



SCCACS NEWS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

SUMMER 2006
VOLUME 11

Editor's Note

In this brief *SCCACS News*, we've tried to summarize some of the many activities of your Chapter officers, committee chairpersons and representatives. The Southern California Chapter has an aggressive socioeconomic and educational mission, and seeks to represent the needs of its members in all of its activities. Please let us know how we are doing, give us your thoughts on the complex issues of the day, and tell us if there are ways in which we can better serve you.

*Kenneth S. Waxman, MD, FACS
President-Elect, SCCACS*

Calendar

- **Abstract submission deadline**
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006
Visit www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/meetings.html for details
- **2007 Annual Scientific Meeting**
Jan. 19–21, 2007
Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore
www.fourseasons.com
1260 Channel Drive, Santa Barbara
Call 805/969-2261 by **Dec. 18, 2006**
for a room at \$280/night (sgl/dbl)
- **2008 Annual Scientific Meeting**
Jan. 25–27, 2008 (*tentative*)
Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore
www.fourseasons.com
1260 Channel Drive, Santa Barbara

President's Message

I would like to extend greetings to all the members of the Southern California Chapter and the American College of Surgeons. As we pass the mid-point of the summer, it is time to begin our preparations for the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Chapter.

The meeting this year will return to the Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore in Santa Barbara, which has always been a favorite for our members. Last year's meeting was a huge success under the leadership of Dr Bruce Stabile as president and Harry Applebaum as our program chairman. We enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Bacara Resort on this occasion, due to construction delays in remodeling efforts at the Biltmore. The meeting at Bacara was both an academic and financial success. We are indebted to the cast of speakers, the hospitality of the Bacara and the financial support of the Biltmore in accomplishing this one-year transition successfully. Dr Stabile and his team are to be congratulated on an outstanding job in providing a great meeting at this new venue.

The Program Committee met recently at the Omni Hotel in downtown Los Angeles to begin planning for the meeting to be held Jan. 19-21, 2007 at the Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore. Dr. Joshua Ellenhorn has begun working on the program and provides details of our plan for the program in his article in this newsletter. Josh will be assisted by Drs. Chris De Virgilio and Shirin Towfigh, as associate and assistant program chairs. The Call for Abstracts has been issued, and I would encourage all members to support the meeting by submitting your material by the Sept. 20 deadline and urging your colleagues and residents to do so also. If you need another copy, the Call for Abstracts is posted online at www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/abstracts.html. The great success of our organization is very much dependent

upon participation by the membership in the production of the program. The Chapter remains committed to publication of the proceedings of the meeting.

The Program Committee has begun to assemble a great crew of invited guest speakers. The popular "What's New" program will be continued, and we will invite a number of our guest speakers to participate in this aspect of the program. The president's guest for this year will be Jay Vacanti, MD. He is



the chief of pediatric surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. Jay is a very talented pediatric surgeon and has a research interest in translational research and tissue engineering. Dr Vacanti is an excellent speaker, engaging surgeon and has some unique insight into how research must be translated to the clinical arena.

Board Report

The Chapter Board of Directors assembled at the Omni Hotel for the annual July meeting. We are pleased to report that the Chapter continues to enjoy a very healthy financial position, having reserves equivalent to two years of operating expenses. The

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Board authorized the continuation of efforts to recruit new surgeons as they complete training by extending a complimentary membership for the first year. This program was extended to 50 new surgeons in Southern California, and we are pleased to report that 46 have paid dues for the second year. Please join me in welcoming our new members and encouraging them to become very active in Chapter affairs.

Drs. Areti Tillou and Brant Putnam will serve as the board's "Young Surgeon Representatives" this year. They will be responsible for planning the breakfast program for residents and students at the annual meeting and will also administer the Board-approved scholarship program to provide funding for travel by selected residents to the annual clinical congress. These efforts are very important to our mission to recruit and retain young surgeons in the organization and are unanimously supported by the membership.

I would also request the assistance of all members in recruiting industry participation in our Annual Meeting. The vendors provide an important resource to our membership by displaying the latest technology and providing a forum for interaction with surgeons about new products and innovations. Our industry partners also provide an important source of funding to supplement the funds available for the scientific program and other aspects of the program. Your personal contact with a vendor should be forwarded to Executive Director Jim Dowden (cjdowden@pacbell.net). He will do the necessary follow-up and provide the vendor with the opportunities that are available for participation in our Scientific Meeting.



We are anticipating that the newly remodeled Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore will be an extraordinary venue for our January 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting. I hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be an excellent educational and enjoyable weekend. I would encourage everyone to register with the hotel early (before **Dec. 18**), as we have a favorable rate of \$280/night for accommodations. However, once the room block has expired, rooms will be much more costly, if available.

It is a great honor for me to serve as the president of the Chapter this year. Please feel free to contact me at if you have any suggestions or concerns about the Chapter or the upcoming meeting in January 2007.

*James B. Atkinson, MD, FACS
President, SCCACS*

Commission on Cancer Liaison Report

This update will summarize the first six months of my position as SCCACS Cancer Liaison for the Commission on Cancer.

1) A number of agenda items were covered during our January '06 CLP meeting. First were introductions, also welcoming the new CLP members for our state. We moved on to the new role of the Cancer Liaison Physician under the recent changes in Standard 2.3. "Appointed Cancer Liaison Physician (or their designee) oversees CoC quality initiatives such as, CoC Special Studies and acts as the lead for interpreting the facility's CP3R reports and meets the requirements for this standard."

Another discussion centered on the collaboration with the American Cancer Society and the resources they offer. I have recently participated with my local American Cancer Society chapter presenting Colorectal Screening Prof Ed to primary care physicians. After each presentation, it has been documented that colonoscopic screening increased at each participating institution. We would like to have a core of Physicians (CLP?) that would be willing to be local presenters for this American Cancer Society project.

A CQI project was shared with the group from one of our member hospitals. It is an audit of lymph node yield for colorectal cancer surgery. The study design was outlined and available for distribution.

A final agenda discussion concerned both retention and recruitment of additional CoC participating cancer programs. A number of leads and suggestions were offered. One concern is realignment with programs that have withdrawn. A strategic plan was discussed for reinstatement of these programs.

Our next local chapter meeting will be in January 2007.

2) As your State Chair, I had the pleasure of observing an ACOS survey. It is a more enjoyable experience to be an observer, than a participant for an inspected program. The hospital was the Henry Mayo Hospital in Los Angeles County. They made every effort to extend their hospitality to me during my visit.

The surveyor was Alan Lefor, MD, FACS. Dr. Lefor conducted an excellent and instructive survey, in spite of me shadowing his every move. I thank him for the opportunity to observe the survey.

3) While visiting programs around the state, one question that seems to be asked is "What is CP3R? What does

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CP3R stand for and more importantly: what does CP3R do?" CP3R is also known as Cancer Program Practice Profile Reports. The Web-based CP3R provides comparative information for facilities to determine if adjuvant chemotherapy (ACT) has been administered to or considered for patients following the resection of Stage III colon cancers.

The purpose of this quality improvement initiative is to provide facilities with information: (1) for cancer committee review of concordance with patient care guidelines; (2) to improve data and charting accuracy at the facility level; and (3) to enable facilities to demonstrate their quality of patient care, using cancer registry data. Since the launch of the CP3R in 2005, facility feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. The enhancements included in the latest update were made in response to facility and surveyor communication regarding the project. The modifications will facilitate quality improvement efforts at your facility by providing feedback on the quality of patient care, physician reporting, and registry operations.

4) I would like to inform you of an ACS resource called C-Tools 2.0. This timesaving tool is a PDA program for physicians and medical staff that provides instant access to up-to-date cancer information. It includes information on screenings, pain/symptom management, tobacco cessation, emerging technology and more. It also includes a drug calculator and a BMI calculator. This PDA tool is free and can be downloaded from the ACS Web site! Check out this ACS resource, and share this information with your cancer committee and other medical staff!

http://www.acspdasupport.com/files/web_promo.htm

5) Don't miss this opportunity. Need role clarification? Have questions about your responsibilities? Join us on the next Web Conference to better understand the activities of the Cancer Liaison Physician. Facilitated by a Commission on Cancer (CoC) State Chair, this is your opportunity to ask questions.

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006

5-6 pm CST

(Meeting Key: 70541476892421)

Facilitator: Alan Thorson, MD, FACS

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006

9-10 am CST

(Meeting Key: 70541476892667)

Facilitator: Phillip Roland, MD, FACS

Audio Dial-in: 1-866-406-3498; Passcode 9707489#

Meeting URL: <http://web.meetme.net/audience>

These sessions last approximately 50 minutes and require Internet and telephone access. Registration is NOT necessary. Visit our Web site at: <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/liaison.html> for further instructions. Please direct questions to Carolyn Jones at

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Membership Report

Current membership in the Southern California Chapter of ACS is 1,615 members. This breaks down into 947 Active Fellows, 616 Senior Fellows and 52 Associate members. The Chapter membership represents just over 58% of all ACS Fellows in the Southern California region. We need your help in reaching your colleagues.

Chapter membership in the California Medical Association's legislative bodies is directly proportional to the number of members that the Chapter has. We need a bigger voice in CMA to ensure that we have the opportunity to appropriately represent the interest of surgeons on legislative matters and other policy issues that come before the CMA. The more members we have, the more seats at the table we have to represent your interests.

Membership also provides the resources that the Chapter needs in order to continue to provide an outstanding annual Scientific Conference, financial support to surgical Residents to attend and participate in that meeting and to reward those who submit outstanding papers, and to carry out other activities of the Chapter.

The Southern California Chapter of ACS provides member surgeons with unique services not offered in most other areas of the country. We are the only Chapter that provides a free subscription to *The American Surgeon*. This journal is provided to active members throughout the year. The Chapter also funds the cost of participation on the various CMA legislative bodies and meetings by surgeons representing this region. We are one of the few Chapters that conducts a major Scientific Conference, bringing outstanding nationally known surgeons to present to our members.

As articles elsewhere in the newsletter indicate, your Chapter leaders are representing you in a variety of ways at a time when medical practice is in great turmoil and under significant stress. To ensure your voice continues to be heard, your continued support of the Chapter is vital. But equally important is your assistance in reaching out to your colleagues who are not currently part of the Chapter to encourage their membership and their involvement.

Recently, we invited area ACS Fellows to join the Chapter to represent the surgical profession at all levels affecting our practice. We have a full-color recruitment brochure available listing membership benefits. You can view this on the Chapter's Web site at www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/membership.html (click on View or Download next to Membership Brochure).

If you know a colleague who's not part of the Chapter, please encourage him/her to accept this invitation to join SCCACS. Or invite them to download the Chapter membership application posted at www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/membership.html.

The Chapter is doing much and providing many services for a relatively modest annual investment on your part. Much more can be done. Please contact us (323/937-5514) if you need membership applications and brochures to give to your colleagues, or if you have suggestions on how we can encourage them to join.

*C. James Dowden, Executive Director
Southern California Chapter, American College of Surgeons*

Young Surgeons Representatives' Report

One of the main goals of the Southern California Chapter of ACS is to ensure young surgeons representation in Chapter activities and committees. It is also our goal to encourage new membership within the Chapter and to retain existing members, to encourage the exchange of information among the younger membership, to encourage an *esprit de corps* among the younger members, and to serve as a resource for residents and students who seek a career in surgery.

The leadership of the Southern California Chapter also encourages participation in the Chapter meeting particularly of young surgeons. A stipend to help defray travel and registration costs to a future ACS meeting — either local or national — is offered to three Young Surgeons every year. The successful applicants meeting all requirements receive a \$3,000 stipend each

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cjones@facs.org. All Web conferences are offered in Central Time (CST). We look forward to your participation!

6) The Commission on Cancer (CoC) has partnered with the American Cancer Society (ACS) for more than 90 years to help prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. As a Cancer Liaison Physician, your role is to serve as a physician champion, keep your cancer committee abreast of CoC initiatives, and help facilitate the relationship with the ACS. Is your local ACS representative attending your Cancer Committee meetings? Consider a collaborative project for 2006. Please let me know if your hospital has had a particularly successful CQI project that would be of interest to other facilities as well. I have recently participated with my local American Cancer Society chapter presenting Colorectal Screening Prof. Ed. to primary care physicians. We need more physicians (CLP?) who would be willing to be local presenters for this American Cancer Society CRC project. A PowerPoint presentation is available. I will continue to solicit participants for this collaborative venture.

7) Last May, I attended the ACOS State Chair meeting and training course. This was a three-day meeting with workshops in Cancer Liaison Physician recruitment and support. Also covered was tumor registry support and community outreach participation. There was a workshop on TNM staging and Cancer Planet web site user certification. There was training on the National Cancer Database (NCDB), as well as the The Facility Information Profile System (FIPS). This was a worthwhile experience, which will help in my interaction with our local Cancer Liaison Physicians.

8) I have been honored to be your state cancer chair for the last six months. Contact me at 626/449-6606 or recabare@usc.edu regarding any Commission on Cancer problems or questions.

James Recabaren, MD, FACS
State Chair, Southern California Commission on Cancer

after registering to attend the local Chapter meeting and completing a simple application form.

Winners are announced at the Young Surgeons' Breakfast at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Santa Barbara in January 2007. During this breakfast meeting, each young surgeon also has the opportunity to meet and establish a professional relationship with visiting professors and leaders of the ACS and our Chapter, and to discuss pressing issues for the practicing young surgeons.

In preparation for next year's meeting, a short e-mail questionnaire with regard to these issues will be sent to all members younger than 45 years old. The information gathered from this questionnaire will form the basis of our next roundtable discussion.

Please visit the website of the Southern California Chapter at www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/index.html for more details regarding the Annual Scientific Meeting. A new web page specifically addressed to young surgeons will also be available online soon.

We are always open to comments and suggestions. If you have any suggestions or comments as to how the SCCACS can enrich your professional experience, please contact us at atillou@mednet.ucla.edu and baputnam@ucla.edu. We look forward to your input and hope to see you all at the January 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting in Santa Barbara.

Areti Tillou, MD and Brant Putnam, MD
SCCACS Young Surgeons' Representatives

Help ACS with donation

The American College of Surgeons holds a restrictive 501c(3) tax-exempt status that limits the range of services it can provide to and on behalf of its Fellows. Notably, the College's tax classification forbids participation in any kind of political activity. When the ACS Board of Governors voted unanimously in favor of a College affiliate establishing a Political Action Committee (PAC), a new organization with the more flexible 501c(6) tax-exempt status had to be created. That affiliated corporation, ACS Professional Association (ACSPA), can offer a broader range of activities and services of benefit to surgeons and their patients, including an expanded legislative action program that features a PAC.

This new corporation allows the College to continue the standard-setting and educational activities that have always been at the heart of its mission.

For further information about ACSPA-SurgeonsPAC, visit www.facs.org/acspa/about.html.

California Medical Association Report

Bigger is Better – What's up with Trade Associations

When the most significant thing that happens to an organization during the course of a year is losing its CEO, a certain pall hangs over the pueblo. Sad to say, but Jack Lewin, MD, is leaving CMA for the mean streets of Washington, DC. His new employer, the American College of Cardiology, makes its home there, and if your town is like mine, represents legions of cardiologists, so many they outnumber the members of ACS. In my view, Jack's move is about numbers — lots of members across the country to lobby for in the nation's capitol. The unity of purpose for cardiologists stands in stark contrast to the fractious multi-specialty CMA. Cherry blossoms once a year maybe isn't enough, but a powerful trade association surely is.

We rarely consider the CMA as a trade association, but the media — especially the LA Times — frequently labels us so. Perhaps this is better than the more pejorative “Trade Union” but a far cry from “patient advocate.” The excesses of the Teamsters make the public wary of unions, but the bottom line is that these groups behave exactly alike. They lobby hard for their causes, and truth to tell, are quite effective.

When one considers legislative accomplishments, they're few and far between. Most efforts to improve things failed largely because of organized resistance — be it association or union.

Consider last November's initiative debacle. The Teachers blocked education reform. The firefighters and police blocked retirement adjustments. The nurses blocked a more rational approach to staffing issues. If nothing else, it proved unwise for the Government to alienate large groups of voters at one time.

CMA Defeat of Bills

The CMA, for its part, can claim as major successes, the defeat of numerous bills onerous to medicine — among them one to essentially prohibit MDs from doing acupuncture and another to require more CME for MDs prescribing psychoactive drugs. Such negative battles are easier to mount — less costly to oppose than to propose so more noise per dollar. It is a sad fact that 2 out of 3 of you reading this do not belong to CMA. This, of course, limits the College's representation in CMA, but, more importantly, robs CMA of dues money, which drives legislative activity. So that you know, it costs \$75,000 (more or less) to sponsor a bill, which pales in comparison to putting an initiative on the ballot. Prop. 67 last year cost CMA around \$900,000 — and we still lost.

For those of you who would have CMA write more legislation, I can only say, *show me the money!*

CMA is opposing SB736 (Speier) that would prohibit doctors from billing for CT scans, PET scans or MRIs they personally did not do on machines that they do not own. This bill was instigated by the radiologists who see others tilling their turf. While this has the scent of Pete Stark about it, note that it only applies to NON-OWNED machines. Lease to buy or leases are the target

— but are they? If you can't bill for the technical component, how could you bill for the interpretation? The American College of Cardiology is up in arms about this bill, suggesting that they are the target group. Ahh, doctor against doctor.

Further to oppose mode, CMA must build a war chest to defend the inevitable attack on MICRA. Non-CMA members might consider joining, thinking of dues dollars as insurance against MICRA's demise.

CMA is opposing Medicare's 4.7% pay cut for physicians in concert with AMA. Here again, CMA's representation in AMA is member-based — bigger is better. 80 US Senators recently signed a letter opposing this cut, but there is no legislation at this time to fix it. Talk is cheap. Where's the push? If any, it will be the AMA and the ACS.

Outpatient Endoscopy

Another interesting battle is brewing over the site of outpatient endoscopy. Blue Cross is thinking that they will reward docs who do such procedures for doing them in surgicenters — not hospital endoscopy suites. The reward? Higher reimbursement rates for the docs. This would seem to be an effort to close another door for hospitals to recoup costs of uncompensated care. This has drawn the ire of the California Hospital Association — another trade association, who is now suing Blue Cross. The CHA, incidentally, is smarting from the removal of \$10 million that was budgeted for trauma hospitals, presumably because the governor thinks hospitals don't need it.

A \$200 million budget item for disaster preparedness did survive mainly to increase stock piles of anti-virals, hospitals' surge capacity, medical supplies, ventilators, mobile field hospitals and masks for responders. It includes plans for a statewide registry of health professionals. While mostly a one-time funding source, it's large enough to put California near the top of states preparing for disasters.

Returning to uncompensated care, the usual legislative efforts seem destined to fail. Senator Romero's nickel a drink got hammered by yet another trade association — the liquor lobby — and died in the Senate. Senator Alarcon's bill to surcharge serious moving violations may pass the legislature, but since it's the same bill the governor vetoed last year, don't hold your breath. The very presence of yet another trade association — the insurance lobby — seems to have stifled any effort to fix the uncompensated care mess.

So, if bigger is better, let's get bigger. The lack of bigger is the status quo that doesn't seem to be improving things. So, Jack, Godspeed and to the rest of you, let's hear from you. Football season is nigh. Comments, criticisms: dgaspard@iopener.net.

*D.J. Gaspard, MD, FACS
Delegate, California Medical Association*

ACS Board of Regents meeting highlights

The following are highlights from the Feb. 10-11, 2006 meeting of the ACS Board of Regents:

As of November 30, 2005 (end of election cycle), the ACSPA-SurgeonsPAC raised \$516,000. Also, \$291,000 had been pledged to the PAC via the telephone fundraising campaign. Of 215 US members of the Board of Governors, 138, or 64%, contributed to the PAC (for an average contribution of \$381). In the 2005/2006 election cycle, which ends Nov. 30, 2006, contributions have been made to 103 candidate and leadership PAC committees. The ACSPA-SurgeonsPAC has organized nine political fundraiser events.

e-FACS.org

The College's Web portal, *e-FACS.org*, was officially launched on Jan. 10, for all members of the College. The availability of this new members-only benefit was announced through E-mail, the *Bulletin*, and *Surgery News*. The portal contains 38 communities, of which 12 are specialty communities, 10 are subspecialty communities under the category of General Surgery, and the remainder consists of special interest communities.

In 2005:

Doctors for Medical Liability Reform (DMLR) launched a nationwide grassroots recruitment and advocacy campaign called Getting the Nation Behind Us. DMLR's focus in 2005 was to identify, educate, and recruit likely supporters. This year, some of the highlights of the coalition's efforts include:

- Radio interviews with DMLR physicians and surgeons, which were broadcasted 960 times on 813 stations and heard by more than 23 million people
- A mailing from the DMLR to about 83,000 physicians (including all Fellows), patients, and concerned citizens, educating them about the medical liability crisis and encouraging their support
- Compilation of an e-mail list of 84,000 people as part of an ongoing online recruitment, education, and mobilization effort
- New Web site — <http://www.protectpatientsnow.org/> rede-

signed as user-friendly source of pertinent data and current news

- A series of clever animations was created and distributed via the Internet

- Online ads were displayed 16 million times
- A mini-documentary was produced for the Web on the medical liability crisis and its threat to patient access to care.

American College of Surgeons (ACS) — Proposed Statement

The Board of Regents (B/R) reviewed a statement on sharps safety, which was prepared by the Committee on Perioperative Care (CPC). The statement was drafted in a follow-up to the *Statement on Blunt Suture Needles* (www.facs.org/fellows_info/statements/st-52.html), which was also prepared by the CPC and was approved by the B/R at its June 2005 meeting. The CPC subsequently determined that a broader statement on sharps safety was needed; thus, it drafted the statement on sharps safety. After reviewing the proposed statement, the B/R requested that members of the Board of Governors (B/G) review it. B/G comments will be brought back to the B/R at its next meeting (June 2006).

Resident and Associate Society (RAS)

An anonymous donation has enabled RAS to award two scholarships for 2006 to defray costs associated with conference registration, travel and participation. These scholarships will allow young surgeons to develop skills required to become leaders of the future in surgery.

Advisory Councils for the Surgical Specialties

The Advisory Council for Neurological Surgery has focused on the issue of emergency care. The Executive Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) is opposed to the concept of delegating neurosurgical care of trauma patients. The Advisory Council is serving as a liaison between the AANS and the ACS regarding this issue.

For more details, visit www.facs.org/news/regentsfeb2006.html.

CMA thwarts attempt to regulate physicians billing for ER services

The California Medical Association just persuaded Gov. Schwarzenegger to drop an emergency regulation that proposed banning the ability of physicians to bill for ER services provided to patients. The regulation threatened the emergency and trauma care system in California, CMA officials said.

"I am pleased that Gov. Schwarzenegger withdrew this regulation," said CMA CEO Jack Lewin, MD. "Let it be clear, however, that CMA stands ready to vigorously defend the ability of individual physicians to bill for ER services rendered." CMA officials also said that the administration agreed to sit down with CMA physicians to discuss this issue.

The proposed regulation would have allowed health insurance

companies to decide what they would pay a physician for care provided to a patient, and individual physicians would have not had any recourse. This would apply to thousands of physicians in California, including those who had not agreed to a contract with the insurance company.

"By eliminating the ability of individual doctors to fairly bill for ER care, the governor would have made it impossible for physicians to be paid fairly by for-profit health insurance companies," said Dr. Lewin. "This is an idea promoted by the incredibly profitable insurance industry, which is hiding behind patients to increase revenue. These companies are fully able and should be required to pay for the care of their enrollees."

2007 Annual Scientific Meeting

Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore

www.fourseasons.com

1260 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA
Jan. 19-21, 2007

Once again, the Southern California Chapter ACS Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the ever-inviting Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore in Santa Barbara. The Program Committee, with Chair Joshua Ellenhorn, MD, FACS; Associate Chair Christian de Virgilio, MD, FACS; and Assistant Chair Shirin Towfigh, MD, FACS, remain hard at work planning an exciting meeting.

Highlights of the Annual Scientific Meeting will include:

Guest Faculty

*Joseph P. Vacanti, MD, FACS

John Homans Professor of Surgery
Harvard Medical School
Director of Pediatric Transplantation
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

*John M. Daly, MD, FACS

Dean, Temple University School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA
Houston, TX

*Thomas Russell, MD, FACS

Executive Director
American College of Surgeons



View from Four Seasons Resort,
The Biltmore

Program Highlights

- *Trauma sessions fully integrated with the general program
- *High-quality, original papers
- *General and sub-specialty sessions
- *Lectures by invited guests
- *Friday evening Cocktail Reception with hors d'oeuvres
- *Saturday luncheon with spouses and invited guest speaker
- *Saturday afternoon Wine and Cheese Reception running concurrently with poster presentations
- *Young Surgeons breakfast and special activities

*What's New in Surgery:

An indepth look at important new developments in a variety of areas including trauma, pediatric surgery, surgical oncology, colorectal and surgical site infection

*Specialty Sections and their Chairs:

-**Pediatric Surgery:** Chair Stephen B. Shew, MD, FACS

-**Vascular Surgery:** Chair Peter Lawrence, MD, FACS (UCLA)

-**Cardiothoracic Surgery:** Chair Bassam Omari, MD, FACS (Harbor-UCLA)

-**General Surgery:** Chair Rodney Mason, MD, FACS (USC)

-**Head and Neck Surgery:** Chair Ryan Osborne, MD, FACS (Cedars)

-**Plastic Surgery:** Chair Dong-Joon Lee, MD, FACS (Kaiser)

-**Colorectal Surgery:** Chair Ravin Kumar, MD, FACS

-**Trauma:** Chair Demetrios Demetriades, MD, FACS (USC)

Please join us in Santa Barbara Jan. 19-21, 2007. You need to call 805/969-2261 no later than **Dec. 18, 2006** to reserve a room for \$280/night (single/double) at Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore.

*Joshua DI Ellenhorn, MD, FACS
Program Chair*

And, others to be announced for the General Meeting and Specialty Sections!

www.socal surgeons.org

323/937-5514, fax 323/937-0959

Los Angeles, CA 90010

4929 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 428

SCCACS NEWS



Save The Dates!

2007 Annual Scientific Meeting
Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore
Santa Barbara, CA
Jan. 19–21, 2007

Surgical Residents and medical students may attend free of charge
