

# The Academic Surgeon

SPRING 2013

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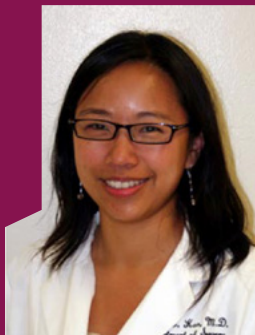
*The 2012/2013 AAS Officers led the society in a successful year. Left to right, Drs. Tim Pawlik, Justin Dimick, Melina Kibbe, Lillian Kao, Julie Ann Sosa and Executive Director, Christina Kasendorf.*



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LILLIAN S. KAO,  
MD, MS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC), Past President Melina Kibbe gave an uplifting speech about how great it is to be an academic surgeon today. I feel equally blessed to be the President of the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) during this time of tremendous growth and activity. As an example, the success of this past ASC in terms of the number of registrants, the quality of the presentations, and the active engagement of the attendees was unparalleled. The outgoing AAS Recorder, Julie Ann Sosa, and the SUS Publications Committee Chair, Joseph Woo, as well as the immediate past AAS and SUS Presidents, Melina Kibbe and George Yang, should be congratulated for their tremendous achievement!

I am excited and pleased to be able to tell you all about the numerous opportunities that the AAS provides in terms of training, mentoring, and inspiring young academic surgeons nationally and worldwide.

**The AAS is committed to providing didactics and developing enduring materials on performing surgical research and becoming an academic surgeon.**

- » In October 2013, the AAS will offer its 24<sup>th</sup> annual Fundamentals of Surgical Research Course and its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Career Development Course. The curriculum continues to undergo revisions to provide up-to-date, practical advice to those interested in or who are early on in an academic surgical career.
- » The AAS has offered similar courses in Africa, Australasia, Colombia, France, and Italy. In August 2013, for the first time, the AAS will partner with the International Society for Digestive Surgery, the World Journal of Surgery, and the International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition to present a course at the International Surgical Society meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

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I am excited and pleased to be able to tell you all about the numerous opportunities that the AAS provides in terms of training, mentoring, and inspiring young academic surgeons nationally and worldwide.



DR. JUSTIN  
B. DIMICK

- » At the 2013 ASC, the AAS partnered with the SUS to run the first annual Surgical Investigators' Course and grant-writing workshop which will be continued annually.
- » The "Success in Academic Surgery" book, published in 2011 as a product of the Fall Courses, will be followed by a series of books on Basic Science Research, Clinical Trials, Health Services Research and Navigating a Career in Surgical Education (expected in 2014).

**The AAS will again offer a variety of awards to medical students, residents/fellows, and faculty.**

- » Last year, AAS provided 6 full and 10 partial travel awards for minorities and women to attend the two-day Fall Courses. This opportunity will be offered again this year.
- » The AAS currently sponsors international exchanges to Taiwan, Africa, Australasia, and Colombia; any AAS active member is eligible to self-nominate for the exchanges.
- » For the first time last year, AAS offered three resident awards in addition to the Roslyn award for junior faculty and multiple awards for students engaged in surgical research.
- » The AAS provided 9 awards at the ASC for the best science.

**The AAS provides early opportunities for society participation and leadership.**

- » The Executive Committee consists of 8 officers and three past presidents.
- » Eleven councilors, 2 deputy treasurers, 12 society representatives, and 13 committee chairs sit on the Executive Council. In addition, Charles Brunicaudi, MD (a past AAS president) will be non-voting member of the council, as our new historian.
- » 87 committee members, including 15 candidate members, were elected last year.
- » 67 program and publication committee members are appointed based on self-nominations.
- » There are currently 12 additional task forces, including the newly created Senior Member Council chaired by David Berger, MD (also a past AAS president).

I look forward to an exciting year! The AAS will continue to work to expand these opportunities and to meet the needs of its membership. However, none of the AAS' efforts would be possible without the expansive team that has selflessly dedicated their time and energy to our society. I encourage everyone to become engaged and to take advantage of all that AAS has to offer!

Lillian S. Kao, MD, MS  
AAS President

## Secretary's Report

### UPDATE ON AWARDS, ELECTIONS AND THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The articles in this newsletter highlight the growth, activity, and energy of the AAS! The AAS continues to engage young surgeon-scientists, and provides them with opportunities for scientific and personal growth. The AAS encourages and provides funding for our members to participate in international travel and pursue scientific projects in outcomes research, basic science, and global health. The AAS also provides numerous awards to recognize the best scientific work performed by faculty, residents, and students, which are listed below. Congratulations to all of the award winners!

The AAS also continues to provide great opportunities for young faculty (and even trainees) to gain experience in national leadership by joining one of our committees. For most committees, AAS members can self-nominate and are elected by their peers online prior to the Academic Surgical Congress and are published in the Fall and Winter AAS newsletters. The 2013-14 AAS committee chairs, representatives, and task force chairs are listed below.

The AAS constantly evolves to better meet the needs of our dynamic membership. To achieve this continued change, there were several important constitutional and bylaw changes presented at the 2013 Annual Business Meeting, listed on the following pages.

*Continued...*



The AAS provides numerous awards to recognize the best scientific work performed by faculty, residents, and students. Congratulations to all of the award winners!

## 2013 AAS AWARDS

### AAS International Visiting Professorship Award Winners

- » **2013 AAS/Taiwan Surgical Association International Visiting Professorship Award**  
Steven Chen, City of Hope National Medical Center
- » **2013 AAS/Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Younger Fellows Committee Leadership Exchange**  
Carlton Barnett, Denver Health Medical Center/UCHSC
- » **2013 AAS/Colombian Surgical Association International Visiting Professorship Award**  
Adil Haider, Johns Hopkins University
- » **2013 AAS/West African College of Surgeons International Visiting Fellowship**  
Benedict Nwomeh, Ohio State University/Nationwide Children's Hospital

### Presentation of Research Awards

- » **AAS Foundation Research Fellowship Award** – The award is \$20,000 for one year.  
Adam Mace, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, "Chemosensitization of Colorectal Cancer Stem Cells via PARP Inhibition"
- » **AAS Research Fellowship Award** – The award is \$20,000 for one year.  
Leigh Dageforde, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, "Health Literacy and Numeracy Assessment in Dyads of Primary Support Persons and Patients being Evaluated for Solid Organ Transplant"

### AAS Student Research Awards

- » **Clinical/Education Winners**
  - Jay Lee, University of Michigan, "Frailty, Core Muscle Size, and Mortality in Patients Undergoing Open Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair"
  - Arin Madenci, University of Michigan Medical School, "Carotid-Subclavian Bypass and Subclavian-Carotid Transposition in the TEVAR Era"
  - Rajshri Mainthia, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, "Novel Use of Electronic Whiteboard in the Operating Room Increases Surgical Team Compliance With Pre-Incision Safety Practices"
  - Nirmish Singla, University of Michigan, "White Matter Hyperintensities and Atrophy on MRI as a Predictor of Short Term Cognitive Change Following Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery in Patients with Parkinson's Disease"
- » **Basic Science Winners**
  - David Harris, University of Virginia, Dept of CT Surgery, "Inhibiting CXCL12 Blocks Fibrocyte Migration and Differentiation and Attenuates Bronchiolitis Obliterans in a Murine Heterotopic Tracheal Transplant Model"
  - Russell Witt, UC Davis, "Active Role of Supporting Cells and Heterotypic Interactions with Endothelial Cells in 3 Dimensional Clusters Guide In Vitro Angiogenesis"

### AAS Student Travel Grant

- T.M. Ayodele Adesanya, Ohio State University
- Alexis Chidi, UPMC Liver Cancer Center
- Allison Martin, Harvard School of Public Health/Brigham and Women's Hospital

**Joel J. Roslyn Faculty Research Award** – The award is \$35,000 a year for one year.

- Kevin Mollen, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, "The Role of Dysfunctional Mitochondrial Biogenesis in the Pathogenesis of Experimental Colitis"

**Global Surgery Research Award** – The award is \$10,000 for one year.

- Rebecca Maine, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, "The impact of inter-hospital transfer on the outcomes of trauma and other surgical patients in Rwanda"

### Presentation of Academic Surgical Congress Awards

- » **AAS Best Overall Abstract** – Christopher Breuer, Nationwide Children's, "Tissue Engineered Small Diameter Arterial Graft: In Vivo Evaluation of an Electrospun Nanofiber Scaffold"

*Continued...*



Visit us online at  
[www.aasurg.org](http://www.aasurg.org)

The AAS continues to provide great opportunities for young faculty (and even trainees) to gain experience in national leadership by joining one of our committees.

### AAS Outstanding Resident Award winners

- » **Basic Science** – Kristin Long, University of Kentucky, “Fresh Red Blood Cells Mitigate Human T-cell Suppression Seen with Stored Blood Bank Red Blood Cells”
- » **Clinical Trials/Outcomes** – Terry Shih, University of Michigan, “Does Pay-for-Performance Improve Surgical Outcomes? Evaluation of Phase 2 of the Premier Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration Project”
- » **Education** – Meera Gupta, University of Pennsylvania, “Preventable Mortality: Does the Perspective Matter When Determining Preventability?”

### AAS Outstanding Medical Student Award

- Daniel Hashimoto, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, “Effect Of Competitive Training on a Virtual Reality Simulator on Surgical Performance: A Randomized Controlled Trial”

### Best Overall Manuscript by an AAS Member

- Todd Heniford, Carolinas Medical Center, “Does Ventral Hernia Defect Length, Width, or Area Predict Postoperative Quality of Life? Answers from a Prospective International Study”

### Best Manuscript by a New AAS Member

- Michael C. Soult, Eastern Virginia Medical School, “Outer Membrane Vesicles from Pathogenic Bacteria Initiate an Inflammatory Response in Human Endothelial Cells.”

### Best Oral Presentation by a New AAS Member

- Linda Li, Baylor College of Medicine, “A Patient-Centered Early Warning System To Prevent Readmission After Colorectal Surgery: A National Consensus Using The Delphi Method”

### Best Quick Shot Presentation by a New AAS Member

- Lauren Licata, Roger Williams Medical Center, “Liver Th17 Cell Mediated Inflammation Is Regulated In A Programmed Death-1 Dependent Manner In A Model Of Obstructive Jaundice”

### 2013 ELECTION RESULTS AND APPOINTMENTS

The following members represent the AAS Executive Committee:

- President:** Lillian S. Kao, MD, MS (2013-2014)
- President-Elect:** Timothy M. Pawlik, MD, MPH, PhD (2013-2014)
- Secretary:** Justin B. Dimick, MD, MPH (2012-2014)
- Recorder:** Caprice C. Greenberg, MD, MPH (2013-2015)
- Treasurer:** Eric T. Kimchi, MD (2013-2016)
- Past President:** Daniel Albo, MD, PhD (2010-2011)
- Past President:** Scott A. LeMaire, MD (2011-2012)
- Past President:** Melina R. Kibbe, MD, RVT (2012-2013)

The following are the other members of the AAS Executive Council:

#### » Deputy Treasurers

- Jussuf Thomas Kaifi, MD (2013-2016) & Seth A. Spector, MD (2013-2015)

#### » Councilors

- Mark S. Cohen, MD, Councilor Year 2006 (2012-2014)
- Steven B. Goldin, MD, PhD, Councilor Year 2002 (2012-2014)
- Jayleen Grams, MD, PhD, Councilor Year 2010 (2012-2014)
- Timothy A. Pritts, MD, PhD, Councilor Year 2004 (2012-2014)
- Rebekah Ruth White, MD, Councilor Year 2008 (2012-2014)
- George Edward Havelka, MD (Resident/Fellow Councilor) (2012-2014)
- Adam C. Berger, MD, Councilor Year 2005 (2013-2015)
- Michael J. Englesbe, MD, Councilor Year 2011 (2013-2015)
- Michael O. Meyers, MD, Councilor Year 2003 (2013-2015)
- Christopher Steven Muratore, MD, Councilor Year 2007 (2013-2015)
- Peter F. Nichol, MD, PhD, Councilor Year 2009 (2013-2015)

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There are an increasing number of task forces devoted to developing surgical research and career development courses overseas or for other projects of the AAS.

## » Representatives

- **American Board of Surgery:** Fizan Abdullah, MD, PhD (2012-2018)
- **American College of Surgeons' Board of Governors:** Rebecca Sippel, MD (2012-2015)
- **American College of Surgeons' Surgical Research Committee:** Arden Morris, MD, MPH (2011-2013)
- **Association for Surgical Education:** Amalia L. Cochran, MD (2013-2015)
- **Association of American Medical Colleges:** Benedict C. Nwomeh, MD (2012-2014) & Bethany Cara Sacks, MD (2013-2016)
- **Association of Women Surgeons:** Carla Marie Pugh, MD, PhD (2012-2014)
- **Journal of Surgical Research:** Faisal G. Bakaeen, MD (2013-2015)
- **National Association for Biomedical Research:** Brian S. Zuckerbraun, MD (2013-2015)
- **Society of Black Academic Surgeons:** Adil H. Haider, MD, MPH (2013-2015)
- **Surgical Outcomes Club:** Sandra Lynn Wong, MD (2013-2015)
- **Plastic Surgery Research Council:** Timothy W. King, MD, PhD (2012-2014)

## » Committee Chairs

- **Education:** Muneera Rehana Kapadia, MD, Co-Chair (2013-2015) & Wei Zhou, MD, Co-Chair (2012-2014)
- **Ethics:** Gretchen Purcell Jackson, MD, PhD, Chair (2013-2015)
- **Global Affairs:** Sanjay Krishnaswami, MD, Co-Chair (2012-2014) & Mamta Swaroop, MD, Co-Chair (2013-2015)
- **Information & Technology:** James William Suliburk, MD, Chair (2013-2014)
- **Issues:** Rachel R. Kelz, MD, MSCE, Co-Chair (2013-2015) & Gregory Dean Kennedy, MD, PhD, Co-Chair (2012-2014)
- **Leadership:** Amir Abbas Ghaferi, MD, Co-Chair (2013-2015) & Jon C. Gould, MD, Co-Chair (2012-2014)
- **Membership:** Niraj Gusani, MD, Chair (2012-2014)
- **Outcomes Research:** George J.S. Chang, MD, Chair (2013-2014)
- **Program:** Caprice C. Greenberg, MD, MPH, Chair (2013-2015)
- **Publications:** Faisal G. Bakaeen, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

## » Special Appointments

- **AAS Historian:** F. Charles Brunicaudi, MD (2013-2018)
- **Senior Member Council:** David H. Berger, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

## LEADERSHIP OF AD HOC APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

There are an increasing number of task forces devoted to developing surgical research and career development courses overseas or for other projects of the AAS. The task force chairs are:

**AAS/Colombian Surgical Association Course Task Force:** Daniel A. Anaya, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

**AAS/French Surgical Association Course Task Force:** Timothy M. Pawlik, MD, MPH, PhD, Chair (2013-2015)

**AAS German Course Task Force:** Jussuf Thomas Kaifi, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

**AAS Indian Course Task Force:** Sanjay Krishnaswami, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

**AAS Italian Course Task Force:** Marcovalerio Melis, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

**AAS/Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Course Task Force:** Julie Ann Sosa, MD, FACS, Chair (2013-2015)

### AAS West African Course Task Force

- Akpofure Peter Ekeh, MD, Co-Chair (2013-2015)
- Jonathan Amarkwei Laryea, MBChB, Co-Chair (2013-2015)

**AAS ISDS Course Task Force:** Melina R. Kibbe, MD, RVT, Chair (2013-2015)

**ASC Conflict of Interest Task Force:** Julie Ann Sosa, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

### Innovative Information Delivery Task Force:

- Justin B. Dimick, MD, MPH, Chair (2013-2015)
- Sandra Lynn Wong, MD, Chair (2013-2015)

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The AAS constantly evolves to better meet the needs of our dynamic membership. To achieve this continued change, there were several important constitutional and bylaw changes presented at the 2013 Annual Business Meeting, listed here.

## 2013 AAS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

### Changes to Constitution

The following was approved by 2/3 vote at the 2013 business meeting:

- **Revision of previously recommended change:** Division of Recorder role into Recorder (who plans the ASC), Program Committee Chair, and Publications Committee Chair. To: Division of Recorder role into Recorder/Program Committee Chair and Publications Committee Chair
- **Article VI, Section V:** It shall be the duty of the Recorder to chair the Program Committee and collect papers at the time of presentation before the Association and forward them for publication to the journal selected by the Association. The Recorder shall represent the interests of the Association and serve as its liaison to the Editor of the journal. It shall be the duty of the Recorder to manage the entire program for the annual meeting, in conjunction with other participating societies. The Recorder will also be a member of the Publications Committee and The Recorder shall be a member of the Nominating Committee and award/fellowship committees.

The following change requires presentation at business meeting in 2014 followed by a 2/3 majority vote to pass:

- **Creating exceptions for AAS Historian and Senior Member Council:** Because Senior Members cannot be appointed to formal roles by the president, or attend Executive Council meetings, we will need to change the Constitution to allow these new roles to function in a capacity consistent with Executive Council Discussion at the September meeting.
- **New Changes to Article III, Section 1:** (2) Senior Membership  
Following service as an Active member in the Association an active member will proceed to senior membership. First time applicants who are 10 or more years beyond their first faculty appointments may be admitted to senior status upon recommendation of their departmental chair and upon approval by the Executive Council and Membership Committee. Senior members can attend the general meeting of the Association and may discuss papers. They have no vote, cannot hold appointed or elected office other than to complete a term of office for which election occurred as an active member, serve on the Executive Council in the capacity of past president with the following exceptions: (1) to complete a term of office for which election occurred as an active member; (2) serve on the Executive Council in the capacity of past president; (3) serve as the AAS Historian; (4) serve on the Senior Member Council. The AAS Historian and Chair of the Senior Member Council can attend the Executive Council meetings but cannot vote. Senior members shall continue to pay dues only until the age of sixty.

### Changes to Bylaws

The following bylaw changes were passed with a simple majority vote at the 2013 AAS business meeting:

- **Staggered terms for Global Affairs Committee.** The terms of the chairs of the global affairs committee will be changed so they are staggered. Currently, the co-chairs serve two-year terms and rotate off the same year. Staggered terms will allow for leadership continuity—as each co-chair rotates off, the other co-chair will stay for the next year. This change is consistent with the changes we recently made in the Leadership, Education, and Issues committees.
- **New Bylaws, Article XXIII.** The Global Affairs Committee shall consist of no fewer than six (6) members elected by the membership to serve staggered two-year terms. One-half of the total number of members will be elected each year. The Co-Chairs shall be appointed by the President for a two-year term. The Committee will have two Co-Chairs that will serve staggered two-year terms. The Co-Chairs will be appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of the Global Affairs Committee to recommend and implement programs that enhance the exchange of educational opportunities between the AAS and international surgical organizations.
- **Creating an AAS Historian role.** The historian will be responsible for constructing a historical record of the AAS and maintaining the web and/or print archives of the AAS. This individual will also provide continuity and offer historical perspective to the current leadership of the AAS. The historian will be a senior member and will be appointed by the President for a 5 year term. The historian will attend Executive Council meetings but will be a non-voting member.

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If you have any questions, please email Justin Dimick directly at [jdimick@umich.edu](mailto:jdimick@umich.edu) and cc the AAS Office at [christina@asurg.org](mailto:christina@asurg.org).

- **New Bylaws, Article XXVIII.** The Senior Member Council will consist of at least 10 senior members who will serve in an advisory role to the Executive Council on issues related to fund-raising, scientific programming, programmatic development, scholarship, and strategy for the future direction of the society. This Council will have at a minimum ten (10) members appointed by the President who will each serve a 5 year term. Subsequent to the initial formation, at least two (2) members will be appointed each year and their terms will be staggered. The President will also appoint a Chair who will serve a 5 year term. The Chair of the Senior Member Council will attend the Executive Council Meeting but will be a non-voting member.

If you have any questions, please email me directly at [jdimick@umich.edu](mailto:jdimick@umich.edu) and cc the AAS Office at [christina@asurg.org](mailto:christina@asurg.org).

Service on the Executive Council is a significant contribution to the organization and is a great first step towards assuming a larger leadership role.



More information can be found [here](#).

## CALL FOR COUNCILOR NOMINATIONS COMING SOON!

If you are a member of the class of 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 or are a resident or fellow who is looking to serve the association as a councilor, stay tuned for an email announcing the call for self-nominations for Councilors.

Councilors sit on the Executive Council and are involved in important decision-making and strategic planning for the AAS. They are full voting members of the council and therefore, can have a significant input into the future directions of the organization. They can bring new ideas forward, volunteer to serve on Ad Hoc Committees, and contribute to program development. Service on the Executive Council is a significant contribution to the organization and is a great first step towards assuming a larger leadership role.

### REQUIREMENTS

The Executive Council meets three times a year: at the Annual Meeting in February, at a summer retreat (usually held at a mutually agreed time in June or July), and at the American College of Surgeons meeting in October. **The major requirement for holding the position of Councilor is attendance at the Executive Council meetings.** Due to the importance of councilor input in creating policy and in the implementation of programmatic changes, attendance is mandatory. There may be one or two phone conferences throughout the year.

Additionally, the councilors are asked to review applications for the research awards. This involves reviewing anywhere from 5 to 10 applications in a one month time frame during the year. Additionally, councilors will also review applications for the medical student and resident travel awards for the Fall Courses. Plenty of notice is provided and the work is equally distributed among both the existing and incoming councilors (15 total). Councilors meet with the President-Elect, either electronically or via a conference call, to review their scores and to select the finalists for each award. Interviews for the research and faculty awards are conducted in person during the Academic Surgical Congress. No interviews are conducted for the travel awards for the Fall Courses. More information can be found [here](#).

For more information about the requirements of serving as a Councilor, please contact Christina Kasendorf at [christina@asurg.org](mailto:christina@asurg.org).



CAPRICE C.  
GREENBERG,  
MD, MPH

For the first time, the ASC program featured basic science, education, and outcomes tracks that allowed attendees to easily identify sessions in their areas of interest.

# Recorder's Report

This year's ASC was in New Orleans, whose usual festive atmosphere was even more hyped up by the timing of the meeting immediately post-Super Bowl and pre-Mardi Gras. The historic Roosevelt Hotel provided a fantastic venue for the meeting with beautiful facilities and convenient access to the music, fine dining and many sites that make New Orleans famous. The scientific content and activities of the meeting were even more exciting than the setting however.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

Julie Ann Sosa, immediate past Recorder of the AAS, with the help of Joseph Woo, chair of the SUS Publications Committee, put on a spectacular meeting. For the first time, the program featured basic science, education, and outcomes tracks that allowed attendees to easily identify sessions in their areas of interest.

In addition, a number of sessions were introduced to enhance interaction and dialogue, particularly between surgeons in different stages of career development. These included breakout sessions for each of the three tracks, including roundtable discussions, an AAS Student-Mentor program and "Meet the AAS Leadership" reception. Several lunchtime sessions also focused on this theme of mentorship and included "How to develop, sustain, and reward mentors in surgery" sponsored by the Issues Committee, as well as the Association of Women Surgeons-sponsored "Achieving goals through strategic partnerships".

Melina Kibbe's presidential session "Publish or perish: An editor's point of view" brought together the editors from several high impact journals for a unique glimpse into the editorial process. Her presidential address gave us a much needed reminder of all the wonderful aspects of a surgical career that are too often overlooked given the challenges facing the American healthcare system. George Yang gave a similarly compelling presidential address and session on "Generating evidence for evidence-based practice" from the SUS.

Also new this year were two short courses held immediately following the ASC. The AAS/SUS Surgical Investigator's Course was organized by past president Scott Lemaire and George Yang, providing a grant writing workshop for young investigators. The SUS hosted its inaugural Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course to target those who were more advanced.

## AWARDS

Numerous awards were given to recognize the most outstanding research being generated by the AAS membership. The AAS best overall abstract went to Christopher Breuer from Nationwide Children's Hospital for his project entitled "Tissue engineered small diameter arterial graft: In vivo evaluation of an electrospun nanofiber scaffold". The best overall manuscript by an AAS member went to Todd Heniford from Carolinas Medical Center for his paper entitled "Does Ventral Hernia Defect Length, Width, or Area Predict Postoperative Quality of Life? Answers from a Prospective International Study". **Michael C. Soult** from Eastern Virginia Medical School was awarded the best manuscript by a new AAS member for his work on "Outer Membrane Vesicles from Pathogenic Bacteria Initiate an Inflammatory Response in Human Endothelial Cells."

Awards were also given for best oral and quickshot presentations by new AAS members. These went to **Linda Li** from Baylor College of Medicine for her presentation entitled "A Patient-Centered Early Warning System To Prevent Readmission After Colorectal Surgery: A National Consensus Using The Delphi Method" and **Lauren Licata** from Roger Williams Medical Center for "Liver Th17 Cell Mediated Inflammation Is Regulated In A Programmed Death-1 Dependent Manner In A Model Of Obstructive Jaundice" respectively.

Finally, we recognized the contributions made by our students and trainees. As you know, engagement of these young surgeon-scientists is critical to the AAS mission. Three AAS Outstanding Resident Award winners were recognized with a certificate and \$500 check. These included **Kristin Long** from the University of Kentucky (Basic Science), **Terry Shih** from the University of Michigan (Outcomes/Clinical Trials) and **Meera Gupta** from the University of Pennsylvania (Education). **Daniel Hashimoto** from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine received the AAS Outstanding Medical Student Award, which includes a certificate and \$250 check.

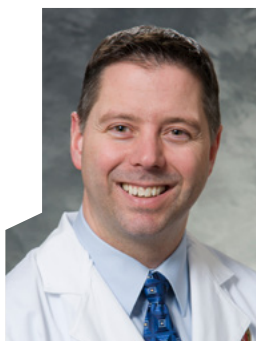
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## Mark your calendars for ASC 2014!

See [page 12](#) for more details  
and stay updated by visiting  
the [ASC website](#).



GREGORY  
KENNEDY, MD, PHD

## 2014 ACADEMIC SURGICAL CONGRESS

I am delighted to have the privilege of working with AAS Program Committee, Executive Committee and officers, as well as Dr. George Yang, chair of the SUS Publications Committee to develop the programming for the upcoming 2014 ASC. The meeting will be held February 4-6, 2014 in San Diego, CA so mark your calendars. Given the positive feedback, next year's meeting will again feature a tracked program with parallel sessions in basic science, education and outcomes research. In addition, we will continue our efforts to increase interaction and engagement of attendees throughout the program with innovative new sessions. The ASC abstract submission will open in early June with a deadline for submission the first week of August. Don't miss the opportunity to submit your work. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

# Issues Committee Report

The issues committee of the AAS serves two important functions for the membership. First, it has been charged with generating information for the membership that will broaden their understanding of the issues that impact their practice and future career development. Second, it works in conjunction with the Society of University Surgeons' Committee on Social and Legislative Issues to design a session for the Academic Surgical Congress. Typically, the committees work together to select a topic of general interest that addresses contemporary concerns important to academic surgeons.

On Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at the Academic Surgical Congress in New Orleans, the Issues Session proved to be a very interactive and insightful 1 ½ hours. The topic of the year was mentorship borne out of a survey given by the AAS and SUS the previous year. The results of this survey highlighted the critical need for mentorship by young academic surgeons. The goal of the session, therefore, was to discuss the possibility of developing a mentorship program jointly sponsored by the AAS and SUS.

The session began with Dr. Julie Margenthaler from Washington University discussing the results of this survey in her presentation entitled, "Current status of mentorship in academic surgery." She basically provided data indicating that most young academic surgeons who responded to the survey do not feel like they have adequate mentorship. She also provided data indicating that these same surgeons feel that good mentorship is critical to academic success. Dr. Herbert Chen, the Layton F. Rikkers Chair in Surgery at the University of Wisconsin, gave a very thoughtful presentation on the importance of mentorship for one's academic career.

The Chairman of Surgery at Washington University, Dr. Timothy Eberlein, then presented on the development and reward of surgical mentors through academic incentive programs. He highlighted the ubiquitous problem across academic centers of how to develop programs to reward good mentors. He discussed the time constraints of an academic surgeon and how these types of increasing time commitments leads to a decrease in the availability of mentorship time. It is clear that good mentors are difficult to find and that rewarding them for their time will prove to be very important in developing more strong role models in U.S. academic surgery.

Finally, the issues committee sponsored a brain-storming session in order to ask the participants their thoughts on the following questions:

1. How could the AAS/SUS **successfully** help identify mentors for junior faculty? and
2. What would be the **most effective mentoring relationship** established through this mechanism?

The interaction generated by these questions was spectacular and the responses were somewhat surprising. First, a straw poll was taken and approximately 50% of the session attendees would participate in a mentorship program if one existed through our organization. In addition, the tables put forth ideas for how such a mentorship program would potentially work. Common themes included:

- ✓ The AAS/SUS could sponsor a meet and greet breakfast at the ASC to put mentors and mentees together.
- ✓ The AAS/SUS would sponsor a "speed-dating" type of interaction where potential mentors would sit at a table and potential mentees would cycle by in an attempt to find the right personality match
- ✓ The idea that mid-career and even senior level people need mentorship and any mentoring plan should include these groups.

*Continued...*

- ✓ A mentorship 'toolbox' could be developed and made available on our website. This resource would contain information such as 'What to look for and ask potential mentors', mentoring contracts, guides for developing objectives of the mentoring relationship, and guidance on limiting the terms of the relationship.

During this lively and highly interactive session, it was clear that feelings for and against developing this type of program exist. In general the attendees felt a mentoring program would be useful, however, it was noted that a program such as this would have to be an iterative process. It was clear that all potential programs could be fraught with difficulties. In fact, Dr. Timothy Pawlik noted that the speed-dating idea has been used to develop research interests at his institution, and while a fun and engaging session, it did not lead to any new long-term relationships.

In sum, the issues session at the ASC in 2013 was an engaging and informative session on the topic of mentorship and the role of our society in helping young surgeons identify mentors in instances where they might not have adequate resources at their own institution. On the surface, this concept would appear to be straightforward and easy to support. However, after the session it was clear that the barriers to developing a sustainable program are real and more thought is necessary prior to putting this in place. Despite these barriers, we remain committed to exploring the concept of developing a mentoring program through our society. Such a program would provide necessary academic support to so many young surgeons that we must work toward this goal.



WEI ZHOU, MD

## Education Committee Report

The AAS Education Committee has had a busy year. The 2012 Fundamentals for Surgical Research Course, preparing residents and faculties for a successful career in academic surgery, was very well attended with a record number of participants. The "how to" sections highlighted the tips and tricks of writing manuscripts, preparing presentations, and conducting basic/translational research as well as clinical and educational research. Dr. Livingston's keynote speech on "getting published in a high-profile journal" was exceptional and very informative, with overwhelming positive responses.

In addition to a plenary session, the Education Committee organized a panel session on integrated subspecialty programs at the ASC. Representatives from cardiothoracic (Dr. Acker), vascular (Dr. Dalman), plastic (Dr. Neumeister), and the ACGME (Dr. Potts) had an engaging and instructive discussion highlighting the benefits and disadvantages of early sub-specialization. The new education breakout session on Wednesday afternoon at the ASC provided collaborative opportunities for those who are interested in surgical education. Four round table discussions on how to get an administrative role in education, how to negotiate a job as a surgical educator, how to become a leader in surgical education, and how to start educational research provided opportunities for face-to-face contacts and interactive discussions.

A new initiative from the Education Committee this year is an AAS Student-Mentor Program. Through this program, each student was matched to a well-established AAS member based on their career and research interest. The program provided targeted mentoring for those students who are interested in academic surgery in a relaxed cocktail reception setting.

Through ASC and FRSC, the Education Committee has developed and will continue to refine programs in surgical education and mentorship.

The 2012 Fundamentals for Surgical Research Course, preparing residents and faculties for a successful career in academic surgery, was very well attended with a record number of participants.



*Students learn valuable tips about careers from AAS leaders during the AAS Student-Mentor Reception at the ASC.*



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\* Immediately prior to  
the ACS Clinical Congress

## Fundamentals of Surgical Research Course

Friday, October 4, 2013

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Junior Faculty  
Fellows  
Residents  
Medical Students

### LEARN HOW TO:

- Choose a mentor and manage your time better
- Submit your work for presentation and peer-review publication
- Design, analyze, and protect your research
- Conduct cutting edge basic science and translational research
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- Conduct research in education or simulation
- Develop and maintain databases
- Design and perform clinical trials

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Fellows  
Residents

### LEARN HOW TO:

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