The Value of Membership

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards,
Better Outcomes

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The Value of Membership
The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is the largest organization of surgeons in the world, uniquely positioned to lead the way in optimal patient care, surgical research, health policy, and continuing education and networking opportunities. It is the single strongest voice for surgeons in all specialties and, since its foundation in 1913, has been at the forefront of providing quality care for surgical patients and supporting surgeons wherever they practice. The College works on behalf of our members and their patients by:

- **Developing** innovative education and training programs to support practicing surgeons, surgery residents, and members of surgical teams.
- **Improving** care for surgical patients through American College of Surgeons Quality Programs, including the Commission on Cancer (CoC), the Committee on Trauma (COT), and the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®).
- **Fostering** the next generation of promising surgeons through scholarships and fellowships.
- **Conducting** research to provide cutting-edge best practices in patient care.
- **Giving** surgeons from across the U.S. and around the globe opportunities for networking.
- **Promoting** the image of the surgical profession, today and tomorrow.

Realize the power of your profession.

More than 64,000 ACS Fellows are shaping the future of surgical care today.
There are more than 78,000 members of the American College of Surgeons worldwide.
Member benefits you can use every day

Welcome to the American College of Surgeons and congratulations on achieving Fellowship. Through your commitment to the profession you have participated in a rigorous evaluation of your education and training, professional qualifications, surgical competence, and ethical conduct, which were found to be consistent with the high standards established by the College.

Induction into the College represents an important milestone in your career. As a Fellow of the College, you receive exclusive access to a wide variety of “Members Only” benefits. The College’s top priority is providing value for its members. Member benefits include the following valuable opportunities and resources:

- ACS activities and programs of interest to international surgeons
  The ACS International Relations Committee aims to promote relationships between the College and surgeons throughout the world in the areas of clinical practice, education, and research in order to provide a basis for the delivery of quality surgical care.
  The College strives to provide the best information regarding surgical practice and patient safety for all practicing surgeons; moreover, the ACS members-only website houses a community for international surgery, and Operation Giving Back provides surgical volunteerism opportunities around the world.

- Take advantage of continuing education opportunities
  Online, in person, and in print, the College supports knowledge and skill advancement for you to perform at your highest potential. As a Fellow, you can benefit from these meetings and programs:

  - Clinical Congress, the premier annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons
    This five-day meeting offers high-quality educational programs designed to educate and train surgeons and improve the health and safety of surgical patients. Take advantage of all the Clinical Congress has to offer, including a vast array of educational opportunities such as Named Lectures, Panel Sessions, Postgraduate Courses, Scientific Posters, Scientific Papers, Surgical Forum Sessions, Town Hall Meetings, Video-Based Education Sessions, Meet-the-Expert Luncheons, and general and specialty sessions that may be of interest to you. A low registration fee is offered to all ACS Fellows. For more information about the Clinical Congress, visit www.facs.org.

  - Key surgical knowledge and skills resources
    Details about these and other programs and courses can be found at www.facs.org/education.

As an ACS Fellow, you automatically receive:

- **FREE** subscriptions to all ACS periodicals and e-newsletters
- **ACCESS** to the ACS members-only website and job-posting site

EDUCATION  ADVOCACY  BENEFITS
RESEARCH  SCHOLARSHIPS  COMMITTEES
PUBLICATIONS  NETWORKING  MEMBERSHIP
Evidence-Based Decisions in Surgery: The new Evidence-Based Decisions in Surgery modules are derived from practice guidelines to help address diagnoses and conditions most relevant to general surgeons for the purpose of decision support, patient-focused interactions, and patient education. These modules were developed through a multi-step, peer-review process and are available to ACS members electronically through a mobile device, tablet, or computer.

ACS Comprehensive General Surgery Review Course: This three-and-a-half-day intensive review of the essential content areas in general surgery includes online modules that can be accessed after the course. The course will help fulfill the requirements for Maintenance of Certification, Part 2 and should be helpful in preparing for recertification examinations.

ACS Multimedia Atlas of Surgery: The three volumes in the series cover hernia surgery, colorectal surgery, and pancreatic surgery. Each volume includes a DVD and accompanying book that provides an interactive demonstration. Each procedure is presented in a step-wise fashion, offering expert commentaries that highlight special nuances and actions to be taken to prevent errors.

Ultrasound for Surgeons, The Basic Course, 2nd Edition CD-ROM: This CD-ROM provides a basic core of education and training in ultrasound imaging as a foundation for specific clinical applications.

Other core competency resources
Details about these and other programs and courses can be found at www.facs.org/education.

Surgeons as Leaders, From Operating Room to Boardroom: This live course is designed for surgeons who want to enhance their leadership skills across a wide variety of settings, from operating room to boardroom.

Professionalism in Surgery, Challenges and Choices: This DVD addresses the principles of professionalism using 24 vignettes that depict realistic dilemmas surgeons face in everyday practice. The vignettes offer possible courses of action and highlight elements of professionalism.

Case Studies in Ethics: The cases on this interactive DVD present commonly encountered ethical scenarios that have ambiguous options for action with uncertain results. Each case is debated by two surgeons and a variety of ethics, legal, and other experts.

Communicating with Patients about Surgical Errors and Adverse Outcomes: The focus of this DVD is the essential principles of communicating with patients about surgical errors and adverse outcomes. A range of communication strategies with varying levels of effectiveness are shown, and discussion points are provided.

Disclosing Surgical Errors, Vignettes for Discussion: Designed for teaching, this DVD shows the interactions of a surgeon with a patient’s family. Examples of typical interactions regarding surgical errors are provided, along with examples of communication strategies that are more effective.

Patient Education Resources: The Patient Education Program is dedicated to improving the quality of surgical patient care and promoting a better recovery. Home skills kits to prepare patients for complex care, a surgical prep and brochure series, procedure-specific informed consent forms, a surgical cancer series, and a professional surgical patient education certification program are just some of the programs available to members.
Enjoy access to innovative research with ACS publications

Stay up to date on current research and receive news from the College and surgical community through multiple publications and products. The following resources are a free benefit of ACS membership. You will receive the publications automatically; program-specific products and posters can be ordered from the ACS online catalog at www.facs.org.

*Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS),* a monthly peer-reviewed journal publishing original contributions on all aspects of surgery; free to subscribers and ACS Fellows, the mobile-friendly JACS CME website allows you to earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit when it’s convenient for you

*Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons,* a monthly publication of news, information, and events from the College

*ACS NewsScope,* a weekly e-newsletter of news, information, and events distributed by the College

*Surgery News,* the official news publication of the ACS

*Surgery News UPDATE,* the Surgery News monthly e-newsletter

Program-specific publications, products, posters

Learn the fundamental elements of trauma care

The American College of Surgeons trauma programs are designed to help surgeons develop the necessary skills for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international areas. Details about these and other courses and programs can be found at www.facs.org/trauma.

**The ATLS® Course**

The Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) course teaches a systematic, concise approach to the early care of the trauma patient. This course is vital to guiding care for the injured patient in emergency department trauma rooms. ATLS® course training provides a common language that can save lives in critical situations. For more information about ATLS® and how to find a course near you, visit www.facs.org/trauma/atls.

**ATLS® International Promulgation**

The ATLS® program is established in more than 60 countries worldwide. Currently, more than half of all ATLS® activity is conducted outside of the United States and Canada. For information about starting an ATLS® program in a new country, visit www.facs.org/trauma/atls.

**The ASSET Course**

The Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET) course provides an overview of important surgical exposures in five key anatomic areas. The one-day cadaver-based course follows a modular, body region-based approach to teach surgical exposure of anatomic structures that when injured may pose a threat to life or limb. For more information about ASSET and how to find a course near you, visit www.facs.org/trauma/education/asset.

**The TEAM Program**

The Trauma Evaluation and Management (TEAM) program provides a standardized introductory course in the evaluation and management of trauma for medical students and multidisciplinary team members through core content adapted from the ACS ATLS® course. For more information about TEAM, visit www.facs.org/trauma/atls/team.
ACS Quality Programs

For more than a century, the American College of Surgeons has led initiatives to improve overall quality in hospitals as well as in the specific areas of trauma, cancer, and surgical care. ACS has established expert bodies to set the highest standards and achieve the best outcomes through our accreditation, verification, and quality programs. The ACS is seeking to expand all quality programs in the international arena.

ACS National Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP)

Commission on Cancer (CoC)

National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC)

Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP)

Committee on Trauma (COT) Verification Program

“Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons provides me with opportunities for a cross-fertilization of ideas and collaboration. It means being part of a world-wide family of surgeons that share a commitment to excellence and learning.”

— ALVARO E. SANABRIA, COLOMBIA
Network with surgeon leaders

The annual Clinical Congress and Chapter meetings offer Fellows opportunities to build strong professional relationships and also provide access to College leaders and colleagues.

In addition, each Fellow has a Governor representative who serves as the official communications link between the Fellows and the ACS Board of Regents. Governors are allocated by country. You are encouraged to reach out to your Governor and share your perspectives on what the College should be doing on your behalf. Visit the ACS website, www.facs.org, to connect with your Governor.

Proudly display that you’re a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons

By using the FACS designation on your business card, lab coat, website, and letterhead, you can show your pride in being a Fellow. To download electronic files of the FACS artwork, go online to efacs.org and click on the “FACS Artwork” quick-link in the lower left corner.

Additional benefits specifically for you

Take advantage of these services available to ACS Fellows via the members-only section of the ACS website, www.facs.org:

- Update your profile and share your information with the public
- Proudly display that you’re a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons by using the FACS designation on your business card, lab coat, website, and letterhead
- Sign-up for the e-mail forwarding service so the College can stay in touch with you throughout your surgical career
- Obtain discounts from select publishers, including BC Decker, Elsevier, and Springer

Capitalize on scholarship and fellowship opportunities

Fellows have access to a variety of scholarships and fellowships offered by the American College of Surgeons. Several opportunities are available throughout the year. Details, including deadlines and application information, can be found at www.facs.org.

International Guest Scholarships provide scholars with an opportunity to visit clinical, teaching, and research activities in North America and to attend and participate fully in the educational opportunities and activities of the ACS Clinical Congress.

Community Surgeon Travel Awards provide international surgeons with the opportunity to attend and participate fully in the educational activities of the ACS Clinical Congress.

International Scholarships for Surgical Education provide young faculty members with the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational opportunities for faculty development and enhancement that will result in acquisition of new knowledge and skills in surgical education and training.

International ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®) Scholarships provide an opportunity to attend the annual ACS NSQIP National Conference, meet program leadership and surgeon champions from ACS NSQIP-participating hospitals, and visit one to two hospitals that reflect the candidate’s specific clinical interests.

“\nThis scholarship was an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge that I can immediately apply to my patient care and research, as well as inspiration that will help me invigorate my career.\n
— MOHAMED JALLOULI, TUNISIA\n"
Your Membership Matters—Get Involved TODAY!

- Use your Member ID Number to visit the members-only section of the ACS website, www.facs.org
- Join your ACS Chapter; for more information, visit www.facs.org or call 1-888-857-7545
- Join a College committee
- Encourage your colleagues to join the College as a Fellow or as an Associate Fellow, Resident Member, Medical Student, or Affiliate Member!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

Member Benefits 1-800-621-4111 or ms@facs.org
Chapter Hotline 1-888-857-7545

For additional information, e-mail us at ms@facs.org or visit us at www.facs.org.

Or visit us on:

The Fellowship Pledge

Recognizing that the American College of Surgeons seeks to exemplify and develop the highest traditions of our ancient profession, I hereby pledge myself, as a condition of Fellowship in the College, to live in strict accordance with the College’s principles and regulations.

I pledge to pursue the practice of surgery with honesty and to place the welfare and the rights of my patient above all else. I promise to deal with each patient as I would wish to be dealt with if I were in the patient’s position, and I will respect the patient’s autonomy and individuality.

I further pledge to affirm and support the social contract of the surgical profession with my community and society. I will take no part in any arrangement or improper financial dealings that induce referral, treatment, or withholding of treatment for reasons other than the patient’s welfare.

Upon my honor, I declare that I will advance my knowledge and skills, will respect my colleagues, and will seek their counsel when in doubt about my own abilities. In turn, I will willingly help my colleagues when requested.

I recognize the interdependency of all health care professionals and will treat each with respect and consideration.

Finally, by my Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons, I solemnly pledge to abide by the Code of Professional Conduct and to cooperate in advancing the art and science of surgery.
International Relations Committee (IRC)

The IRC promotes relationships between the College and surgeons throughout the world in the areas of clinical practice, education, and research in order to provide a basis for optimal health care delivery.

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Board of Governors
International Chapters Workgroup

The International Chapters Workgroup serves as an advocate for all the College’s International Chapters, and monitors and reports on the International Chapters’ activities, resources, and issues.

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