President’s Message

Rebecca Minter, MD

As I reflect on the great honor that has been bestowed upon me in serving as the 77th President of the Society of University Surgeons, I am struck by the immense versatility and adaptability of our honorific society. In the almost 10 years that I have served on the Executive Council of the SUS I have witnessed great change and thoughtful evolution of the SUS’s approach to achieving its mission of promoting surgical science and leadership within academic surgery. Under the leadership of my predecessors, increased transparency has been applied to our membership processes, as well as processes for appointment to positions of leadership. Engagement of our membership is high, with interest in serving on committees of the SUS being greater than ever before as a testament to the success of this more open approach. As our members are the lifeblood of our organization, this growth in both numbers and participation in the work of our society predict a bright future for the SUS.

In order to better meet the needs of our members, the SUS has sought new ways to provide unique development opportunities for faculty seeking business and leadership development. The one day mid-career academic surgery professional development course offered immediately prior to the Academic Surgical Congress is a fantastic opportunity to learn from other successful leaders in Academic Surgery, and is focused on personal leadership development, conflict resolution, and negotiating skills. Given the success of this short program, the SUS has embarked upon a joint venture with Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Business and will hold its inaugural 3.5 day residential course at the Kellogg School of Business September 18-21, 2016. This course will draw on the Kellogg Business School professors to provide content on financial oversight, management, and the changing landscape of healthcare delivery in the United States. Academic surgical leaders will punctuate these lectures with sage advice and insight, linking the content directly to their real-world experiences in academic surgery. This course is already nearly fully subscribed and we anticipate it will be a great success.

With the recent successes of the 2016 Academic Surgical Congress in the rear-view, we are already hard at work planning the 2017 Academic Surgical Congress which will be in Las Vegas, NV. The meeting in Jacksonville was fantastic and each year the science and other sessions seem to only improve and draw ever larger audiences. All of this would not be possible without our incredibly committed hard-working program committees and publications Chairs. A significant thank you to Rebekah White, MD (SUS Publications Chair) and Adil Haider, MD, MPH (AAS Program Chair) and their committees for all of the planning and effort which is already well underway for our upcoming congress. The meeting is a time to connect with old friends and to make new ones, and to be inspired by the obvious talent and enthusiasm present in all of the young attendees who represent a very bright future for academic surgery. I sincerely hope that you will mark your calendar and plan to join us in Las Vegas in February 2017.

Continued on Page 2
While the SUS has changed significantly in the past decade, it is imperative that we continue to evolve to meet the needs of our current and future members. To that end, the leadership will invest and engage in a reflective retreat this summer to explore the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to our organization. It is our hope that this exercise will help us to identify the direction for our society for the next ten years, so that we can better meet the needs of our members and continue to grow into an ever more vibrant society. While there are many challenges before us in the current healthcare landscape, this creates opportunity and a need for strong leadership in academic surgery. The membership of the SUS is poised to provide this leadership, and we hope to be able to support those rising leaders as they embark on this important journey. I hope that we may look forward to your input and guidance as we work together to chart the evolution of the next decade of the SUS together.

Rebecca Minter, MD
SUS President 2016-2017
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SOCIETY OF UNIVERSITY SURGEONS • Summer 2016
The Society of University Surgeons met in Jacksonville, the city “Where Florida Begins”, for the 11th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC) in the newly renovated Hyatt Regency on the St. John's River. This year’s meeting was a great success. A record number of abstracts were submitted with 1203 abstracts being reviewed and 1082 presentations given. The meeting saw a record number of registered participants, with over 1500 academic surgeons and trainees present to learn about the newest research emanating from our surgical community, and to spend time considering current issues facing all academic surgeons.

The success of this year’s meeting is due to the diligence of the SUS Publications Chair, Kasper Wang, MD and AAS Recorder, Adil Haider, MD, MPH. They began their work shortly after the 2015 meeting and assembled an excellent program. Thank you also to the members of the ASC Core group who held planning conference calls every 4 weeks throughout the year. And a special thank you to Yumi Hori and Christina Kasendorf, the Executive Directors of our parent societies, and all of their staff. They are the humble experts behind the scenes providing endless guidance and executing all the details.

Pre-Meeting: SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course

The fourth-annual 2016 SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course (see inset on page 24) was a great success. Dr. Michael Mulholland gave the keynote address this year. As anticipated, his talk was filled with sage advice as he presented us with his 10 principles of leadership. In fact, the course delivered new interactive content and all speakers provided honest sage advice, filled with real world examples of challenges and successes they have encountered throughout their careers thus far in academic surgery. Given the positive feedback, this course will be repeated with further updated content and interactive sessions in 2017 on February 6, immediately prior to the 2017 Academic Surgical Congress in Las Vegas, NV. The course will be capped again at 50 participants to ensure interactivity and to maximize participation by course attendees. Please stay tuned for the registration flyer which will be circulated in October 2016.
Day 1

Tuesday morning the meeting got off to a busy start with 18 concurrent oral scientific sessions. The opening ceremonies followed, led by the SUS President, Dr. Sharon Weber, and AAS President, Dr. Justin Dimick. It was great to visit with the representatives from our sister societies, Professor Thomas Hubert and Brendel Prize winner Dr. Oliver Rosero from the European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR), Professor Andrew Hill from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons – Surgical Research Society (RACS-SRS), Professor Henrik Kehlet from Denmark as the BJ S Lecturer, Professor Pradeep Navsaria and the Sceales-Antrobus Prize winner Dr. Francois Malherbe from the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa (SRS of SA), Japan Surgical Society (JSS) abstract winner Dr. Yoshihiro Shirai, and Professor Dion Morton and Patey Prize winner Dr. Rajiv Dave from the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS).

In his classic dramatic, and charismatic way, Dr. Alden Harken then presented the 2015 SUS Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. Ernest “Gene” Moore. Dr. Harken recognized Dr. Moore as the consummate academic surgeon. He recognized Dr. Moore as an icon in American Academic Surgery. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Moore attended Allegheny College where he lettered in varsity football. He then went on to the University of Vermont for medical school and trained in general surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. He was recruited to Denver General Hospital where he rose through the academic ranks.

As a surgical scientist, Dr. Moore published over 1500 original manuscripts. He is the primary editor of the major trauma surgical textbook. In addition to being the ideal academician, Dr. Moore was an amazing clinical surgeon. He raised over 11 million dollars to support the development of a trauma center in Denver. He has been named a regional top doctor many times over the years.

In accepting the 2015 SUS LTAA award, Dr. Moore noted that this particular award acknowledges the embodiment of the principles of the SUS. He recognized his mentors, Dr. Harken and others as well as the important colleagues in his life such as his research team. Most importantly he recognized his physician wife and two physician sons. He then proceeded to discuss important issues of the day effecting surgeons starting with surgical burnout. He stated that burnout is a consequence of surgeons not recognizing their limitations. He noted the life of many academics involves getting themselves overly committed and losing sight of their priorities. He reminds us to ask “what do we want to accomplish with our career?” He urged us to remember that our family is all that matters in the end. He then stated that a balanced life can be defined as “hard work, interrupted by hard life.” He truly believes that all we do should be done to the fullest extent of our ability. He also reminds us that things happen for a reason. He urged us to use adversity as an opportunity to improve whether it be rejected grants and manuscripts or jobs that you fail to get. He asked that upon getting rejection we use this as an opportunity to look inward and ask mentors and friends how you might improve. We could not imagine a more deserving individual for this award.
Following recognition of Dr. Moore, the President-Elect of the SUS Dr. Rebecca Minter introduced the current President of the SUS Dr. Sharon Weber. Of course, Dr. Minter pointed out the many accomplishments of Dr. Weber, including her national leadership roles, her success as a scientific investigator, as well as her success as an outstanding surgical oncologist. Dr. Weber was born in Urbana, IL as the second child of 3. She was raised in the small town of Sparta, WI and early on had a passion for animals and sports. She was an outstanding basketball and volleyball player as a high school student and attended the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire, WI. She attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and trained in general surgery at the same institution. She was an obvious star as a resident and went on to the most prestigious fellowship at the time at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where she was the chief administrative fellow. Dr. Weber is loved by her patients and colleagues alike. Dr. Clifford Cho was quoted as saying, “Sharon makes us all better.” However, Dr. Minter pointed out that Dr. Weber is clearly first and foremost a mother. Her family is her top priority and does not sacrifice time with her twins. As Dr. Minter recalled her conversation with Dr. Weber’s children, she reports that the kids described Dr. Weber as “honest” and “hard-working.” This sums up Dr. Weber.

Dr. Weber then began her Presidential address titled, “Our Greatest Resource.” In this talk, she discussed her difficult year that she has lived through and reminded us that there is growth through suffering. She recognized her mentors including Dr. Leslie Blumgart and Sir Murray Brennan. These clinical mentors clearly taught her more than just her surgical skills. Both taught her that patient care should be the source of professional happiness. She also recognized others including Dr. Herb Chen, Dr. Louis Bernhardt, Dr. David Mahvi, Dr. Bing Rikkers and Dr. Craig Kent. It is clear that she has learned much from these mentors and they have all shaped her career in ways that go beyond words. Of course, she recognized her clinical partners and team members as well acknowledging that she could not have gotten through the year without them. It is clear that the most important people in Dr. Weber’s life has been her family.

After these heart-felt words, Dr. Weber then presented her fascinating address. She then discussed our most important resource which is the people in the profession. She acknowledged the struggle of loving your profession while staying engaged in and truly loving your life. She talked about the high rates of attrition for academic surgeons and the impact of these attrition rates on the academic medical center. Much of the loss cannot be measured as it includes the students and residents that won’t be trained and the grants that won’t be written. She pointed out that it is estimated to cost over $500K to replace one academic surgeon. Given the estimated attrition rates of 14%/year, this numbers become quite staggering. To address the attrition rates and burnout, Dr. Weber urges us to connect. She points out that the Academic Surgical Congress is about connecting. She encourages us to answer the emails from residents who are asking to meet with us and to reach out to students.

SUS President Elect Dr. Rebecca Minter Introduces SUS President Dr. Sharon Weber

SUS President Dr. Sharon Weber’s Presidential Address

Dr. Sharon Weber and Family

Dr. Weber’s Mom Darlene and Her Two Children, Sydney and Ash Enjoy the Address!
Dr. Weber went on to acknowledge the changing health care environment’s impact on surgeon satisfaction. She then went on to discuss the concept of faculty engagement and satisfaction. She asked us to consider changing the culture to one that is open and welcoming where in faculty feel comfortable and empowered. One step to changing this culture is to ensure that surgeons feel as if they are making progress and performing meaningful work. While clinical work may often feel as if progress and meaningfulness is present in the work, it is not clear if the same traits exist in administrative and educational work load. She highlighted a recent survey published in the ACS Surgery News that reported suicidal ideation in over 6% of all surgeons. This number drives home the importance of engagement and satisfaction. She also noted the importance of identifying surgeons who are at-risk and to provide help. She stated that failure is not defined by falling down, but by staying down. Such a statement reminds us that burnout is a real problem that effects many of us in the field and that we can overcome the feelings of hopelessness and engage in life.

As she developed the concept of surgeon wellness, she recognizes that wellness requires more than just taking time off. She cited a recent published study that randomized physicians to a wellness program or to an hour a week off. Needless to say, physicians in the wellness program had lower rates of symptoms of burnout. She concluded by urging us to look to the future and to take time out of our lives to engage those around us.

The meeting broke for lunch during which time the membership attended the Hot Topics session “The Academic Medical Center of the Future: Transition for a Department-Oriented Infrastructure to a Multidisciplinary Disease-Specific Approach.” This was developed by Drs. Melvin and Muscarella and well attended. Simultaneously, Drs. Bilimoria and Dimick presented the “First Reporting of the FIRST Trial Results: What’s Next for Resident Duty Hours Policy?” to a crowd that was standing room only. Here Dr. Bilimoria and colleagues presented the results from their randomized controlled study in which 118 surgical programs were randomly assigned to restrictive or less restrictive duty hours. This study had a primary outcome measure of death or serious morbidity composite. The investigators also examined resident satisfaction and perception. The study began in July of 2014 and ended in June of 2015. This trial was thoughtfully designed in an attempt to understand the effect of work-hour restrictions on patient and resident outcomes. Not surprisingly, the investigators found no impact of the flexible work-hour policy on the primary outcome of death or serious morbidity. The also found no difference between the study arms in secondary patient outcomes. The primary resident outcomes were overall resident education quality and overall well-being of the resident as measured by a survey. They found no difference in resident outcomes between the two arms. The secondary outcome of perception of negative impact of duty hours on patient safety, 26% of residents in the standard arm noted a negative perception of patient safety compared to 13% of residents in the flexible arm. Overall, the authors concluded that a more flexible duty hour policy had no impact on patient safety or resident satisfaction. This study was simultaneously released in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The afternoon kicked off with the SUS Presidential Session on the future of academic surgery. The session began with an insightful presentation given by Dr. Michael Zinner. In this talk, Dr. Zinner laid out the economic evolution of health care from charitable care of the late 20th century through the current age of management of populations under the auspices of accountable care organizations. Next, Dr. Mary Klingensmith, the current president of the Association for Surgical Education (ASE), spoke on the future of surgical residency. In this talk she acknowledged it will be difficult to know what surgeons will be doing making it quite difficult to predict what the future of training is. In spite of these limitations, she did discuss the concept of plasticity and the reality that surgeons of the future will have to be plastic and adapt their practice desires to the surgical field. She also discussed the residency redesign initiative and all of the drivers of this initiative. Finally, Dr. Craig Kent finished the session discussing the future of surgical research in the common years. In his usual optimistic way, Dr. Kent put forth a very cogent argument for the survival and advancement of surgical science in the future. Finally, Dr. Selwyn Vickers gave a presentation on the future of surgical leaders. In this talk, Dr. Vickers outlined how the leader of the future will have to understand quality indicators and clearly understand how to provide low cost high quality care. In summary, it is clear that the changes in medicine will impact how we practice surgery. However, the future is bright. Surgeon leaders will have to adapt to the changing landscape and be able to navigate teams in order to deliver the highest quality care.

Dr. Mary Hawn, the current Chair of Surgery at Stanford University, then delivered the Joel J. Roslyn lecture. Dr. Hawn models the academic surgeon way and was the perfect person to present this lecture. She presented on the concept of scarcity and how it contributes to our daily life as surgeons. Scarcity refers to the fact that there does not seem to be enough of whatever we need to get our goals accomplished—whether it’s time, money, effort, etc. The components of scarcity include shame, comparison, and disengagement. She acknowledged that scarcity presents real challenges to us as surgeons with some major disruptive forces generated by the concept. However, she then gave us ways to adapt. For example, she reminded us to consider the positive such as setting deadlines and making budgets. These approaches keep us from seeing scarcity as a problem. She also pointed out that the solution to scarcity is not abundance. In fact, she informed us that procrastination often arises out of abundance. In short, Dr. Hawn encourages us to move away from scarcity management and use outcome measurements thoughtfully and strive to use innovative metrics to ensure we adapt to the scarcity in our lives.
Professor Henrik Kehlet then delivered the 4th BJS Lecture, “ERAS: Should it be Standard of Care?” Professor Kehlet is one of the earliest pioneers of the enhanced recovery after surgery concept. He has published hundreds of manuscripts and studies every aspect of patient recovery after surgery. We were honored to have someone as esteemed as Henrik to present in this forum.

The ASC sponsored Basic Science and Outcomes plenary sessions followed which represent the highest scoring abstracts in each domain. The speakers and their work were superb. The resident, student, and post-doctoral presentations within these plenaries were scored by members of the SUS Executive Council and the two best presentations were selected for receipt of a travel award, providing them with the opportunity to present their work at one of our international sister society's annual meetings. The first SUS Resident Travel Award went to Dr. Michael Wandling for his talk “Evaluating the Blind Spot of Surgical Quality: A National Assessment of Non-Operative Management.” Dr. Wandling's work was performed under the mentorship of Dr. Karl Bilimoria at Northwestern University. Dr. Wandling presented his work at the European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR) meeting May 25-28, 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic. The second SUS Resident Travel Award went to Dr. Leisha Elmore from Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Elmore's talk “Gender Differences in Burnout during Surgical Training: A Multi-Institutional Survey” was performed under the mentorship of Drs. Isaiah Turnbull and Michael Awad. Dr. Elmore will present her work at the Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) Annual Meeting January 18-19, 2017 in Dublin at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr. Rebekah White will replace Dr. Kasper Wang as Chair of the Publications Committee. Dr. Wang has left very large shoes to fill. He truly did an outstanding job putting the meeting together working closely with Dr. Adil Haider from the AAS. His leadership in this role will be missed but we know Dr. White is up to the challenge. Thank you Kasper for your service to the Society of University Surgeons!

SUS Resident Travel Award Winners

MICHAEL WANDLING, MD

Dr. Michael Wandling is a general surgery resident and post-doctoral research fellow at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, where he is currently earning a master's degree in health services and outcomes research. He is also a clinical scholar at the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Dr. Wandling's particular interests are in trauma and emergency surgery, surgical outcomes, and improving the delivery of surgical care to the acutely ill and injured. In addition to his ongoing research, he has worked on multiple surgical quality initiatives at the ACS and has played a key role in the development of the ACS NSQIP Emergency General Surgery (EGS) Pilot, which leverages the infrastructure of NSQIP to evaluate performance in both operative and non-operative EGS care. Dr. Wandling is returning to his clinical residency in July 2016 and will be pursuing fellowship training in trauma, emergency general surgery, and surgical critical care.

LEISHA ELMORE, MD

Dr. Leisha Elmore is a general surgery resident at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a native of Newport News, VA who received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Psychology from Duke University and subsequently matriculated at Washington University School of Medicine. She discovered her passion for research early in medical school while working under the tutelage of Dr. Julie Margenthaler, completing work on breast cancer surveillance. Dr. Elmore completed a Master of Population Health Sciences degree in conjunction with her medical degree to further pursue her interest in research. During this time, she began investigating burnout and wellness in surgical trainees under the mentorship of Drs. Isaiah Turnbull and Michael Awad. Dr. Elmore has now completed two years of surgical training and is a research fellow working under Drs. Amy Cyr, Julie Margenthaler and Graham Colditz. She is investigating methods to improve the delivery of health information and to better address health disparities that exist in breast cancer management and treatment outcomes. Furthermore, she continues her work with Dr. Turnbull with the overarching goal of defining determinants of burnout and developing targeted interventions to promote wellness and improve the overall experience of surgical trainees.
Day 2

Wednesday morning began early with the SUS New Member’s Breakfast. This is a spectacular opportunity for new members to interact with the current and past leaders of the SUS. We were fortunate to be joined by 5 Past-Presidents of the society as well as the current President, Dr. Rebecca Minter, and President-Elect, Dr. Taylor Riall. After a filling breakfast, our day got started with 18 parallel integrated sessions, followed by the AAS Founders Lecture, “Surgical Health Services Research Grows Up: Reflections on Science, Practice, and Leadership" delivered by Dr. John Birkmeyer. The morning concluded with Dr. Justin Dimick, President of the AAS, delivering his presidential address entitled, “The Rookie Advantage.” In this address Dr. Dimick discussed the important role of the Association of Academic Surgery in American surgery. He described the initiatives of the AAS and discussed how young surgeons can succeed in academic surgery by acting and living like a rookie. He outlined the behavioral phenotypes of rookies and gave great examples of people who have walked the walk. Dr. Dimick is a phenomenal leader and role model for young surgeons. Congratulations on an incredibly successful presidency, Justin.

The Association of Women Surgeons hosted a lunch on the topic of “You Are What You Wear? How to Project Your Best Self”. Drs. Cynthia Shortell, Herb Chen, and Melina Kibbe were featured. Dr. Julie Freischlag sent in a video. In this short video, she stated that when she interviews someone for a position she first spends time trying to see what’s inside the person. However, she did point out that what you wear does send the message of who you are. She thinks it is important that you are true to yourself yet try not to call negative attention to yourself. Dr. Chen then began discussing his own principles of clothing and how he has found himself modifying his dress as he has ascended the leadership ladder. He acknowledged that he has found himself changing his wardrobe to look the part of the surgical leader. Dr. Shortell and Dustin Byrd then gave a joint presentation. Mr. Byrd reminded us that how we dress sends the non-verbal message which will lead to a snap judgement. He pointed out that 55% of how you are perceived comes from the non-verbal cues sent off by your dress and body language. He encouraged us to think about the audience we are dealing with and consider how you want to be perceived. Following Mr. Byrd, Dr. Shortell discussed the importance of your appearance to the larger picture of you. She reminded us that what you wear is a reflection of who you are. She believes the optimal approach is to be sure the picture you are presenting is authentic. In her mind, authenticity involves being true to yourself but keeping in mind what you are doing for the day. Many in the audience and on the panel reminded us to remember the audience and to adapt your dress to the situation you are entering.

Following these two informative sessions, the AAS Presidential Session entitled “Falling Forward: A Poor Career Decision... and How I Recovered." The session began with Dr. Tim Pawlik discussing his professional failures. While Dr. Pawlik is considered one of the most successful surgeons of the present day he has had some failures along the way. In this talk he discussed his failures and how he overcame them. He also noted that failure actually pushes us to be better. Dr. Mike Engelsbe then gave us “Fashion Tips From a Middle-Aged Surgeon." Dr. Melina Kibbe then gave a talk entitled, “Failure to Launch: R You kidding Me.” Here she described her struggle to obtain her first independently funded grant after her career development award. In this story, she described how taking risks and reaching out to unknown people helped her achieve her goal. Through this story, we learn that taking risks and being somewhat vulnerable can help you get over the hump and get through the tough spot in your life. Dr. Mary Hawn then began her talk entitled, “A Data Breach, a Federal Investigation and a .... Promotion!” Dr. Hawn described her experience with a data breach and how she had her entire research program shut down. Through this episode, Dr. Hawn was able to learn about her leadership style and encourages us to use these unforeseen failures as an opportunity to grow. Dr. Keith Lillemoe then gave his talk entitled, “We made too many wrong mistakes." Finally, Dr. Carla Pugh finished the session with a talk titled, “A Surgeon, an Engineer and an Impact Factor of Zero.” In this talk she reminded us that at the end of the day, it is not the impact factor of her work that motivates her but rather the students that she mentors and guides. She ended with the advice of “If you're going to publish in a low impact journal, make sure it is with high impact people who are going to have influence on your life.” The day closed with the ASC Celebration event hosted by Dr. Dorry Segev as he worked his magic on the turntable. This was a great way to end a long day and the dance floor stayed packed until the end of the night.
Day 3

Thursday opened with two outstanding parallel sessions. Elsevier sponsored a breakfast session entitled, “How to Review a Paper: Suggestions from the Editors of SURGERY and the Journal of Surgical Research.” The attendees of this sessions enjoyed listening to pearls of wisdom generously given by Drs. MacFadyen, LeMaire, Behrns, and Sarr. These senior leaders have clear ideas of what makes good science and they are committed to publishing the highest quality work. Hopefully participation in this session will help us all do our jobs as peer reviewer better. Simultaneously, the Ethics Committee sponsored the session “Cultural and Ethical Competencies in Global Surgery.”

Following a short break, Drs. Wang, Haider, and Greenberg presented the AAS and SUS research awards. We first enjoyed the scientific presentation from the 2014-2015 KARL STORZ Resident Award winner Dr. Krista Hachey. She presented her work entitled, “The bNORMAL clinical trial: bronchial Near Infrared Oncologic Resection, Mapping, and (Sentinel) Lymphadenectomy for lung cancer staging and treatment.” Next Dr. Lily Cheng from UCSF presented her work entitled, “Enteric Neuronal Stem Cell Transplant in Hirschsprung’s Disease” which was supported by the 2014-2015 SUS Ethicon Resident Award. These were outstanding presentations clearly demonstrating the importance of these awards to budding young leaders in academic surgery.

The 2016 ASC International Research Travel Awards were also acknowledged and these were given to: Dr. Theoneste Nkurunziza from Rwanda, Dr. Christina NgArambe from Rwanda, Dr. Obieze Nwanna-Nzewunwa from Nigeria, Dr. Mukanire Ntakwinja from the Congo, and Dr. Amarah Shakoor from Pakistan. This year’s ASC 10x10 Career Development Traveling Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Mark S. Cohen from the University of Michigan. All of these awards were well deserved.

The Society of Asian Academic Surgeons gave 2 awards. The Resident Development Scholarship was given to Jason Castellanos from Vanderbilt University to support his study, “CDK4/6 and MEK Inhibition Overcome STAT-3 mediated Chemoresistance in KRAS mutant Pancreatic Cancer.” They gave their junior faculty award to Dr. Daniel Chu from the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Following this session was the Outcomes/Clinical Plenary Session moderated by the Presidents of the SUS and AAS, Drs. Sharon Weber and Justin Dimick, respectively. This was an excellent session with some highly stimulating science presented. In this session, Dr. Dan Abbott’s group presented their AAS-winning paper on “Hospital Resource Characteristics Associated with Improved Surgical Performance.” In this work, the group found that centers with low costs of care associated with 8 complex surgical procedures and low mortality were more likely to invest in internal improvements and human resources. It was suggested that this increased expenditure allowed hospitals to provide this more efficient care. In addition to this award winning abstract, we listened to work on professional development of faculty as well as a presentation on the impact of hospital teaching status on hospital expenditures. This was an incredibly well run and enjoyable session. Congratulations to all of the presenters for their outstanding work.

The afternoon was kicked off by the final Hot Topic session led by SUS member and President-Elect Dr. Taylor Riall. The focus of this session was to discuss the role of professional coaching in developing emotional intelligence and to prevent burnout in practicing surgeons. This was a well-attended session that was quite interactive. We learned about mindfulness and how to deal with stress in the moment. Dr. Riall and her co-leader Tambre Leighn led us through a series of case studies illustrating how mindfulness and emotional intelligence can help us be better leaders. We learned about different types of emotional energy and how we can use mindfulness to achieve the positive energy to deal with difficult situations.
In summary, the 11th annual meeting of the ASC was a great success and provided a forum for academic surgeons and our trainees to meet and share fellowship and ideas. The meeting continues to grow and we hope to perpetuate this momentum. To that end, we hope that you will plan to join us in 2017 for the 12th annual Academic Surgical Congress in Las Vegas, NV February 7-9, 2017. More information can be found at www.academicsurgicalcongress.org. All the best to everyone and please continue to submit your best work to the ASC.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM

The SUS Business Meeting

Congratulations to the SUS New Members

SUS Historic Gavel to Start the Business Meeting

Dr. Sharon Weber and AAMC-CFAS Representative Dr. Carla Pugh

Dr. Sharon Weber and Publications Chair Dr. Kasper Wang

Dr. Sharon Weber and President-Elect Dr. Rebecca Minter

Dr. Sharon Weber and Global Academic Surgery Chair Dr. Susan Orlaff

Dr. Sharon Weber and Membership Chair Dr. Taylor Riall

Dr. Sharon Weber and ACS SRC Representative Dr. Timothy Donahue
ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
2016 Academic Surgical Congress

ASC Program Chairs Mingling  Quickshots
Registration  Questions  St. John River

2017 SAVE THE DATE

SUS MID-CAREER ACADEMIC SURGERY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Monday, February 6, 2017 • Las Vegas, Nevada

The SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course will provide personal guidance to develop your leadership skills and a roadmap for progression for aspiring future leaders in academic surgery. Join us for this one-day course taking place just prior to the Academic Surgical Congress in Las Vegas, Nevada.

• Ideal for mid-career surgeons
• Limited to 50 participants to ensure interactivity and to maximize participation by course attendees
• Features updated content and more interactive sessions
• Learn how to identify opportunities and negotiate successful offers
• Discuss the skills and credentials needed to successfully advance your career

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
February 6, 2017: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm • Full Day Course and Networking Cocktail Reception

Visit the SUS website at WWW.SUSWEB.ORG for additional information.
12th ANNUAL ACADEMIC SURGICAL CONGRESS

February 7-9, 2017 | Encore Las Vegas | Las Vegas, Nevada

For more information, go to www.academicsurgicalcongress.org.
2016 Lifetime Achievement Award

The SUS Honors the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Ronald Busuttil, MD, MS, PhD

The Society of University Surgeons has awarded the 2016 SUS Lifetime Achievement Award to Ronald W. Busuttil, MD, MS, PhD, Distinguished Professor and William P. Longmire, Jr. Chair in Surgery of the UCLA Department of Surgery. Dr. Busuttil serves as founding Chief of the Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplantation and Director of the Pfleger Liver Institute, which includes the Dumont-UCLA Transplant Center and the Dumont-UCLA Liver Cancer Center.

The Society of University Surgeons initiated the Lifetime Achievement Award (LTAA) in 2005. This award was designed to recognize individuals who have had a sustained career in academic surgery with contributions to surgical science. In addition, these individuals have demonstrated a commitment to the Society of University Surgeons whereby they have participated in the Society even after superannuating to Senior Membership status. The Society of University Surgeons seeks to honor and recognize these individuals because of their embodiment of the principals of the Society.

Dr. Busuttil was nominated and selected by his peers based on his leadership in academic surgery and service to the SUS, including his role on the Executive Council as SUS Secretary in 1986 and 1987. He was cited for his outstanding academic, clinical, research and leadership accomplishments, including conceptualizing, organizing and founding the Liver Transplant Program at UCLA. Through this Award, the SUS recognizes Dr. Busuttil's pioneering endeavors in the advancement of liver transplantation, his track record of scientific publications and investigative research, and his leadership at UCLA, at the Society level, and on the international stage.

On Surgery, Transplantation, and Mentorship

Dr. Ronald Busuttil's quest to become a surgeon began early, and his wife JoAnn has the evidence to prove it. While his interest in medicine began as a child, he may have first articulated it in a grade school essay, titled “My Ambition,” in which he wrote that his goal was to become a heart surgeon at Johns Hopkins. And while it may not have turned out exactly as scripted by his younger self, in the end, he ultimately became a surgeon and a leader in the field of liver transplantation.

Dr. Busuttil graduated from Tulane University Medical School with an M.D. degree and a Master’s of Science in Pharmacology and returned to Tulane after his second year of surgical residency at UCLA, for a 2-year fellowship and a PhD. Tulane's Chairman at the time was Dr. Theodore Drapanas, who would become SUS President in 1973. Dr. Drapanas was an incredibly captivating and enduring role model for Dr. Busuttil. Dr. Drapanas' interest was in portal hypertension and surgical portacaval shunts, including use of a mesocaval shunt for bleeding varices in patients with end stage liver disease. Having worked with Dr. Drapanas during both medical school and his years pursuing his PhD, Dr. Busuttil cites Dr. Drapanas' work as influencing his decision to focus on the liver. Dr. Busuttil then finished his surgical residency at UCLA under Dr. William Longmire, who was also iconic in the field of liver surgery. Initially attracted to vascular surgery, Dr. Busuttil focused his practice on vascular surgery and portal hypertension following completion of his surgical training at UCLA.
Dr. Ronald Busuttil reports that he was blessed to have had many outstanding mentors throughout his training. In addition to Drs. Drapanas and Longmire, he credits Dr. Elmo Cerise at Tulane University as having provided an important avenue for clinical training. Each year Dr. Cerise would invite one 3rd year medical student to work with him during the summer and first assist in general surgical procedures. Dr. Busuttil was fortunate to have this opportunity during his third year. When he returned to Tulane for his PhD work, he scrubbed with Dr. Cerise 3 mornings each week, heading back to the lab better energized to make discoveries. Additionally, he worked with Dr. James Fischer, Chairman of the Tulane Department of Pharmacology, and with Nobel Laureate, Dr. Louis Ignarro. At UCLA, he cites the mentorship of Dr. James Maloney (1969 SUS President) who was Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and former Surgical Chairman at UCLA and Dr. Ronald Tompkins, who was Chief of General Surgery and the first full-time surgical educator in the Department of Surgery.

When asked to describe the qualities and keys to being a successful mentor, Dr. Busuttil explains that he learned his leadership style from his own mentors, who emphasized commitment and integrity. He states that his mentors demonstrated these qualities “despite the fact that they had very, very lofty positions, and were really recognized as outstanding leaders in their field, always treated everyone with respect, whether it be their students, their junior colleagues, or their researchers. They were able to relate to them; they treated everybody with respect and as an equal which is really so important. In addition, they all had a great sense of humor, which is such an important aspect of being a role model; you have to be able to interact with people in a very human way.”

**On Innovation and Sustaining Innovation**

In 1984 Dr. Busuttil founded the Liver Transplant Program at UCLA, drawing upon his earlier work on portal hypertension with Drs. Drapanas and Longmire. One patient in particular prompted him to consider liver transplantation at UCLA. Dr. Busuttil had accumulated an experience with distal splenorenal shunting for bleeding varices in more than 100 patients, with outstanding results. However, Dr. Busuttil explains that this patient went into hepatic failure after a distal splenorenal shunt performed in April 1982, which was unusual because the patient was a relatively young man in his late teens, with a condition known as congenital hepatic fibrosis. The patient’s condition deteriorated to advanced liver failure within 2 days with coma, renal failure, and the need for ventilator support. Dr. Busuttil initiated plans to transfer the patient to Dr. Thomas Starzl at UPMC for liver transplantation, which was the patient’s only possibility for survival. However, his patient died before medevac transport could be arranged. This devastating outcome prompted Dr. Busuttil to ask Dr. Longmire for support to start a liver transplant program at UCLA. Dr. Longmire provided seed funding to begin an experimental liver transplantation program in a porcine model. After an experience of nearly 50 liver transplants in the animal model with a survival rate of over 90%, the clinical program was launched on February 1, 1984. That first transplant required 17 hours for donor and recipient operations, both performed by Dr. Busuttil, and the patient was discharged 17 days post operatively. Dr. Busuttil performed the UCLA program’s 6000th liver transplant on June 30, 2016.

One discussion often held today is how surgeons can continue to innovate in the current climate of restricted work hours, dwindling funding, and clinical demands. Dr. Busuttil explains that funding is more difficult to obtain than in the past and this has to be thoroughly evaluated. He believes that one way to ensure success for younger investigators is to be committed to providing outstanding mentorship to residents and fellows working in the labs. He observes that “this involves hands-on coaching from an experienced investigator who fosters an open research environment, which is not only scientifically outstanding but also collegial.” This transmits enthusiasm to young investigators, as “it really helps in being committed to one on one mentoring, and making them a part of what you are doing in your research and experiments, and then they can go on their own and develop their own funding.” The UCLA Liver Transplant Program has been fortunate to consistently receive NIH funding since its inception. Dr. Busuttil relates that he has an outstanding team of committed research investigators who embody these principles and foster an environment that allows for career growth for younger people. In addition to cultivating trainees, he cites the importance of philanthropic support that UCLA has been fortunate to receive from grateful patients to fill the gaps in grant funding.
Developing Leaders in Academic Surgery: The Triple Threat Surgeon

The popular “hot topics” at recent meetings have focused discussions on achieving work-life balance, addressing burnout, and advancing surgeons to the next stage in their career, whether that means pursuing a new position, or developing in their current position. When asked about what it takes to be a leader in academic surgery today given this environment, Dr. Busuttil explains that he believes that one has to set an example as a triple threat academic surgeon. Admittedly, it may be more difficult today than it was in the past because there are many conflicting issues that don’t allow people to take the time to pursue this goal. Dr. Busuttil states that to develop a triple threat academic surgeon, you have to “help them provide outstanding patient care; you have to select those that have an interest and have an aptitude, and a desire to advance the field of research, whether it is basic science or translational; and you also have to have someone who is totally committed to bringing up more junior colleagues and totally focusing on teaching and mentorship.” For the younger individuals, they “must be outstanding clinical surgeons; they must be mentors; they have to be compassionate; and they have to have a true sense of commitment to their patients. Finally, they must have the will, the desire and the aptitude to go on and advance the field through research.” Dr. Busuttil explains that this extends to students and residents and that it doesn’t start when they become a faculty member, but rather must begin much earlier and must be facilitated by mentors.

The Honor of SUS Leadership

Dr. Busuttil’s involvement in the Society of University Surgeons began in 1973 at Tulane when he was pursuing his PhD, and his mentor Dr. Drapanas was President of the SUS. Dr. Eric Fonkalsrud, Chief of Pediatric Surgery at UCLA where Dr. Busuttil completed his residency, was SUS President in 1976. Dr. Busuttil quickly became committed to the organization and was elected Secretary in 1986. He remarks that it was an honor to serve on the Council, where he had the opportunity to interact with accomplished and world renowned surgeons. The SUS was known as the haven for the leaders in surgery, and for him it was thrilling to be elected as an officer.

As for the SUS Annual Meetings, to Dr. Busuttil they were about camaraderie, collegiality, and the advancement of surgical science. Everyone learned a tremendous amount from those meetings because of the proximity to the leaders of academic surgery.
Essential Extra Surgical Pursuits

When asked if he had any interests that might surprise people, Dr. Busuttil replied that he has been a car and racing enthusiast since he was a young boy. His father had a car dealership in Florida where he would work during summer vacations. His interest in racing began when his dad took him to the Sebring 12 Hour Race in Florida. He has raced cars by himself, competed in the Mille Miglia 1000 mile race in Italy 3 times, and has participated in multiple car rallies.

Dr. Busuttil also loves to travel the world with his wife JoAnn, including 16 bike trips in Europe and the US. In addition to tennis, running (10Ks, marathons), dancing and barbequing, his particular special joy is the Journal Club that he has held at his house for the past 30 years. At this festive monthly event, members of his research and clinical teams come together to discuss important articles and enjoy good company over excellent food and drink.

Dr. Busuttil concluded that he has several interests that he considers essential to his growth but that “first and foremost is the love and devotion I have for my wife of over 48 years, JoAnn. We are blessed to have 2 daughters, one a physician and one a lawyer and I have 4 grandsons. I think I can say with complete honesty and conviction that without their support and love, I simply would not have been able to receive this honor from the SUS, for which I am most deeply grateful.”

The Society of University Surgeons is honored to be presenting Dr. Ronald Busuttil with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Academic Surgical Congress on February 7, 2017 taking place in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is the true embodiment of the type of individual that this award seeks to recognize.

PAST

SUS Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

The Society of University Surgeons initiated a Lifetime Achievement Award (LTAA) in 2005. This award was designed to recognize individuals who have had a sustained career in academic surgery with contributions to the surgical sciences. In addition, these individuals have demonstrated a commitment to the Society of University Surgeons whereby they have participated in the Society even after superannuating to Senior Membership status.

Their participation in the Society is evidenced by their attendance at the meetings yearly and active participation in discussion of papers, attendance of the banquets and society functions. The Society of University Surgeons seeks to honor and recognize these individuals because of their embodiment of the principles of the Society. We seek to recognize these individuals to establish role models for younger generations of surgeons to honor and emulate their contributions to the science of surgery, and moreover to the Society of University Surgeons.

2016  Ronald Busuttil, MD
2015  Ernest “Gene” Moore, MD
2014  Marshall J. Orloff, MD
2013  Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD
2012  Alden Harken, MD
2011  Patricia K. Donahoe, MD
2010  Ben Eiseman, MD
2009  Richard L. Simmons, MD
2008  Clyde F. Barker, MD
2007  Frank G. Moody, MD
2006  Basil A. Pruitt, Jr., MD
2005  James C. Thompson, MD
2004  John A. Mannick, MD
SPOTLIGHT ON THE
2016 SUS Award Winners

2016-2017 SUS Junior Faculty Research Scholar Award
Sponsored by an educational grant from the SUS Foundation

Ankit Bharat, MD
SPONSOR: Nathaniel Soper, MD
MENTOR: Scott Budinger, MD
PROJECT: Tissue-restricted humoral autoimmunity lead to lung allograft rejection

Dr. Bharat received his training at Christian Medical College in India following which he joined Washington University in St Louis to pursue a post-doctoral research fellowship in transplant and tumor immunology. During the three year research fellowship, he was fortunate to be mentored by world class investigators and developed a keen interest in lung biology and transplantation. He subsequently completed general surgery residency and cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Washington University. He then joined Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine in July 2013 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Surgery. With institutional support and strong mentorship, he started both a clinical and research program in lung transplantation. He currently also hold the position of the Director of Clinical Lung Transplantation at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

His clinical practice focuses on patients with complex thoracic diseases and providing advanced therapies such as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and lung transplantation to those with end-stage lung failure. His basic laboratory investigates mechanisms of lung allograft rejection as well as lung repair following injury. He is currently supported by a K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award from National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, a Biomedical Grant from the American Lung Association and Gibbon Scholarship from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.

The proposal for the SUS award will focus on identifying the role of lung-tissue restricted autoimmunity in the development of lung allograft rejection. My mentor for this proposal is Dr. Scott Budinger who is a Professor of Pulmonary and a successful clinician-scientist. He is well published and has received numerous grants from both NIH and the Department of Defense. Additionally, he has a long-track record of mentoring aspiring clinician-scientists. Upon completion of this work, we hope to validate the practice of monitoring and treating lung transplant recipients for lung-tissue specific autoimmunity in order to improve lung transplant outcomes.

Outcomes Didactic Sessions

SUS members are invited to participate in monthly online didactic sessions hosted by the Surgical Outcomes Club (SOC), Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) and the Society of University Surgeons (SUS). These sessions provide members with important updates in outcomes research including tools, technology, and methodology. SOC/AAS/SUS Didactic Sessions take place every month at 11:00 AM Pacific / 12:00 PM Mountain / 1:00 PM Central / 2:00 PM Eastern. When possible, presentations will be made available on the Surgical Outcomes Club website (www.surgicaloutcomesclub.com/didactic-sessions) after the session. SUS members will automatically receive monthly emails with instructions on how to participate.

The SUS Ad Hoc Health Services Research Committee sponsors these sessions in conjunction with the Surgical Outcomes Club and the Association for Academic Surgery. If you would like to present in an upcoming Webinar, please contact the SUS office at info@susweb.org.

UPCOMING 2016 SESSIONS

• Thursday, August 18: featuring Thomas Varghese, MD; University of Utah; Leading Change from the Pacific Northwest to the Nation: The American College of Surgeons Strong for Surgery Campaign
• Thursday, September 15: featuring Waddah Al-Refaie, MD; Georgetown
• Thursday, November 17: featuring Amir Ghaferi, MD; University of Michigan
• Thursday, December 15: featuring Rachel Kelz, MD; University of Pennsylvania
The aim of the study is to assess whether providing patients and families access to RLHS data improves patient-centered outcomes in children with complex colorectal diseases.

2016-2017 Resident Scholar Research Award
Sponsored by an educational grant from the SUS Foundation

**Alessandra Moore, MD**
SPONSOR AND MENTOR: Michael Longaker, MD
PROJECT: M2 Macrophage Enrichment Enhances Cutaneous Wound Healing Via Recruitment of Angiogenic Precursor Cells

Dr. Moore’s medical education began at Hobart and William Smith Colleges with in depth teaching in cellular biology, evolution, chemistry, physics, and physiology. After college, she joined the Center for Engineering in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital working under Dr. Mehmet Toner and Dr. Sunitha Nagrath and training in a variety of techniques including microfluidic device design and fabrication. She was accepted to the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 2010 and was awarded the Clinical and Translational Research Scholarship. She subsequently matched into the Brigham and Women’s Hospital General Surgery Residency where she recently completed her second year of residency. Based on her prior experience, she decided to pursue bioengineering as her research focus and is very excited to be working as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University under Dr. Michael Longaker. The awarded project focuses on the use of macrophages to speed and improve wound healing by enhancing angiogenesis, a technique that will be directly applicable to the surgical patient population.

2016-2017 Resident Scholar Research Award
Sponsored by an educational grant from KARL STORZ

**Dani Odette Gonzalez, MD**
SPONSOR: Benedict C. Nwomeh, MD, MPH
MENTOR: Katherine J. Deans, MD, MHSc
PROJECT: Engaging Families Through Shared Knowledge: a Randomized Controlled Trial of Open Access to a Rapid Learning Healthcare System (RLHS)

Dr. Dani Gonzalez completed medical school at the Howard University College of Medicine, where she developed an interest in health services and outcomes research. This interest persisted throughout her surgical residency at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. After her third year of surgical residency, she applied for a two-year Pediatric Surgery Research Fellowship at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, where she works in the Center for Surgical Outcomes Research with Drs. Katherine Deans and Peter Minneci. Dr. Gonzalez’s project for the Society of University Surgeons – Karl Storz Resident Research Scholar Award is “Engaging Families Through Shared Knowledge: a Randomized Controlled Trial of Open Access to a Rapid Learning Healthcare System (RLHS)”. The aim of the study is to assess whether providing patients and families access to RLHS data improves patient-centered outcomes in children with complex colorectal diseases.
Thank you to all of the SUS members who have contributed to the SUS Foundation. Your donations enable the Foundation to carry out the mission of advancing the art and science of surgery by providing promising young surgeons with opportunities to pursue an academic career in surgery. With ever increasing challenges to receive research funding, the SUS Foundation scholarship opportunities for young surgeons become all the more important and critical. I encourage all SUS members to continue their financial commitment to the Foundation in order to ensure that the next generation of surgeon scientists is given the opportunity to pursue investigative academic surgical careers.

Recent Events

As the Foundation continues to promote young surgeon scientists, I’m happy to report that one of our award sponsors, KARL STORZ, has renewed their funding for the fifth year. The SUS-KARL STORZ Resident Scholar Award is intended for residents in any of the surgical disciplines who are doing research focused on surgical innovation, bioengineering, information technology and data management, or surgical education utilizing new technologies. My most sincere appreciation is offered to Dr. Joe Hines who continues to foster the partnership with KARL STORZ.

In terms of SUS members fundraising, this past calendar year showed an $11,000 increase in donations over 2014. A total of $27,000 was raised by the SUS membership with several first-time and lapsed donors donating. On a note of friendly competition, the SUS Foundation raised more in donations during the 2016 Academic Surgical Congress than the AAS Foundation with $3,475 being collected for the SUS Foundation and $3,300 being collected for the AAS Foundation.

Foundation Board of Directors Update

Sandra L. Wong, M.D., M.S. has joined the SUS Foundation's Board of Directors as our new Treasurer. Dr. Wong replaced the former Foundation Treasurer, Dr. Allan Tsung, in February 2016. Dr. Wong is the Chair of Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Senior Vice President of the Surgical Service Line at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. We are pleased to welcome her to the Board.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to extend my thanks and gratitude for Dr. Tsung’s service and dedication to the Foundation. We are most fortunate that Dr. Tsung has agreed to continue to serve as a Director on the Foundation’s Board.

A New Initiative

The Foundation is in the planning stages of launching a Long-Term Giving Campaign to create a quasi-endowment that will sustain the scholarship awards and other Foundation related activities in the future. A list of giving levels and a set goal will be announced in early 2017. If you would like to donate funds to the Campaign or volunteer as a fundraiser, please let me know.

Support the Foundation thru Amazon Smile

Please continue to support the SUS Foundation through Amazon Smile! The Foundation received $20.78 in January from Amazon for SUS members purchases made using AmazonSmile from October – December 2015.

Amazon Smile is a program by Amazon.com that allows 5% of eligible purchases to be directed to a charity of your choice. You can now support the Foundation through your Amazon.com purchases. For more information, visit www.susweb.org.
Join the AAS and SUS for an intensive workshop to help you write a successful grant and get funded.

- Ideal for faculty members or soon-to-be faculty members writing a career development or major grant proposal.
- Taught by faculty with a record of successful grant funding.
- Learn the essential elements of a successful research proposal and how funding agencies work.
- Get an insider’s view of study section meetings.
- Garner feedback and guidance on your current grant proposal.
Annual Update
FROM THE SUS EXECUTIVE OFFICE

2016 Executive Council Strategic Retreat

The SUS Executive Council convened in Chicago in June for a day and a half Strategic Retreat. Working with expert facilitators, the Council created a Strategic Plan, which includes a new Mission Statement and defined 4 key Goal Areas that the Society will focus on in the next 3 years including Membership, Scholarship, Professional Development, and Finance. Each Goal Area will encompass goal objectives and tactics for achieving those goals. One of the first tasks will be a Member Needs Assessment. This will be deployed early in 2017—please be sure to provide your feedback which will be critical in laying the groundwork for implementing improvements to the Society. SUS President Dr. Rebecca Minter will provide a detailed overview of the Strategic Plan at the SUS Business Meeting at the February 2017 Academic Surgical Congress in Las Vegas, Nevada. Stay tuned for additional details!

Membership Committee

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUS MEMBERSHIP?

Thank you to all members who renewed their Society of University Surgeons 2016 membership. If you have not yet renewed, you may login the SUS website and renew at www.susweb.org/dues-renewal. While you are logged in, please review your contact information to ensure it is listed correctly.

BENEFITS

The SUS currently has 1493 members. Of its 1493 members, 672 are Life Members, 441 are Active Members, 328 are Senior Members, 40 are Inductee Members, and 12 are Honorary Members. Membership in the prestigious SUS offers its members many exciting benefits, including:

• The opportunity to attend and participate in the Annual Academic Surgical Congress which offers AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™
• Discounts for registration to the co-hosted Annual Academic Surgical Congress, the Mid-Career Course and SUS Leadership Agility Program
• Discounted annual subscription fee for the official SUS journal, SURGERY
• Access to Research grant opportunities
• Listing in the SUS Membership Directory
• The opportunity to sponsor a young resident for the SUS Resident Scholar Award and Resident Travel Award
• The opportunity to serve the organization on the Executive Council, Committees, or as an Institutional Representative, Representative to the American Board of Surgery, Association of American Medical Colleges, or American College of Surgeons.
• Access to a member-only account and privileges on the SUS website

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 NEW MEMBERS!

Daniel Abbott, MD
Samuel Alaish, MD
Marjorie Arca, MD
Chad Ball, MD, MS
Peyman Benharash, MD, MS
Pramod Bonde, MD, FRCS
Ari Brooks, MD
Kimberly Brown, MD
P. Jeffrey Campsen, MD
Anthony Charles, MD, MPH
Katherine Deans, MD, MPH
Daniel DeUgarte, MD, MS
Cynthia Downard, MD, MMSc
Andrew Downard, MD
Jonathan Efron, MD
Dan Duffy, MD
Corey Iqbal, MD
Ted James, MD, MS
Timothy King, MS, PhD, MD
T. Peter Kingham, MD
Julie Lang, MD
Clara Lee, MD
Andrew MacCormick, PhD, BHB, MBChB
Richard Mangus, MD, MS
John Migaly, MD
Kevin Mollen, MD
Christopher Muratore, MD, MS
Leila Mureebe, MD, MPH
Kepal Patel, MD
George Poultsides, MD, MS
Ravi Radhakrishnan, MBA, MD
Kurt Roberts, MD
Jason Sicklick, MD
Kristan Staudenmayer, MD, MS
Stanislaw Stawicki, MD
Parsia Vagefi, MD
Brendan Visser, MD
Grayson Wheatley, MD
Emily Winslow, MD
Amer Zureikat, MD
NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Help the SUS remain pertinent and visible in the academic community by helping to identify men and women who should be considered for membership. Membership applications to the SUS are accepted continually throughout the calendar year. However, only applications completed by **August 14, 2016** can be reviewed by the Membership Committee, approved by the Executive Council and presented for a membership vote at the 2017 SUS Annual Meeting held during the 12th Academic Surgical Congress.

Visit the SUS website for more information at [www.susweb.org/information](http://www.susweb.org/information).

NEW MEMBER POSTER REQUIREMENT

An important requirement for all new members is participation in the New Member Poster Session within the first three years of joining the society. New member posters can only be submitted electronically through the ASC Abstract Submission website which is open from June 17 until August 22, 2016. If you have not yet presented a poster, please visit the website for more information [www.susweb.org/abstract-submission](http://www.susweb.org/abstract-submission) or contact Membership Services.

Questions about the New Member Poster Session, sponsoring a new member, membership renewal, member benefits programs, and address changes, may be directed to Membership Services by email at membership@susweb.org, or telephone at 310-986-6442, ext 138.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded 2 resident research scholar awards this past June. There were 42 applicants for the SUS Resident Scholar Award sponsored by KARL STORZ, which is intended for residents who are doing research focused on surgical innovation, bioengineering, information technology and data management, or surgical education utilizing new technologies.

There were 92 applicants for the SUS Resident Scholar Award, sponsored by an unrestricted grant from the SUS Foundation. These awards are intended for residents in any of the surgical disciplines who are doing basic science or “outcomes” research, or research on surgical education.

This was the second year that SUS conducted the award interviews online, saving the applicants both the time and expense of traveling for the interview process. There were 7 finalists overall and all applicants are to be congratulated on their competitive and innovative research!
Social and Legislative Issues Committee

The Social and Legislative Committee, Chaired by Dr. Scott Steele, is excited to welcome all our new members, and wish to thank all of those members who have rotated off for their hard work. We are looking forward to an exciting annual meeting in 2017. This year we are taking the lead along with the AAS with our symposium which will focus on the balance between clinical productivity vs. academic responsibilities/passions (teaching and research). We will be tackling questions like how do departments effectively incentivize research and education? How do we measure if this “pays off”? How does “no margin no mission” translate in 2016 in academic centers, especially as we move (some places more than others) toward ACO models and “value-based care”? In this era of scarce time and resources, what are the possible solutions?

Please join us on Facebook and Twitter at:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/susweb
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UnivSurg

SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course

The fourth annual SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course (see inset) was a great success. The course delivered new interactive content and the speakers provided honest sage advice, filled with real world examples of challenges and successes they have encountered throughout their careers thus far in academic surgery. Given the positive feedback, this course will be repeated with further updated content and interactive sessions in a 1-day course format. This full-day course will take place on Monday, February 6, 2016, immediately prior to the 2016 Surgical Congress in Las Vegas, Nevada. The course will be capped again at 50 participants to ensure interactivity and to maximize participation by course attendees. Please stay tuned for the registration flyer which will be circulated in October 2016.

Visit www.susweb.org for additional information.