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Southern California Chapter

## American College of Surgeons

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Welcome to the  
Southern California  
Chapter of the  
American College of  
Surgeons

## SCCACS Summer Newsletter 2011 -- Vol. 16

**Editor's Note**

*By Edward H. Phillips, MD  
President-Elect , SCCACS*

In this brief SCCACS News, we've tried to summarize some of the many activities of your Chapter officers, committee chairpersons and representatives. New this year, we've changed the format to an online version, with links sent to members' emails. 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.

**President's Message**

*By Gill Cryer, MD, FACS  
President, SCCACS*



Unfortunately, I must begin the President's letter with some bad news. It is with sadness that I report to members of the Southern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons that our **Vice President, Dr. Mariane Cinat**, passed away unexpectedly over the summer. Our prayers go out to her and her family. Her passing has left a void in the Chapter's leadership, and the Board has decided to fill that by moving Dr. Dan Margulies up from Secretary Treasurer to Vice President and to move Dr. Shirin Towfigh up to Secretary Treasurer, effective immediately.



Preparations continue for this year's Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be held at the Four Seasons Biltmore Resort in Santa Barbara from Jan. 20-22, 2012. We have arranged for a block of rooms at a deeply discounted rate of \$350/night. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel at (805) 565-8299, prior to **Dec. 20**. Simply mention the Southern California Chapter of the American Colleges of Surgeons to receive the discounted rate. We hope that you will join us, and please bring the family.

**Guest Speakers**

I am pleased to announce that this year's guest speakers will include: **LD Britt, MD**, current president of the American College of Surgeons; **David Hoyt, MD**, executive director of the American College of Surgeons, and **Leigh Neumayer, MD**, professor of Surgery at the University of Utah specializing in breast surgery.



Program Chair, Ali Salim, MD, Associate Program Chair, Andrew DeFronzo, MD, and Assistant Program Chair, Brian Smith, MD, have been working hard to assemble a combination of scientific papers, guest lectureships, what's new in surgery and other material of interest not only to general surgeons, but also those in our major subspecialties.

Additional highlights of the program will be an address by **Leigh A. Neumayer, MD**, at the luncheon for our Women in Surgery group and address by LD Britt, MD, at the breakfast for the Young Surgeons. Highlighting the social program will be the Friday evening cocktail reception with its traditional abundance of food, drink and fun.

**Healthcare Legislation**

A lot has been happening in Washington over the last year with major impacts on health care, including health care reform, the Federal Budget, and the economy. The American College of

Surgeons has taken an active role in lobbying strongly to make the eventual outcome of any changes in these areas favorable for surgeons.

A major player for the American College of Surgeons is, of course, our guest and member **Dr. David Hoyt**. He will update us on the direction healthcare has taken and on how it will impact surgeons, and how the College and its members can help to secure a stable future. In addition, several of our members, including me, are Governors of the College and serve as liaisons between the membership of the Chapter and the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. We want your voice to be heard, so if you have concerns you want to reach the Regents, please let me know.



#### "What's New"

The ever-popular "What's New" sessions will cover endocrine surgery, trauma and acute care surgery, breast surgery, vascular surgery, bariatric/minimally invasive surgery, and colorectal surgery. I am also pleased to announce that "Surgical Jeopardy" will return, bigger and better than ever, as residents from our many teaching hospitals square off to determine the best and brightest. Please be sure to be present to cheer on your favorite team and witness the awarding of the Third Annual Dowden Cup.

#### Call for Abstracts

Abstracts for Annual Scientific Meeting program participation are now being accepted through close of business on **Friday, Sept. 16**. Most presented papers selected for oral presentation will be included in a special issue of the American Surgeon. This is, as always, a great forum for young surgeons and for surgical trainees to get experience in presenting and publishing. Details are posted at <http://socalsurgeons.org/acs/callforabstracts2012.html>.

#### Please Help SCCACS

In this era of cost containment, we need your help, more than ever, in recruiting industry participation for the meeting. Industry support covers roughly half the cost of the meeting and allows us to keep the membership dues and registration fees at a modest level. Our industry vendors also give us an opportunity to view the latest technology and conduct one to one discussions regarding technology, pharmaceuticals, and other tools that we utilize in our practices.

If you have any special association with industry representatives who have supported us in the past, or who have expressed an interest in doing so in the future, please forward your contact information directly to Jim Dowden, our executive director, at [administrator@socalsurgeons.org](mailto:administrator@socalsurgeons.org). He will do the footwork and follow-up necessary and provide the vendor with a selection of opportunities that are available for participation.

Please visit <http://socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/meetings.html> if you have not received specific information on abstract submission or hotel reservations. Registration details will be sent soon. Once again, I hope that you and your family find time to come to Santa Barbara to enjoy the program that the Program Committee has assembled and to partake in the many opportunities for education, recreation, and relaxation that are an integral part of our Annual Scientific Meeting.

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### Chapter seeks feedback

SCCACS is your organization. The Chapter leaders below want to hear from you with any comments and suggestions:

#### OFFICERS

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#### **Executive Director**

C. James Dowden

[administrator@socalsurgeons.org](mailto:administrator@socalsurgeons.org)

## **Membership Report**

*By C. James Dowden*

*Executive Director*

Current membership in the Southern California Chapter of ACS is 1,799 members. This breaks down into 892 Active Fellows, 894 Senior Fellows and 13 Associate members. The Chapter membership represents just over 48% 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.

#### **SCCACS Member Services**

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.

We have 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](http://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](http://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 (310/364-0193) 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.

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## Young Surgeons Representatives' Report

**By Sharon Lum, MD, FACS, and Kenji Inaba, MD, FACS**  
**SCCACS 2011 Young Surgeons Representatives**

### Introduction and Young Surgeons' Breakfast

The 2012 SCCACS Annual Scientific Meeting is shaping up to be of particular interest for local young surgeons. Last year's Young Surgeons' Breakfast was a great success, and plans are underway to make this year's event even better.

We have planned a full breakfast on Saturday morning for interested surgeons under the age of 45. Speaking at the breakfast this year will be **Dr. LD Britt**, Brickhouse, Professor of Surgery at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, President of the American College of Surgeons, and former President of the Southern Surgical Association.



### Surgical Jeopardy

Back by popular demand, Surgical Jeopardy will return to the Annual Scientific Meeting in 2012. This year, residents from Southern California residency programs will compete for the annual trophy, as well as bragging rights in what should be an educational and entertaining event. This year will mark the fourth year the competition takes place. This year's winners will enjoy their names listed on the Dowden Trophy, along with that of their residency program. Three preliminary rounds will pit three programs against one another, with the winner of each round advancing to final jeopardy for the tournament of champions.

Last year's competition was one of the highest attended events for the Annual Scientific Meeting, and 2012 will be a fantastic opportunity for residents from each of our local programs to prove their worth. We will be contacting program directors and residents of the various local programs to start encouraging them to attend the meeting and take part in this event.

### Young Surgeon's Travel Stipend

This year will mark the fourth year the Young Surgeon's Travel Stipend will be awarded on a competitive basis. The purpose of the stipend is to encourage young surgeons to participate in local Chapter and national College activities by providing a stipend (this year \$2,000 each for three separate awardees for a total of \$6,000) to be used at the discretion of the young surgeon over 18 months for meeting attendance.

The only restrictions are that the stipend be used for meeting attendance expenses, that it be applied towards any meeting of the local Chapter or a national ACS meeting, and that winners be present at the 2012 breakfast to receive the award. Three travel stipends will be awarded at the Young Surgeon's Breakfast.

Stipend applications are posted on the [Chapter's website](#). The deadline for submission is **Jan. 1, 2012**.

We look forward to an outstanding attendance this year and to seeing you all in Santa Barbara in January.

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## Commission on Cancer Liaison Report

**By James Recabaren, MD, FACS**  
**State Chair, Southern California Chapter ACS**  
**Commission on Cancer**

This update will summarize the previous year's activities as SCCACS's cancer liaison for the Commission on Cancer:

1) A number of agenda items were covered during our chapter's January 2011 Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) meeting. First were introductions and also a welcome to the new CLP members for our state. Our keynote presentation again centered on the collaboration with the American Cancer Society and resources they offer. Emilia Jankowski, Vice President, American Cancer Society, joined us with a presentation on physician volunteerism and services available to the chapter from the American Cancer Society. I continue the co-chair of the Physician Engagement Committee for the American Cancer Society.



Our next chapter Liaison Physician meeting will be in Santa Barbara on Jan. 22, 2012.

2) I continue as a member of the Commission on Cancer. This is an additional three-year membership in the governing body of the ACOS Cancer program. It was an honor to be re-elected and represent the SCCACS on a national level.

3) I continue as your chapter state chair for the Commission on Cancer, CLP program. This is a three-year appointment expiring in 2012.

4) I am currently serving as a Governor-at-Large for our chapter.

5) In August 2010, I attended the Cancer Liaison Program Summit in Chicago. The Summit brought thought leaders from around the country together to talk about the Cancer Liaison Program. Attendees include those involved in the Cancer Liaison Program from different vantage points. This approach will facilitate a review of the Cancer Liaison Program, a discussion of the potential for program growth and development, a look at opportunities for program enhancement, and development of a strategy and plan for the future of the Cancer Liaison Program.

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 CLP, 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 2011. 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 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) Annual CLP Breakfast Meeting at Clinical Congress

Don't miss this opportunity to meet with your State Chair and network with other Cancer Liaison Physicians in your state! The CoC is hosting its Annual Cancer Liaison Physician Breakfast on Monday, Oct. 24, 2011 in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in San Francisco, CA.

I have been honored to be your state cancer chair for the past year. Contact me at 626/449-6606 or [recabare@usc.edu](mailto:recabare@usc.edu) regarding any Commission on Cancer problems or questions.

## Association of Women Surgeons Report

*By Farin Amersi, MD  
Representative, Association of Women Surgeons*

The third annual Women in Surgery Luncheon was held on Saturday at the 2011 SCCACS Annual Scientific Meeting. Fifty-four medical students, residents, fellows and attending surgeons attended the event and had the opportunity to meet and network with other female academic and community surgeons in various surgical specialties.

In addition, our keynote speaker, **Dr. Sherry Wren**, Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Stanford University School of Medicine, spoke about her research on Gender Differences In Academic Career Changes, after spending a year as a Faculty Research Fellow at the Michelle R Clayman School of Gender Research at Stanford University. She also spoke about her experiences as a volunteer surgeon with Humanitarian Aid and war surgery in the Ivory Coast and the Republic of Congo.



**Carlos A Pellegrini MD**, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine, also attended the luncheon. He spoke about his experiences with faculty and the challenges they face in academic surgery.



Make plans now to attend the fourth annual Women in Surgery Luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 during the SCCACS Annual Scientific Meeting at the Four Seasons Biltmore in Santa Barbara. The speaker will be **Leigh A. Neumayer, MD, MS**, Professor of Surgery at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

## 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting

**By Ali Salim, MD, FACS  
Program Chair**

We are delighted to announce the Southern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be held Jan. 20 -22, 2012 at the beautiful Biltmore, Four Seasons Resort in Santa Barbara. The Program Committee – Chair, **Ali Salim, MD, FACS**; Associate Chair, **Andrew DiFronzo, MD, FACS**; and Assistant Chair, **Brian Smith, MD, FACS** – are working diligently to make this another exceptional meeting full of science, fellowship, and fun. Highlights for the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting include:



**Guest Faculty**

**L.D. Britt, MD, FACS, MPH, SCCM.**

Brickhouse Professor of Surgery  
Chairman, Department of Surgery  
Eastern Virginia Medical School



**Leigh A. Neumayer, MD, FACS.**

Professor of Surgery  
University of Utah



**David Hoyt, MD, FACS**

Executive Director  
American College of Surgeons



**Program Highlights**

- High-quality oral presentations of original papers
- Young Surgeons breakfast
- Women in Surgery Luncheon – students, residents, and practicing surgeons welcomed
- Friday evening cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres
- Kids for All Seasons program for families with children 4-12
- Rapid-fire oral presentation format for posters
- Wine & cheese reception
- What's New in Surgery topics: Breast, Vascular, Hernia, Oncology, Bariatrics, Acute Care Surgery

**Specialty Sessions include:**

- General (Endocrine Surgery)
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Colorectal Surgery
- Breast Surgery
- Head & Neck Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Trauma Surgery



We look forward to seeing you in Santa Barbara Jan. 20-22, 2012. Sign on to <http://www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/meetings.html> for meeting registration and hotel information. Early bird discounted conference registration deadline is **Dec. 31**. The block of hotel rooms always sells out, so make your reservations early. Hotel room block deadline is **Dec. 20**.

**Calendar**

**• Abstract submission deadline**

Friday, Sept. 16, 2011

Visit [www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/meetings.html](http://www.socalsurgeons.org/acs/pages/meetings.html) for details

**•2012 Annual Scientific Meeting**

Jan. 20-22, 2012

Four Seasons Biltmore Resort

[www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

1260 Channel Drive, Santa Barbara



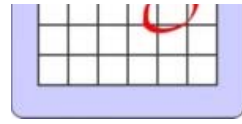
Call 805/565-8299 by Dec. 20, 2011  
to get discounted \$350 room rate.

•**2013 Annual Scientific Meeting**

Jan. 18-20, 2013  
Four Seasons Biltmore Resort  
Santa Barbara

•**2014 Annual Scientific Meeting**

Jan. 17-19, 2014  
Four Seasons Biltmore Resort  
Santa Barbara



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