



THE SURGICAL SCENE

OFFICIAL ♦ NEWSLETTER ♦ OF ♦ THE ♦ VIRGINIA ♦ CHAPTER ♦ ACS

www.virginiaacs.org

Spring 2011

President's Report

Craig S. Derkay, MD, FACS ♦ President, Virginia Chapter-ACS



Virginia's Surgeons continue to be challenged by the economic climate and the policies of our state and federal government. Your ACS chapter has been coordinating efforts with the Medical Society of Virginia and the American College of

Surgeons to stay ahead of the issues and to advocate for patients and physicians in the Commonwealth. In the past several months we have supported medical liability reform stabilizing Virginia's Medical Malpractice cap for the next 20 years as well as legislation that protects peer review and quality assurance documents from discovery. We anticipated that the Governor would sign HB1459 and SB771, which received overwhelming support in the General Assembly in the

coming days, and were dismayed that, despite the support of the medical society, trial lawyers, state hospital and healthcare associations, he vetoed it on the grounds that it would add costs to the system without offering offsets. As physicians residing in a state that already ranks 49th out of 50 in Medicaid reimbursements to providers we felt additionally challenged by a 4% cut scheduled to go into effect in July and worked successfully to convince the House of Delegates to put this

... continued on page 2

White Coats on Call

The Virginia Chapter participated in its first White Coats on Call day in conjunction with the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) on Wednesday February 9th in Richmond. Although it was not specifically planned this way, our day coincided with the portion of the Session where the House and Senate exchange bills. This resulted in few committee meetings the morning we visited and more time for us to sit down face-to-face with our Senators and Delegates. We had particularly useful sessions with Senators Ralph Northam, Jeffrey McWaters and Ralph Smith as well as Delegates Greg Habeeb and Manoli Loupassi. Our morning ended with our delegation being formally recognized by the Senate at the beginning of their afternoon session.

Grant from the American College of Surgeons to offset the expenses of the event. The Virginia Chapter was awarded a "Day at the Capitol" Chapter Advocacy Grant from the American College of Surgeons to offset the expenses of the event. We are grateful for the assistance of Amy Hewitt Assistant Director of Political Advocacy at the Medical Society of Virginia for the planning and implementation of the event. The Chapter was also fortunate to have Alexis Macias Regional State Affairs Associate at the American College of Surgeons join us for the day. The Chapter's White Coat Day will be featured in the April MSV Newsletter.

Join us!

2011 ANNUAL MEETING
May 13—15, 2011

Inside this issue:

President's Report	1
White Coats on Call	1
Membership Recruitment Campaign	2
Annual Meeting Update	3
2011 Leadership Conference & Fourth Annual Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference	3
Rural Surgery Committee Update: Is Bigger Better?	5
Humanitarian Award Recipients	7
ACS Rural Surgery Symposium and Skills Course	8



The Virginia Chapter was awarded a "Day at the Capitol" Chapter Advocacy Grant

President's Report (continued from front page)



money back into the budget. It was our position that the Medicaid cuts are anti-business and will result in substantial job loss since health care facilities are among the top three employers in 60% of localities in the state.

We have supported the efforts of our colleagues in Plastic Surgery to develop and implement regulations to ensure patient safety and quality surgical care in the office setting. We have attempted to educate the leadership of the Virginia Board of Medicine regarding the core principles developed by the College for developing these regulations and protecting the citizens of our state from

practitioners not adequately trained working in facilities not appropriately outfitted.

We continue to work to ensure that the state's trauma services are prepared to deal with disaster planning and that sufficient funding is available to provide expansion of medical school class sizes and corresponding expansion of surgical GME residency slots.

Our chapter was well-represented at the Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC the last week in March where we will be discussing the Obama administration's proposed two year "fix" to the SGR and the concept of Accountable Care Organization as it applies to surgeons' practices.

We once again have funded Humanitarian Awards for four deserving Surgical trainees in our State embarking on medical/surgical missions to help less fortunate peoples from around the world.

We have embarked on a membership drive that has brought over twenty new Surgeons into our Chapter from around the Commonwealth. We hope that they will join us for our Annual Meeting May 13-15 at the Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa/Short Pump.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING
May 13—15, 2011
Registration information enclosed!

Save the Date

Membership recruitment campaign

The Virginia Chapter had great success in our recent membership recruitment campaign – over 20 new members have joined the Chapter!

Current and new members see the value of belonging to the Chapter! We are an active and energetic Chapter organization which is actively engaged in educational, legislative and leadership activities.

Our Chapter is financially sound and our dues are less than \$100 per year. We support three Governors at the Clinical Congress and are well-represented on the educational program. Members of our Chapter hold leadership roles within the College and seek to represent our state colleagues on issues relevant to our region such as trauma preparedness, rural surgical considerations, reimbursement, scope of practice and the future of the surgical workforce.

Over 20 new members have joined



the Chapter!

Your active participation is vital to the Virginia Chapter!

Do you know a surgeon who is not yet a member of the Virginia Chapter?

YOU are the most valuable link to reaching potential new members.

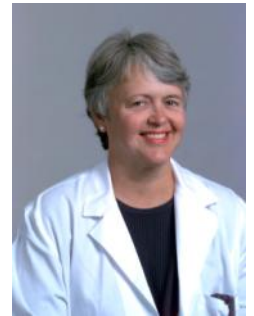
Please encourage your colleagues to become active members in the Virginia Chapter.

Need an application? Visit our website: www.virginiaacs.org.

Annual Meeting UPDATE

Join us May 13 – 15, 2011 for the Virginia Chapter, American College of Surgeons 2011 Annual Meeting! The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Virginia Surgical Society at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at Short Pump in Richmond. We are excited about the new meeting location; it will be the perfect place to bring your family!

We are delighted that Susan Briggs, MD, FACS has agreed to serve as the Chapter's Guest Speaker and will discuss The Role of Surgeons in Disaster Response: Changing Priorities. Dr. Briggs is an Attending General and Trauma Surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Her address will be followed by a panel discussion centered on the same topic, in which Dr. Briggs and several surgeons from around the state will participate. The program will include a Healthcare Reform Update from the American College of Surgeons staff as well as a state legislative update from the Medical Society of Virginia staff. We will also feature a



Dr. Susan Briggs

session on sleep deprivation for surgeons with considerations of informed consent for elective procedures and an update from the winners of the 2010 Humanitarian grants to hear about their experiences.



Dr. Michael Zenilman

The Keynote Speaker for the Virginia Surgical Society will be Michael E. Zenilman, MD from the Department of Surgery at Downstate Medical Center of the State University of New York. Dr. Zenilman will discuss "Surgery in the Elderly- Perioperative Considerations and "The Clinical Management of Pancreatitis."

To view a copy of the meeting agenda, visit us online at www.virginiaacs.org.

We hope that you will plan now to attend the annual meeting and that you will include your family. Richmond offers a host of activities for your family to enjoy Short Pump Town Center mall is minutes away from the hotel. Visit www.visitrichmondva.com for more information.



We encourage you to make your room reservations early! Room reservations can be made by clicking the link on our website, www.virginiaacs.org. Please note: Room block expires April 21, 2011.

Please note that you may also register and pay online at www.virginiaacs.org or go online to download a registration form and pay by check!

Register today!

Hurry! Room block expires April 21, 2011.

If you need further information and/or if you have questions, please call our Chapter Administrator, Susan McConnell, at (804) 643-6631 or send an email to smcconnell@ramdocs.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the spring!

2011 Leadership Conference & Fourth Annual Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference



The 2011 ACS Leadership Conference for Young Surgeons and Chapter Leaders and the Fourth Annual Joint Surgical Advocacy Conference (JSAC) was held on March 26 - 29, 2011 at the JW Marriott Hotel Washington. The Leadership Conference is for Young Surgeons and Chapter Leaders and consists of an educational program devoted to leadership topics. The JSAC Conference gives attendees from the surgical community the opportunity to join their peers in a collaborative advocacy effort.

The Virginia Chapter was well represented with members of the Council attending, and as always, we sent a Young Surgeon representative to the conference. This year, Dr. Timothy Novosel from Eastern Virginia Medical School was our representative.



Dr. Novosel

2011 Annual Meeting

Virginia Chapter, American College of Surgeons
Virginia Surgical Society

May 13 - 15, 2011 ♦ Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at Short Pump
Richmond, Virginia

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email address: _____

I WILL ATTEND:

Virginia Chapter, American College of Surgeons
Educational Program
Friday, May 13 ♦ 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 14 ♦ 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Virginia Surgical Society Educational Program
Saturday, May 14 ♦ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 15 ♦ 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Association of Women Surgeons, VA Chapter
Luncheon
Saturday, May 14 ♦ 12:30 p.m.
Please enter the number of people attending _____

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Please indicate *number* of participants in left column

FRIDAY, MAY 13

_____ **Cocktail Reception**
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Combined function of the VA-ACS and VSS.
Heavy hors d'oeuvres served.
Families welcomed to attend! (\$30 spouse/family fee)

SATURDAY, MAY 14

_____ **VSS Golf Tournament**
Course TBD ♦ 1:30 p.m.
Player name/handicap _____
Player name/handicap _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

♦ Cost to attend VA-ACS & VSS educational programs & cocktail reception \$110 in advance; \$160 at the door. A \$30 Family Fee applies if spouse or family members attend Friday night cocktail reception.

♦ Make checks payable to: VA-ACS. Send check & registration form to: 2201 West Broad Street, Ste. 205, Richmond, VA 23220. Registration is also available online at www.virginiaacs.org. We accept credit card payments online.

♦ Golf fees are paid by meeting registrant directly to the course.

♦ Students and Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting & cocktail reception - free of charge!

♦ The Association of Women Surgeons luncheon is free for medical students, residents, and for those registered to attend the ACS & VSS meetings. Otherwise, the cost to attend is \$20.00.

EARLY ROOM RESERVATIONS

A limited number of rooms are being reserved at the Hilton. Reserve your room through the Chapter's website at www.virginiaacs.org to take advantage of the discounted room rate for the Virginia Chapter, American College of Surgeons/Virginia Surgical Society. **Hurry! Room block expires on Tuesday, April 21, 2011.**

QUESTIONS

Please direct questions to Susan McConnell, Chapter Administrator: (804) 643-6631, or email: smcconnell@ramdocs.org. Fax: (804) 788-9987. Visit us at www.virginiaacs.org for more information or to register for the meeting.

Rural Surgery Committee Update: Is Bigger Better?

Charles A. Harris, MD, FACS, Chairperson

“We never operate on a stranger” is a common saying to those in rural surgical practice. Implicit in this concept is the built-in quality control of daily face-to-face accountability with family, neighbors, friends and friends of friends; well known in rural practice but relatively unknown in a large urban setting. In an era where the prevailing assumption that high volume equates with high performance, and better outcomes, this simple truth is overlooked and is a reason why volume is an ineffective measure of quality in rural hospitals. It is the compassion to take care of friends that leads to the high performance seen in rural settings, despite comparatively low volumes, as defined by national criteria. In support of this idea is a study by Meyer and Finlayson which looked at colectomy for cancer; a procedure reported to have demonstrated volume-outcome effect; and compared mortality rates in rural versus urban hospitals in the United States. The overall adjusted operative mortality in rural hospitals (6.7%; 95% confidence interval) was similar to that of urban hospitals (6.4%; 95% CI), *even though 90% of rural hospitals were in the lowest 2 quintiles of hospital procedure volume (< 57 colectomies/year) compared with only 28% of urban hospitals.* Moreover, when comparing adjusted operative mortality in the lowest 2 quintiles of hospital volume, it was found that mortality in the low-volume rural hospitals (6.6%; 95% CI) was significantly lower than mortality in urban hospitals with similar annual volume of procedures (7.2%; 95% CI). This finding was explained “by the presence of more low-volume high performers in the cohort of rural hospitals.”



At a time when medicine is top-heavy with regulatory agencies attempting to quantitate quality, there are some things which escape direct measurement, but are real nonetheless. The rural surgeon who cares for the people in his/her community has more “skin in the game”, which motivates a high level of performance.

Every patient is
seen,
not in isolation,
but in the context
of his or her life, known well to
the rural surgeon, to whom
no patient is a stranger.



1. Meyers MA, Finlayson SRG. “Should rural residents with colon cancer travel to urban hospitals for colectomy?” Abstract presented at the Surgical Forum at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons. San Francisco, October 18, 2005.

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Humanitarian Award Recipients

In 2009, the Virginia Chapter, American College of Surgeons (VA-ACS) established the VA-ACS Humanitarian Surgical Resident Travel Scholarship Program. This program was established to offset travel expenses for Surgical Residents in Virginia who are interested in participating in programs to deliver surgical care as part of Humanitarian missions to under-developed countries.

This year four recipients have been selected for the travel scholarships: Daniel A. Barker, MD (University of Virginia), Michael DeMarcantonio, MD (Eastern Virginia Medical School), Francell Richard, MD (Eastern Virginia Medical School), Michael C. Soult, MD (Eastern Virginia Medical School). Each recipient will receive \$250.00 to offset travel expenses.

Daniel A. Barker, MD



Daniel A. Barker, MD from the University of Virginia will join the medical team traveling to the Mission of Hope in Bolivia which is an organization that runs a free medical clinic in Santa Cruz. The team consists of otolaryngologists, anesthesiologists, and nurses from across the United States who volunteer their time and services to provide free surgical care for the needy patients in the clinic.

Francell Richard, MD



Francell Richard, MD from Eastern Virginia Medical School will travel to the Dominican Republic with Medical Ministries International which provides spiritual and physical healthcare to the world's poorest nation by mobilizing volunteers on 1-2 week medical projects. The group will serve the local population providing basic surgical care to include general surgery, urology, pediatric surgery and basic head and neck surgery.

Michael DeMarcantonio, MD



Michael DeMarcantonio, MD from Eastern Virginia Medical School will travel to Loma de Luz Hospital in Balfate, Honduras and will staff ENT clinics and be involved in the medical and surgical treatment of a variety of patients afflicted with disorders of the ear, nose and throat.

Michael C. Soult, MD



Michael C. Soult, MD from Eastern Virginia Medical School will travel to Ecuador to provide general surgical services to the indigent populations of the Ecuadorian Andes. While in Ecuador, they services to the population will be provided with a daily surgical clinic for consultation, operative intervention with procedures ranging from hernia repairs, cholecystectomies, general pediatrics, to hysterectomies and all post operative care.



Save the Date . . .

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

May 13th—15th, 2011

Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at
Short Pump in Richmond



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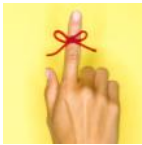
For all your meeting needs: www.virginiaacs.org/

- Registrations
- Room reservations
- Agenda

2

Learn about Richmond: www.visitrichmondva.com

3



For further information:

Susan McConnell

(804) 643-6631

smcconnell@ramdocs.org



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