

EXCELSIOR SURGICAL SOCIETY

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM
Strategic Partnership



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

Annual Newsletter

September 2019

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Events

Saturday, October 26
1700-1900

2019 Business Meeting
Continental 1&2, Moscone
Center. Accepting
nominations for officers,
all members welcome

Sunday, October 27
0700-1630

**5th Annual Excelsior
Surgical Symposium**
Imperial Ballroom,
Moscone Center

Tuesday, October 29
1900-2100

**Excelsior Surgical
Society Reception**
Presidio Officers' Club
Moraga Hall, 50 Moraga
Ave, 94129

About ESS

[https://www.facs.org/
member-services/
mhsspacs/ess](https://www.facs.org/member-services/mhsspacs/ess)

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ESS Then and Now

The re-established Excelsior Surgical Society (ESS) is the military chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The ESS was formed following World War II as a forum for surgeons who had served during the conflict to discuss their experiences. These meetings were held at the Excelsior Hotel in Rome (featured above) and continued annually until the death of the last World War II member, Dr. Michael Debakey.

The partnership between the ACS and the Military Health System facilitated the resurrection of the ESS as an official society within the ACS. Consisting of tri-service active duty, retired, guard, reserve, and international military surgeons, residents, and medical students, the ESS holds an annual full-day meeting in conjunction with the ACS Clinical Congress (2018 participants pictured below). The meeting serves as a scholarly forum to discuss advances in surgical and combat casualty care, readiness, systems-based practice, surgical education and research for the military surgeon.



Announcements

The 5th meeting of the Excelsior Surgical Society will take place 7:00 am–4:30 pm Sunday, October 27, 2019, in the Imperial Ballroom at the Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA.

5th Annual Excelsior Surgical Society Meeting "The Complete Surgeon"

ACS Clinical Congress 2019
San Francisco, CA
Sunday, October 27, 2019
0700 to 1630

This year's program will focus on the future of the military surgeon and surgical Graduate Medical Education during the Defense Health Agency transition. The military's Region 13 Committee on Trauma Paper Competition will showcase the best surgical research performed in the U.S. military. COL (Ret) Mark Bowyer, MD, FACS, will deliver the keynote Major John P. Pryor Lecture entitled "Bridge over Troubled Water: Trials, Tribulations, Triumphs, and Training." Military-civilian partnerships and Global Health engagements will be discussed in the context of maintaining a ready medical force. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with surgical leaders and fellowship program directors in the civilian sector. Clinical Congress attendees who are interested in enhancing military medicine now and in the future are encouraged to attend.

The ACS **Owen H. Wangensteen Scientific Forum** will also include a military session to showcase military-related surgical research. Military surgeons will present their research at the Military Scientific Forum on October 28, 2018 from 09:45 to 11:15.



 For Our Patients

CLINICAL CONGRESS 2019

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Join Us in San Francisco

facs.org/clincon2019

 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
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Join ESS at the Convocation to recognize **COL (Ret) Norman Rich, MD, FACS** for being awarded the inaugural Distinguished Military Lifetime Contribution Award and **VADM (Ret) Raquel Bono, MD, FACS** for the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award.



COL (Ret) Norman Rich, MD, FACS

ACS Convocation
Sunday, October 27
1800-2000
Moscone Center



VADM (Ret) Raquel Bono, MD, FACS

Dr. Rich's career is distinguished by his contributions to vascular and trauma surgery in the military. He entered the military in 1960 and completed his surgical residency at Letterman General Hospital in 1965. From there he served with distinction in Viet Nam where he started the Vascular Trauma registry, which is still utilized today. He became the first chairman for the department of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, which now bears his namesake. He has published over 300 original manuscripts and 5 books. His success has earned countless awards, recognitions, honorary memberships, faculty positions, and titles in 45 countries.

Dr. Bono has led a remarkably diverse career leading healthcare operations for the Navy and the Defense Health Agency. She commissioned in 1979 and completed her surgical residency at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth and Trauma and Critical Care fellowship at the Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine in Norfolk. She has held multiple leadership roles including the Commander of the Naval Hospital at Jacksonville, Florida, chief of staff and deputy director Tricare Management Activity of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs, command surgeon for U.S. Pacific Command, director of the National Capital Region Medical Directorate of the Defense Health Agency, Chief of the Navy Medical Corps, and most recently retired as the Director for the Defense Health Agency.

Excelsior Surgical Society Edward D. Churchill Lecture

Steven D. Schwartzberg, MD, FACS, USA
Tuesday, October 29
0945-1045



Dr. Steven Schwartzberg, the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is nationally recognized as a pioneer of minimally invasive surgery. He was a past president of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) from 2011-2012. He received his medical degree from Baylor College of medicine. He served as a Major in the U.S. Army as the Chief of Surgery of the 365th Evacuation Hospital in Oman from 1990-1991.

Scutter Oration on Trauma

M. Margaret Knudson, MD, FACS
Tuesday, October 29
1245-1330



Dr. M. Margaret "Peggy" Knudson is a leader in trauma systems and has been on the front lines of treating trauma victims. She attended medical school and completed her general surgical residency at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. After a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Stanford University, she became involved with the development of trauma systems in California, with a special interest in pediatric trauma. After serving as the Associate Trauma Director at Stanford Medical Center, she joined the teaching faculty at the University of California, San Francisco in 1989. She has served as visiting surgeon at both Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and Balad Air Force Hospital in Iraq, treating soldiers injured on the battlefield. In 2014 Dr. Knudson joined the Division of Member Services of the ACS and was named Medical Director for the Military Health System Strategic ACS Partnership (MHSSPACS).



COL (Ret) Basil A. Pruitt Jr., MD FACS

In Memoriam

Basil A. Pruitt Jr., MD FACS
1931-2019

Donald D. Trunkey, MD FACS
1937-2019



Donald D. Trunkey, MD FACS

Col (Ret) Basil Pruitt, Jr, MD was one of the founding fathers of modern trauma and burn medicine. Dr. Pruitt was the commander and director of the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston for 27 years in San Antonio, TX. A 1952 graduate of Harvard, Dr. Pruitt received his M.D. degree in 1957 from the Tufts University School of Medicine. After starting a surgery residency in Boston, he was drafted in 1959 and assigned to the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research in San Antonio. He completed his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in 1964 and served 31 years with the institute. He had previously served in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive of 1968, where he performed surgery at the 12th Evacuation Hospital, the busiest medical facility in the war. Following his retirement from the US Army, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas San Antonio University Hospital as a clinical professor of surgery where he continued to influence several generations of trauma and burn surgeons. ESS was honored to have Dr. Pruitt deliver the John Pryor Lecture at the Excelsior Surgical Symposium last year in Boston, MA.

Donald D. Trunkey was a pioneer in modern trauma systems and the Mackenzie Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Oregon Health and Science University from 1986-2001. He graduated from Washington State University, Pullman, and earned his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1963. He completed his residency in general surgery at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). His residency rotations at the San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) under the mentorship of F. William Blaisdell, MD, FACS, led to his interest in a career in trauma surgery. Dr. Trunkey was commissioned in the U.S. Army and activated to serve in the first Gulf War in 1991. He published a commentary in the March 1993 edition of Archives of Surgery called "Lessons Learned." This document paved the way for how the U.S. Department of Defense trains its trauma personnel today. He was recognized for his lifelong career of advancing the care of the injured by his election to the presidency of the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, as well as a director of the American Board of Surgery.



The **Clinical Readiness Program** led by the USU Walter Reed Department of Surgery supported by MHSSPACS is a tri-service effort to train and assess the expeditionary Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) necessary to care for the combat injured.

Building from the Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET) course, **ASSET+** adds four additional elements including external fixation, cesarean section and obstetrical emergency bleeding, craniotomy, and lateral canthotomy. Conducted over 2 days, the ASSET + course provides a one to one faculty ratio allowing for individualized surgeon assessment and performance of every procedure.



This year in conjunction with the Clinical Congress, ASSET+ is being offered at the University of California Davis, Sacramento, CA in partnership with military personnel from David Grant Medical Center from October 24-25, 2019.

The pilot course was conducted at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center with follow on courses at USU led by Dr. Mark Boyer (above, center right). One of the goals is to combine the ASSET+ course with major surgical meetings like SAGES, the ACS, and the AAST so that military surgeons can acquire all of their needed education in an efficient manner. If you are interested in teaching (for established ASSET instructors) or attending as a student, please contact Col (Ret) Mark Bowyer at mark.bowyer@usuhs.edu.



Women's Committee

The Women's Committee was formed this year to address issues unique to women surgeons serving in the Armed Forces as well as promote an inclusive ESS program and membership.

This year we are pleased to announce **VADM (Ret) Raquel Bono**, former director of the Defense Health Agency, as the 2019 recipient of the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award. The Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award is named in honor of Mary Edwards Walker, MD (1832–1919), for her exemplary inspiration as the first female surgeon employed by the U.S. Army and the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor—the highest U.S. Armed Forces decoration for bravery. Established in 2016, the award has celebrated other military surgeons including COL (Ret) Mary E. Maniscalco-Theberge, MD, FACS and COL (Ret) Yeu-Tsu Margaret Lee, MD, FACS. Please join us for the Association of Women Surgeons Women in Surgery Committee Reception to recognize VADM (Ret) Bono's outstanding accomplishments.

Women's Committee Team:

LTC Danielle Holt: @DrDanielleHolt

Lt Col Fia Yia



Association of Women Surgeons Women in Surgery Committee Reception

Monday, October 28

1800-1930

The Parc 55 Hotel

Cyril Magnin Ballroom, Level 4

Mentorship Committee

The Mentorship Outreach Task Force was formed this year with the ultimate goal of reaching all surgeons in the military, regardless of subspecialty, in order to provide a resource for their education, residency, professional development, and CME needs. We would like to build a strong community of mentorship within the Excelsior Surgical Society. We have started with a focus on medical students in order to form mentorships and build the size and reach of our society in the coming years. We have offered our support to the surgery interest group at USUHS and hope they become more involved with the ESS in the near future.

We have also contacted over 900 HPSP students and have received a large number of responses from students interested in a surgical career. We are working on a database of these students in order to easily communicate with this large group. If you are a military surgeon interested in providing mentorship to one or more medical students, please reach out to our team.

Mentorship Team:

LTC Suzanne Gillern

MAJ Maggie Gallagher

Finance and Membership Committee

ESS is supported by the Churchill Fund, the Humphreys Fund and USUHS Leadership Funds. The Churchill Fund is maintained and approved by the ACS. Humphreys Funds are the residual funds of the retired Society of Air Force Clinical Surgeons and are maintained by the Henry Jackson Foundation. USUHS Leadership Funds are co-maintained with federal government oversight.



ESS active membership is open to Fellows, Associate Fellows, Residents, Medical Students and Affiliates of the ACS who are serving on active duty, active or inactive Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard, or are retired or discharged under honorable conditions after at least one year of service.

Individuals interested in membership should complete the Membership Application available at <https://www.facs.org/member-services/mhsspacs/ess-membership> and submit the completed form to MHSSPACS Administrative Coordinator John Trent at 312-202-5161 or jtrent@facs.org.

Active/Distinguished membership is open to anyone who has an affiliation with the U.S. military (including residents and med students).

Associate/Honorary membership is only for members who do not have any affiliation with the military.

Active duty dues-paying ESS members receive an annual 50% reduction in Fellowship dues for the ACS. Reserve surgeons receive a 50% reduction in ACS Fellowship dues for the year they are deployed. Excelsior dues are waived for Honorary, Distinguished, medical student members, and members >70 years of age.

Outreach and Social Media Committee

Follow ESS on Facebook or Twitter [@ExcelsiorSurg](#) for highlights on topics of interest to the military surgical community including **#MilitarySurgeonMonday** featuring the unique contributions of members.

The Twitter page was established in 2016 and currently has over 660 followers. The Facebook page has over 130 followers. The Facebook page is a closed group, go to www.facebook.com and search for "Excelsior Surgical Society" to join.

Social Media Team:

LCDR Pam Choi: [@pmchoi](#)

LCDR Luke Johnston: [@lukerjohnston](#)



Don't forget to join us at the ESS Reception for appetizers at the historic Presidio Officers' Club on Tuesday night.

Excelsior Surgical Society Reception

Tuesday, October 29

1900-2100

Presidio Officers' Club

Moraga Hall, 50 Moraga Ave, San Francisco, CA



Very Respectfully,

Danielle Holt, MD, FACS

LTC MC USA

Secretary

Excelsior Surgical Society

excelsior@facs.org