



# THE SURGEON

NEWS BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR ABDOMINAL SURGERY

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WEBSITE: [www.abdominalsurg.org](http://www.abdominalsurg.org) • E-MAIL: [office@abdominalsurg.org](mailto:office@abdominalsurg.org) • EDITOR: Diane Pothier

The 53rd Clinical Congress held Oct. 31st–Nov. 2nd, 2014 in Tampa, Florida was jam-packed from beginning to end with state-of-the-art equipment, task training and cutting-edge lectures, along with evenings full of fun for the families of our attendees.



Friday’s session was held at the Pepin Heart & Research Institute – Florida Hospital and consisted of live-stream and interactive surgeries in the morning while the afternoon session consisted of hands-on, instructional task training stations including:



DaVinci Robotic Simulation & Dual Console; Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication; Stretta – Endoscopic Procedure for GERDS; Laparoscopic Training of Cholecystectomies with live specimens and Hepatic Energy Application – Porcine Model.



Friday evening’s festivities were all about the families of our attendees as we boarded the trolley for dinner and a night of Flamenco dancing at the world famous Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City.



Saturday’s session was held at Embassy Suites Downtown Convention Center–Tampa Bay and included lectures on Advances in the Treatment of Acid Reflux; Radiofrequency Ablation vs.

Endoscopic Surveillance for Patients with Barrett Esophagus & Low Grade Dysplasia; Advances in Pancreatic Cancer; Regionalization of Healthcare; Update in Foregut & HPB Surgery Innovations; Should I Add Robotic Surgery to My Practice?; Genetic Changes Associated with Foregut & HPB Cancers; Parathyroid Disease: Past, Present & Future and Palliative Care in the Age of Healthcare Reform.



At the adjournment of the Saturday afternoon session, medical staff and their guests were invited to attend our complimentary “Little Italy – Italian Gala” at the hotel for a delightful evening of socializing, meeting new friends and of course eating soup to nuts and everything in between.

Sunday morning’s session continued with a highly spirited and interactive exchange on Healthcare Reform: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly and concluded with a lecture on Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy – Past, Present and Future.

The meeting adjourned with high praise for the content and intimate setting which allowed time for meet and greet with the speakers, instructors and colleagues alike. The three days, although extremely busy, struck a fine balance between education and social events for our group and their families. Our attendees hailed from not only many different parts of the United States but as far away as Algeria with one Physician’s Assistance in attendance as well.

### Your 2015 Officers and Committee Members have been voted in:

Michael P. Tessler, MD	<i>President</i>
James P. Carey, MD	<i>Vice President</i>
Louis F. Alfano, MD	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Diane M. Pothier	<i>Director of CME</i>

### Your 2015 Delegates to the AMA House of Delegates are:

Louis F. Alfano, MD	<i>Delegate</i>
Philip E. McCarthy, MD	<i>Alternate Delegate</i>

The Society is preparing for our ACCME PARS annual reporting and will soon thereafter be gearing up for the November, 2017 cohort for our ACCME Re-Accreditation process. This process is an extensive compilation of the past four years of educational training by our organization and takes approximately one and one-half to two years for completion. The Accreditation allows us to issue AMA/PRA Category 1 credits to attendees of our medical conferences.

It is important that we increase the numbers at our conferences, as well as, ASAS's membership not only for our ACCME continuing education accreditation but also to maintain our seat in the AMA House of Delegates. **Every vote matters!**

The Society is working diligently to update our database. Going forward, we encourage our members and patrons of our confer-

ences to assist us in enlarging this database by "getting the word out" with regard to not only our educational conferences, membership in the American Society of Abdominal Surgeons and our sub-specialty Board Certification examination by the American Board of Abdominal Surgery. Re-certification of our ABAS members is strongly recommended every ten years. If you would like further information on this procedure, please contact our office.

If you know of a colleague(s) who would like to receive notices of future meetings and our news letter, forward our email to them, have them go to our website [www.abdominalsurg.org](http://www.abdominalsurg.org) to sign up or contact the office (781) 665-6102. We do not believe in inundating anyone with emails and will NEVER give information to other organizations or sources.

### **The 2015 Journal is coming soon!!**

Abstracts are now being accepted for next year's medical journal.

This annual Journal is distributed to members in good standing, as well as, many teaching hospitals, medical libraries and facilities throughout the country. Please follow the "Author's Guidelines" on our website at [www.abdominalsurg.org](http://www.abdominalsurg.org) or printed at the back of our Journal if you plan to submit an article.



#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

**54<sup>th</sup> Clinical Congress**  
November 6–8, 2015  
Tampa, Florida

**55<sup>th</sup> Clinical Congress**  
November 4–6, 2016  
Tampa, Florida

**Spread the word!** Invite colleagues to join your organization and attend meetings.

- A discount will be given to both the new colleague and the referring physician who sign up for our 54th Clinical Congress.
- The Surgical Education Committee voted to permit Military Personnel to attend meetings for the same registration fee as Residents.

*If you have not been receiving notices of our past meetings or newsletter, we do not have an up-to-date email address for you. Please contact the office for changes.*



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