered at the NESS Annual Meetings, as well as the professional development of young surgeons through the NESS Resident and Fellow Research Presentation Day.

Specific contributions currently made by the NESS Charitable Foundation on an annual basis include:

- ♦ Support of the Spring Resident and Fellow Research Presentation Day.
- ♦ Sponsorship of the Annual Meeting's Samuel Jason Mixter Lecturer.
- ♦ Sponsorship of the Nathan Smith Award at the Annual Meeting.
- ♦ Sponsorship of the New Member, Resident, and Poster Prizes awarded at the Annual Meeting.

In addition to the above, the Foundation is regularly called upon to help support other educational initiatives approved by the NESS Executive Committee that would benefit the surgical specialty.



The NESS Executive Committee encourages NESS members to make annual donations to this important resource. *Please note that contributions can also be made through the purchase of the official necktie, bowtie, or scarf of the organization as a portion of those proceeds are automatically transferred to the Foundation.*



New England Surgical Society
900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915

FIRST CLASS U.S. Postage PAID Plymouth, MA Permit No. 55

INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

- ♦ **2008 Annual Meeting Preliminary Program**
- ♦ **Message from the President**
- ♦ **Message from the President-Elect**
- ♦ **Reports from the NESS Representatives to the ACS Board of Governors, Advisory Council for General Surgery, and the American Board of Surgery**