

2022–2023

# ACS Annual Report

**ACS** / AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF SURGEONS

**THE HOUSE OF SURGERY™**

DECEMBER 2023

# Letter from the Executive Director

I am honored to share this annual report, which highlights some of our major achievements from August 2022 to August 2023, as well as some of our most recent accomplishments and a preview at what is to come in the next year.

The successes of the ACS staff and our many surgeon volunteers have been numerous and impressive. They include strengthening member engagement, enhancing surgical education, expanding quality programs, and advocating for surgeons and our patients.

Providing high-quality care is at the heart of everything we do as surgeons, and it has been the cornerstone of the American College of Surgeons since our founding in 1913.

As you peruse the following pages and see our newest offerings, I hope you share my pride in our organization—The House of Surgery—where all surgeons from all disciplines and in all career stages have a home.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time throughout the year with your questions and feedback at [executivedirector@facs.org](mailto:executivedirector@facs.org).

**Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS**  
*Executive Director & CEO*



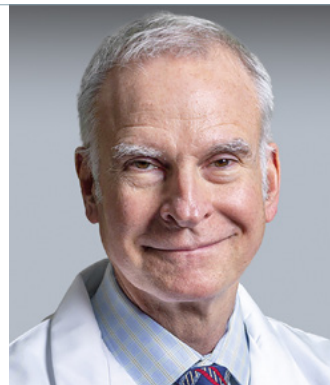
# New Executive Leaders



The ACS executive leadership team evolved and expanded this past year, as several leaders retired and a Chief Information Officer (CIO) position was created to help with technological modernization and innovation.



**Brian Eastridge,  
MD, FACS**



**Ronald J. Weigel, MD,  
PhD, MBA, FACS**

In June 2023, retired Colonel Brian Eastridge, MD, FACS, became the new Military Health Systems Strategic Partnership-ACS Medical Director. Dr. Eastridge is a professor of surgery, chief of the Division of Trauma and Emergency General Surgery, and the Jocelyn and Joe Straus Endowed Chair in Trauma Research at The University of Texas in San Antonio. He succeeded M. Margaret “Peggy” Knudson, MD, FACS, who held that role since 2015, when the position was created.

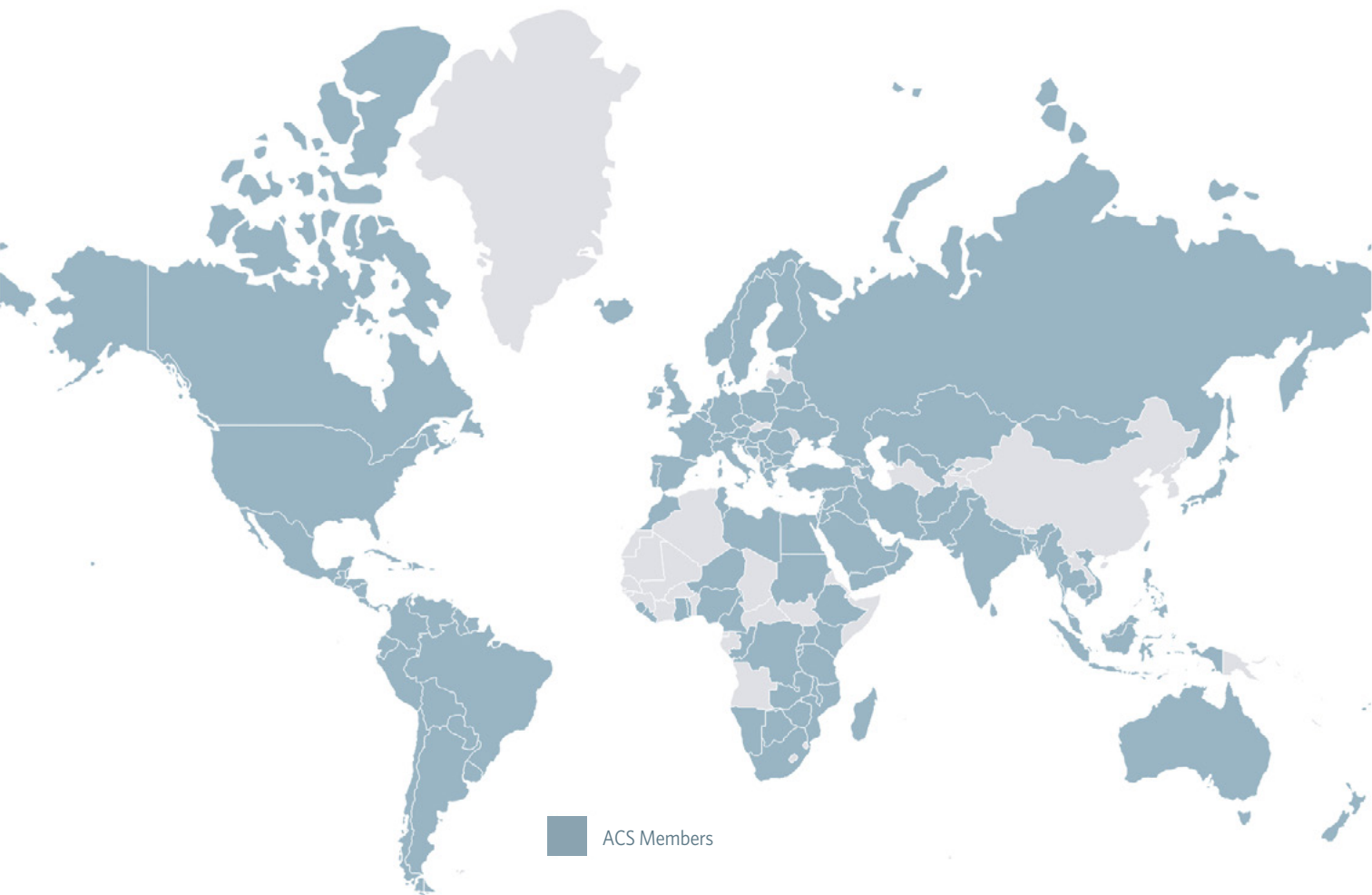
In October 2023, Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS, became the new Medical Director for ACS Cancer Programs. Dr. Weigel is a prolific breast cancer researcher and the E. A. Crowell Jr. Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Iowa Health Care in Iowa City. He replaced Heidi Nelson, MD, FACS, who retired in August.



The executive leadership team also now includes CIO Jack King, MBA; Chief Financial Officer Paige Rodgers, CPA, MBA, who filled the vacancy left by the retired Gay Vincent, CPA, MBA; and ACS Foundation Director Beth White Carona, CFRE, who replaced the retired Shane Hollett.

# Membership

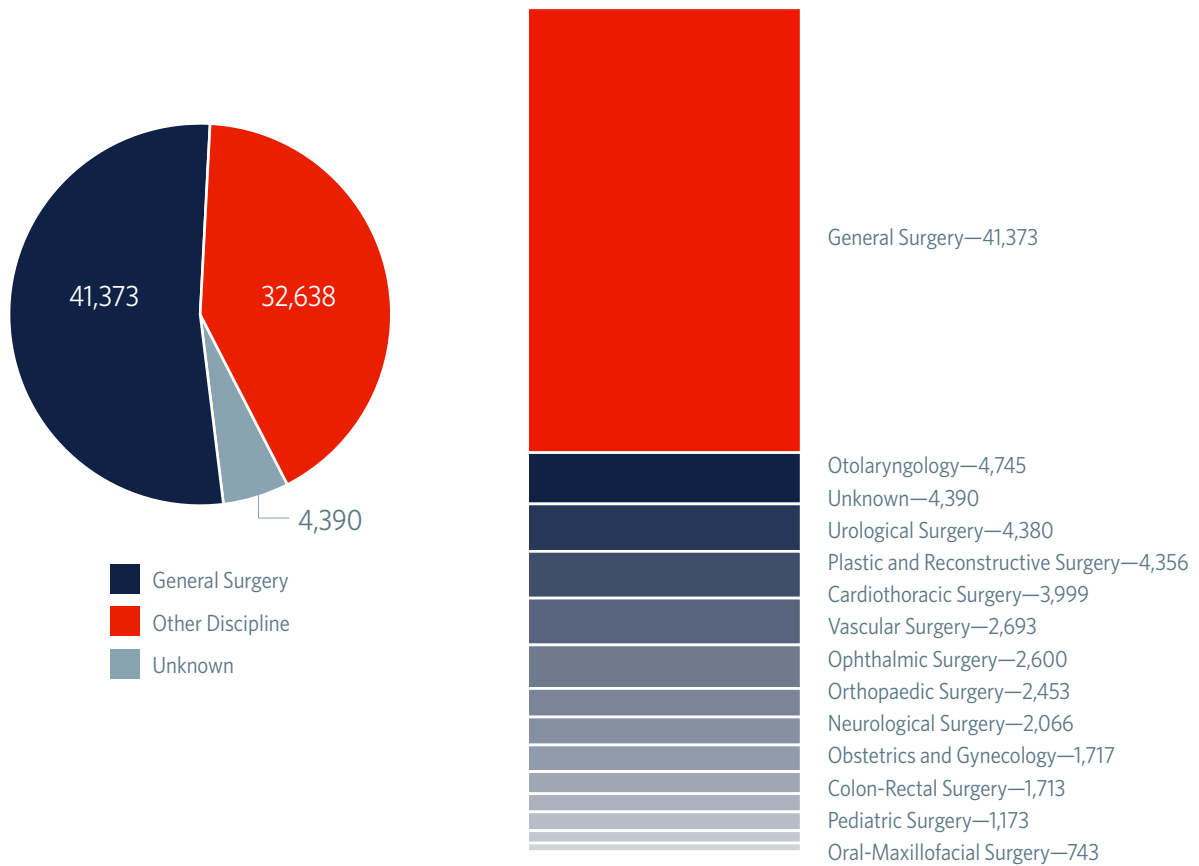
In 2023, ACS membership reached a record 90,000 members, comprising surgeons in 14 disciplines from 144 countries. Approximately 12,000 members are from outside the US and Canada.



We initiated 1,674 new Fellows from 74 countries during Convocation at Clinical Congress 2023 in Boston, Massachusetts, and we also welcomed two new Chapters, Kenya and Ethiopia. The ACS currently has 121 chapters around the world.



## Membership Composition by Discipline, US & Canada

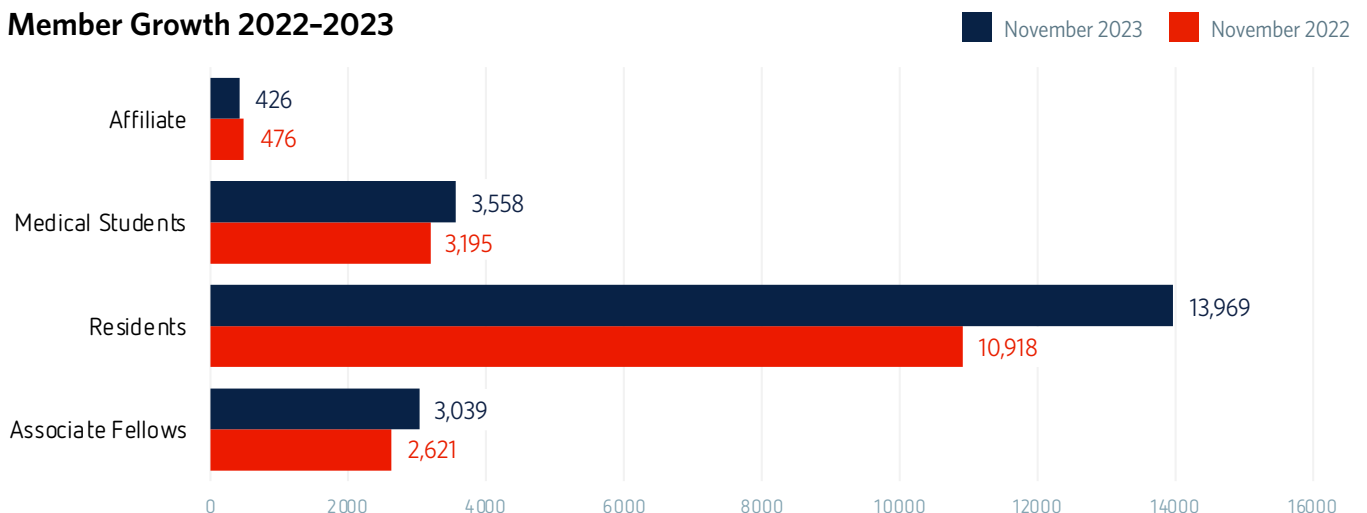


## Resident Growth

We are now in year 2 of a 5-year Resident Membership Dues Exemption pilot, which grants free membership to residents. When the pilot started in April 2022, our membership included 9,251 residents; a year later, the total was 10,962. As of November 1, 2023, we had 14,417 resident members.

This past year, non-Fellow membership also grew in nearly every category, as did participation in two special interest groups for members—the Resident and Associate Society and the Young Fellows Association.

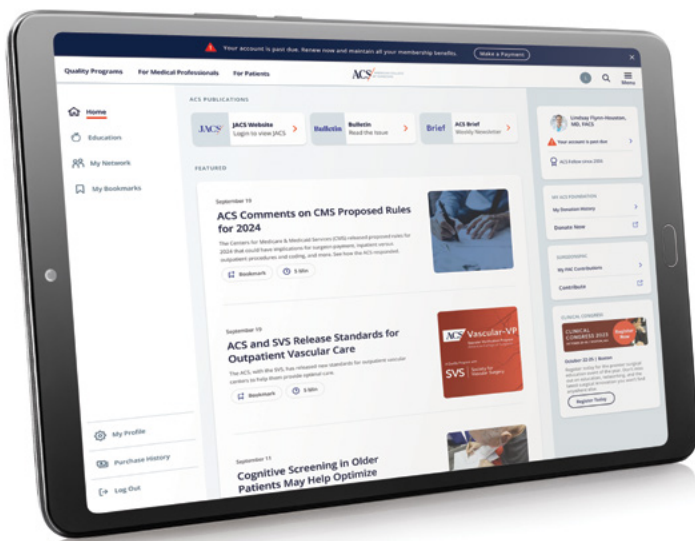
### Member Growth 2022-2023



# Member Benefits



Benefits for ACS members are continuously evaluated and updated to help serve the needs of all surgeons in all career stages. In addition, technology is being leveraged in new ways to provide a more personalized member experience.



## Surgeon's Dashboard

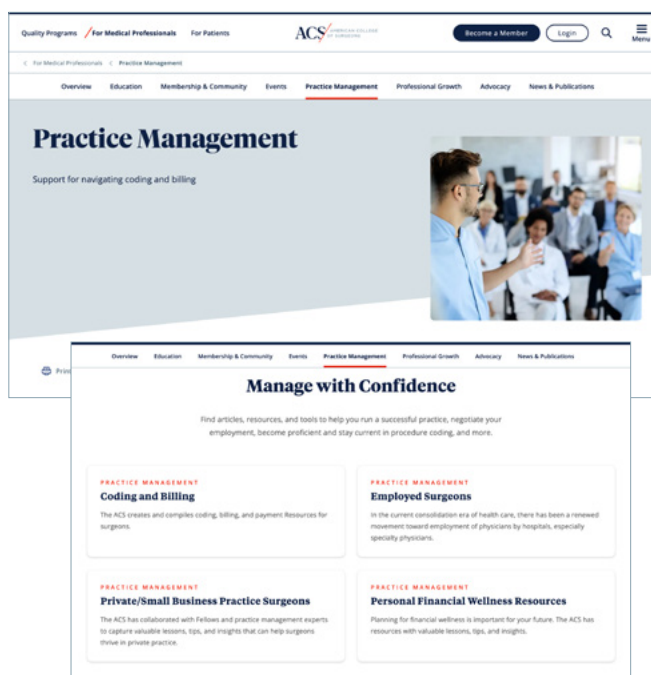
Following the launch of the fully redesigned ACS website ([facs.org](https://facs.org)) in May 2022, we have been adding new features and enhancements to make it easier for users to quickly find what they need.


One of the newest features is the members-only Surgeon's Dashboard, released in October 2023. The personalized dashboard provides a customized experience, giving members quick access to their individual profile, invoices, contributions to ACS programs, leadership information, and more. Those who update their profiles with information about their career stage, practice characteristics, and professional interests will enable the ACS to provide a curated, individualized feed of relevant information starting in spring 2024.

## Practice Management

For employed surgeons and those in private practice, the ACS offers numerous practice management resources. This past year, those resources were organized and added to a hub on [facs.org](https://facs.org), where the entire collection of evidence-based reports, services, and webinars can be found. Popular resources in this section include information on coding, billing, personal finances, and contract negotiations.

In addition, members now have access to compensation benchmark and productivity reports at a substantial discount from MGMA, AMGA, and AAMC. These reports are useful for private practice and academic surgeons and are tailored by surgical discipline.



 Learn more at [facs.org/practice-management](https://facs.org/practice-management)

## ACS Communities

Changes to the ACS Communities platform in 2022 allowed specialty Communities to become more clinically relevant and focused on direct patient care, while Communities focused by career stage, geographic area, practice type, and other characteristics offer discussions on relevant nonclinical issues.

Community editors facilitated discussions on a wide range of topics. Threads involving surgical cases drove the most robust discussion as members shared perspectives on clinical treatment, accessibility of instruments and devices, loss of surgeon input into clinical policies, and inspiring stories of valiant patients and heroic surgical efforts.

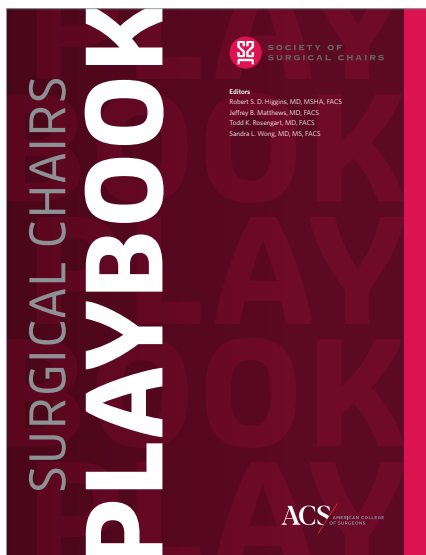
ACS COMMUNITIES / FY2023

7,588  
Total discussions

1,516  
New threads

Utility and need for T-Tubes,  
treatment of colonic obstructions,  
and threats to private practice  
Most active threads

General Surgery, Rural Surgery, and Diversity  
Most active Communities



## Collaboration with Other Organizations

As The House of Surgery, the ACS collaborates with other organizations to provide the most relevant, timely, and inclusive resources for surgeons. Two collaborations are mentioned below; others are listed throughout this report.

This past year, the ACS and the Society of Surgical Chairs published a *Surgical Chairs Playbook*. Authored by more than 80 surgical chairs, this book helps current and future surgeon leaders navigate career progression through innovative strategies, evidence-based examples, and personal insights on management, business, and more.

The College is also collaborating with 40 organizations on surgeon well-being. A virtual kickoff meeting was held in April, and an in-person meeting was held in Boston during Clinical Congress. The goal of the Surgeons Well-Being Coalition is to design programs that foster wellness, resilience, and work-life integration. Resources will be rolled out in the coming months.

In parallel, the College's Surgeon Well-Being Workgroup will continue to develop and offer resources during wellness awareness months, including ACS Surgeon Well-Being Month (January), Mental Health Awareness Month (May), and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and Day (September).

# Educational Offerings



A central ACS goal is to help surgeons optimize their practices by helping them attain new skills, manage their careers, and pursue clinical excellence. The College has dozens of opportunities for surgeons in all disciplines, career stages, and locations. These include in-person and online options. The five largest in-person educational meetings are highlighted through page 12, and a selection of online opportunities follow.

## Clinical Congress

Clinical Congress is the ACS's signature event and has long been one of the largest gatherings of surgeons in the world.

Clinical Congress, held in October 2023 in Boston, Massachusetts, was extremely well-received and saw a return to prepandemic attendance levels of more than 12,000 attendees both in-person and virtually. Most sessions from the meeting will remain available on-demand through May 1, 2024, creating an additional opportunity for registrants to claim more than 200 *AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits*™.



ATTENDANCE 2023			
7,247 Physician registrants	11,115 In-person registrants	1,356 Virtual registrants	12,471 Total registrants
CLINICAL CONGRESS 2023 BY THE NUMBERS			
2,794 Total presentations	2,177 Faculty members and presenters	11 Named lectures	3 Special sessions
104 Panel sessions	25 Postgraduate courses	76 Scientific forum sessions	7 ePoster sessions
31 Video-Based education sessions	46 Meet the expert sessions	23 Town Hall meetings	200+ <i>AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits</i> ™ available



# SAVE THE DATE

October 19–22  
San Francisco, CA

New  
**Saturday–  
Tuesday**  
Program

# ACS/Clinical Congress 2024

## A Shift in Dates for Clinical Congress 2024

As you plan your calendar for 2024, take note that Clinical Congress is shifting back a day—**starting on Saturday with Convocation and ending on Tuesday**—in order for you to better take advantage of this exceptional learning and networking opportunity while spending fewer days away from your hospital, clinic, OR, and patients.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Clinical Congress 2024

Saturday–Tuesday, October 19–22  
San Francisco, CA

Learn more at [facs.org/clincon2023](https://facs.org/clincon2023)



# Quality Improvement Conferences

The ACS offers three major educational events that focus on quality initiatives, managing data, and best practices related to the College's accreditation and verification programs. They include the Quality and Safety Conference (QSC), Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Annual Conference, and the ACS Cancer Conference.



## QSC

The 2023 Quality and Safety Conference was held in July in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and attracted more than 1,100 surgeons, nurses, registrars, surgical quality officers, and other members of the healthcare team.

The conference included 91 sessions and a variety of networking events, such as sessions on wearable technology, AI, telehealth, surgical QI in low- and middle-income countries, and quality in children's surgery. Presentations of the ACS QI Basics Workshop, the release of the ACS Quality Framework and Toolkit, and multiple sessions on the ACS Power of Quality campaign (see page 16) linked the conference to ongoing ACS quality initiatives.



### SAVE THE DATE

**QSC 2024** | July 18-22 | Denver, CO  
Learn more at [facs.org/qsc2023](https://facs.org/qsc2023)

## TQIP Annual Conference

The annual TQIP program returned to an in-person conference December 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona, with 1,700 attendees and asynchronous access to session content following the meeting. 2022 highlights included a keynote speech on leadership and wellness, a pediatric trauma survivor session, and presentation of a new guidance on mental health and substance abuse.

As this report is being released, the 2023 conference is being held in Louisville, Kentucky, December 1-3. The theme is "The Road to Recovery," and topics include preventable mortality cases and evidence-based mortality prevention, engagement with hospital executives and trauma leaders on ACS Quality Programs and trauma resources, and presentation of a new guidance on traumatic brain injury.



### SAVE THE DATE

**TQIP 2023** | December 1-3 | Louisville, KY  
Learn more at [facs.org/tqip](https://facs.org/tqip)



## ACS Cancer Conference

“Where Cancer Care Comes Together” was the theme of the March 2023 ACS Cancer Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Approximately 400 attendees participated in sessions that focused on teamwork and understanding the patient journey. New patient-centric standards for breast cancer were presented, and speakers offered a look ahead at new programs that will drive forth of the mission of ACS Cancer Programs, including a cancer survival risk calculator, a survivorship services survey, and collaborative research to evaluate quality standards.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### ACS Cancer Conference 2024

February 22-24 | Austin, TX

Learn more at [facs.org/cancerconference](https://facs.org/cancerconference)

## ACS CANCER CONFERENCE

Where Cancer Care Comes Together

MARCH 1-4, 2023 • ATLANTA, GA



## Leadership & Advocacy Summit

Excitement was high for the 2023 ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit, which took place April 15-18 in Washington, DC, because it included a return to in-person visits to Capitol Hill. A total of 690 attendees engaged in-person and virtually.

The first half of the Summit focused on leadership, offering sessions on contract negotiations, defining your personal mission statement, and leading in times of crisis. The second half of the meeting highlighted surgical advocacy—key priorities for the ACS and advice from high-ranking Congressional leaders. On the final day of the Summit, 263 attendees representing 39 states participated in 211 Hill meetings.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Leadership & Advocacy Summit 2024

April 13-16 | Washington, DC

Learn more at [facs.org/summit](https://facs.org/summit)

## LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY SUMMIT 2023

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS




# Online Education

The ACS offers dozens of online educational opportunities for surgeons and members of the surgical team. Among the new offerings over the past year were an updated Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (SESAP®) and several online and expanded in-person trauma education programs.

## SESAP® and SESAP Advanced

Widely regarded as the premier self-assessment and guided cognitive skills education program, the ACS released the 18th edition of SESAP (October 2022) and SESAP Advanced (August 2023). Among many new features are resources to support personalized education and application of knowledge to practice settings, as well as 50% more content for self-study.




 Learn more at [facs.org/sesap](https://facs.org/sesap)

## mCurriculum

In October 2023, the ACS released an additional 32 modules to complement the previously released 10 modules in the Military Clinical Readiness Curriculum (mCurriculum). This free and easily navigable “just-in-time” educational resource can help improve the trauma surgery skills of deployed military surgeons, as well as general surgeons operating in civilian settings, particularly rural ones.

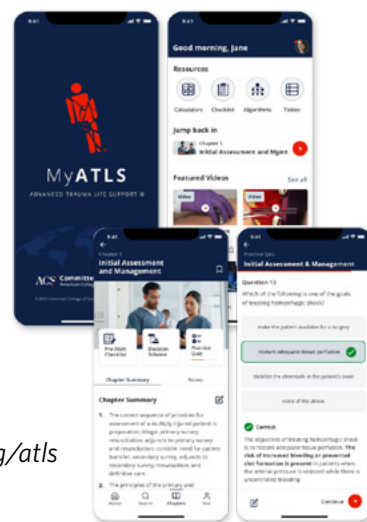



 Learn more at [facs.org/mcurriculum](https://facs.org/mcurriculum)

## MyATLS App and ATLS® 11th Edition

An updated MyATLS app is scheduled to launch in early 2024, featuring an improved user interface and experience that includes gaming options. The Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) 11th edition manual and online modules are expected to be finalized in winter 2024-2025.


First introduced in 1980, ATLS has now been taught to more than 1 million doctors in more than 80 countries around the world, including Ethiopia, which had its first ATLS training this past February.

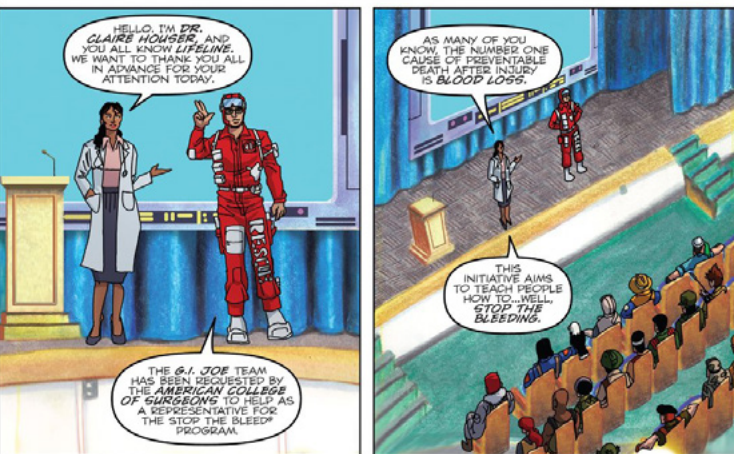


 Learn more at [facs.org/atls](https://facs.org/atls)

## eDMEP Course

The initial modules in the online version of the Disaster Management Emergency Preparedness (DMEP) course were launched in fall 2023. The comprehensive course focuses on response to mass casualty incidents and offers diverse scenarios ranging from earthquakes to complex terrorist attacks. The interactive format, which includes a gaming component, is tailored to the learner’s needs. The complete collection is expected to be available in early 2024.

 Learn more at [facs.org/dmep](https://facs.org/dmep)




## STOP THE BLEED®

The ACS STOP THE BLEED® (STB) program, a collaboration with the Department of Defense, significantly expanded its worldwide reach over the past year. More than 3 million individuals are now prepared to respond to bleeding emergencies, including an additional 1 million instructed in 2023 (see page 17). Bleeding control kits also were added to sports stadiums, including the homes of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox.

The ACS Safe Communities program provided support for communities that wish to promote STB with training, equipment, and information. So far, the initiative has been implemented in Chicago, and discussions are underway with officials in Milwaukee, Phoenix, and Seattle.

In November 2002, the commemorative 300th issue of G.I. Joe featured the STB program, and in October 2023, the third version of the STB course debuted at Clinical Congress.

 [Learn more at stopthebleed.org](https://stopthebleed.org)



### BY THE NUMBERS:

3,000,630

Total individuals instructed

~1 million

Total individuals instructed in 2023

128,746

Interactive courses

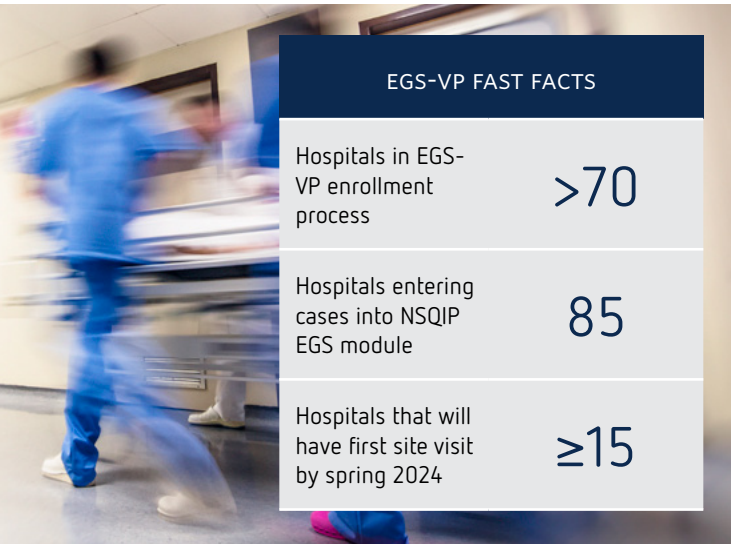
123,000

Instructors globally

138

Countries

The College's steadfast dedication to quality improvement is evident in its growing number of quality improvement programs and thousands of hospitals and surgeon participants. Currently, 18 Quality Programs are available with two additional ones planned for 2024.

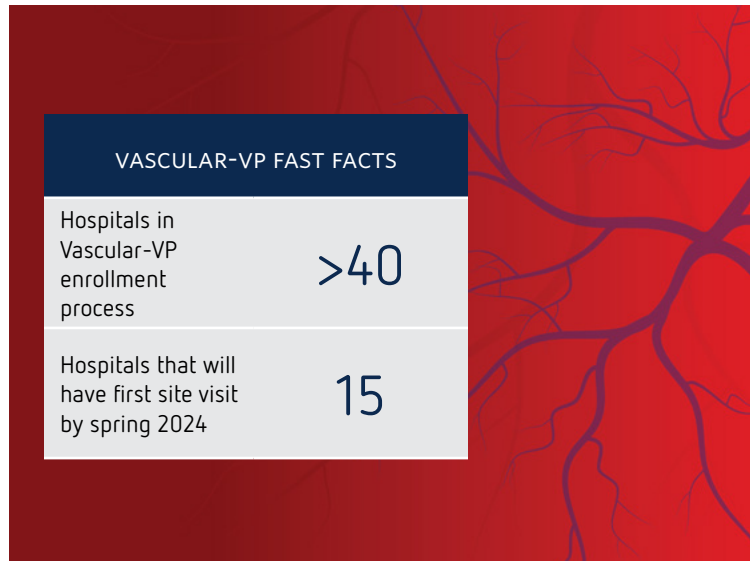


## Emergency General Surgery Verification Program (EGS-VP)

In September 2022, the ACS and American Association for the Surgery of Trauma published standards for the new EGS-VP. Building on trauma verification's structure and care improvement outcomes, the EGS-VP outlines necessary resources, care standards, and quality processes to ensure timely, high-quality care for patients receiving emergency care for nontraumatic acute care conditions.

## Vascular Verification Program (Vascular-VP)

In March 2023, the ACS and Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) launched the Vascular-VP for hospitals performing vascular surgeries and interventions. Using the four-part model (standards, infrastructure, data, and ongoing verification), Vascular-VP incorporates specific SVS clinical practice guidelines plus quality standards from the ACS Quality Verification Program to help hospitals assess resources and quality processes for improving inpatient vascular care. The outpatient version was released in September 2023.



## Coming in 2024

Two additional verification programs have completed alpha pilots and are preparing to launch in 2024. They are the High-Risk Gastrointestinal Surgery Verification Program (HRGI-VP) and the General Thoracic Surgery Verification Program (Thoracic-VP), developed with The Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Also in 2024, the ACS will release additional Quality Framework resources and expand its integration pilot between electronic health record systems and the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP®).



## The Power of Quality

The ACS is entering year 2 of a multiyear campaign to explain “The Power of Quality” and demonstrate the value of ACS Quality Programs to every hospital, surgeon, patient, payer, and policymaker in the US.

As part of the campaign, we are distributing Surgical Quality Partner diamond plaques to those participating in one or more ACS Quality Programs so that they can publicly display their status as a verified, accredited, or participating entity. So far, more than 1,200 hospitals have claimed their diamonds. The goal is to distribute plaques to 2,500 hospitals by October 2024.



Advocating for surgeons and surgical patients is essential, and the ACS and many of our surgeon members in the United States have had very successful and productive relationships with key contacts at both the state and federal levels, as well as with regulatory and health agencies.

Over the past year, these relationships have helped us earn several noteworthy advocacy victories, including:

- Reductions in proposed Medicare payment cuts
- Increased public health research funding for the NIH and the CDC
- Increased funding for military-civilian trauma partnerships
- Laws requiring STOP THE BLEED kits and or training in at least eight states
- Funding to support graduate education for physicians, the Rural Residency Development Program, and programs to address mental health and well-being in healthcare professionals

As we celebrate these victories, the ACS continues to lobby hard for full Medicare payment reform, measures for firearm injury prevention, development of a National Trauma and Emergency Preparedness System, and bills related to bleeding control, prior authorization, rural health, and ensuring access to general surgery.



You can help make a difference on these important issues by working with us. Learn more at [facs.org/advocacy](https://facs.org/advocacy)





The mission of the ACS Foundation is to secure financial support for the College's charitable, educational, and patient-focused initiatives.

The Foundation offers a wide spectrum of funding opportunities for ACS members and supporters to ensure the highest level of surgical care and education.

This past year, corporate grants and in-kind support helped with skills courses at Clinical Congress, patient education resources, and the Resident Surgical Skills Competition. Programs funded by gifts from ACS members included STOP THE BLEED® training in rural communities, international scholarship travel awards, fellowship research awards, and initiatives through the ACS Health Outreach Program for Equity and Global Surgery (ACS H.O.P.E.), a new name for Operation Giving Back.

Since 1989, the Foundation has recognized individuals for their exemplary investment in the mission of the College with the Distinguished Philanthropist Award—the Foundation's highest and most-significant honor. During Clinical Congress 2023, two ACS Fellows were given the award—Kenneth W. Sharp, MD, FACS (2022), and retired Colonel Kirby Gross, MD, FACS (2023).



Learn more about the ACS Foundation at [facs.org/acsfoundation](https://facs.org/acsfoundation)

FACTS ON DONORS	
Individual contributors to the Foundation (2022–2023)	1,134
Average individual gift	\$439
Mayne Heritage Society members	98




# Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

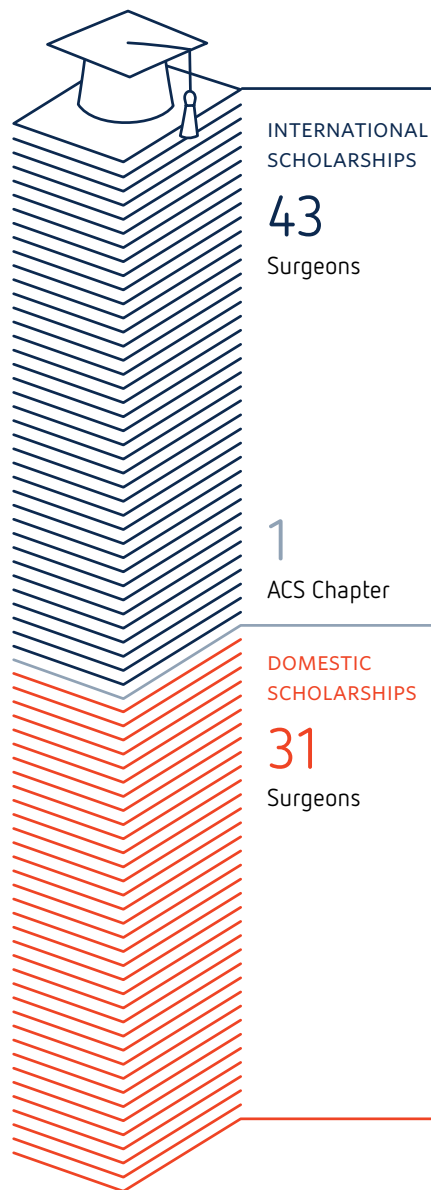
International scholarships provide opportunities for surgeons outside the US to visit major ACS meetings, enjoy educational opportunities, or support chapter activities. Domestic research scholarships, fellowships, and awards support US surgeons in meeting attendance, research, and mentorship. This year, 43 surgeons and one ACS chapter received international scholarships, while 31 surgeons received domestic scholarships. All the College's scholarships are funded through donor generosity.

## New Opportunities

The new John M. Daly International Guest Scholarship will offer an award of up to \$5,000 to help an academic surgeon interested in cancer care attend Clinical Congress. The first recipient will be chosen to attend Clinical Congress 2024.

In addition, funding was secured to extend the Innovative Grants for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism programs for another year and offer the 10 original grantees and their institutions an additional \$5,000 each in sustainability grants. Their initial projects were presented during Clinical Congress 2023 in Boston.

 Learn more about the scholarships, fellowships, and awards  
[facs.org/awards](https://facs.org/awards)



### LIST OF AWARDS

- International Guest Scholarship
- International Chapter Opportunity Award
- ACS/AAST International Scholarship
- John D. Corson Guest Scholarship
- Community Surgeon Travel Award
- Pellegrini Traveling Fellowship
- International Scholarship for Surgical Education
- International Traveling Fellowship Exchange Program
- ACS International NSQIP Scholarship
- ACS and the American Society of Breast Surgeons
- George H. A. Clowes Memorial Career Development Award
- Faculty Research Fellowship
- Resident Research Scholarship
- ACS/Triological Society Clinical Scientist Development Award
- ACS/Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation/National Institutes of Health Research Career Development Award
- Health Policy Scholarship

# Major Awards and Honors

The College annually celebrates a handful of extraordinary individuals who embody surgical excellence and inspire the next generation of surgeons. In 2023, these remarkable surgeons included:



**Ronald M. Stewart,  
MD, FACS**

Distinguished Service  
Award



**Monica M. Bertagnolli,  
MD, FACS**

Scientific Forum  
Award



**Major General (Ret.)  
Jonathan Woodson,  
MD, MSS, FACS**

Distinguished Lifetime  
Military Contribution Award



**Sujana S. Chandrasekhar,  
MD, FACS**

Inspiring Women in  
Surgery Award



**Thomas M. Krummel,  
MD, FACS**

Jacobson  
Innovation Award



The accomplishments described within these pages—plus many more—would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated surgeon volunteers. Thank you for your generosity of time and commitment to quality surgical care.

We also thank the 2022-2023 Officers (especially President E. Christopher Ellison, MD, FACS), Regents (especially Chair Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, FACS), Governors

(especially Chair Ross F. Goldberg, MD, FACS), and other surgeon leaders, and welcome our newly elected leaders, including:

- Henri R. Ford, MD, MHA, FACS  
*President*
- Tyler G. Hughes, MD, FACS  
*First Vice-President*
- Deborah A. Kuhls, MD, FACS  
*Second Vice-President*
- Beth H. Sutton, MD, FACS  
*President-Elect*

- Nancy L. Gantt, MD, FACS  
*First Vice-President-Elect*
- Dennis H. Kraus, MD, FACS  
*Second Vice-President-Elect*
- Anthony Atala, MD, FACS  
*Board of Regents Chair*
- Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS  
*Board of Regents Vice-Chair*



**THE HOUSE OF SURGERY™**

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