

Pennsylvania Surgical News

July 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ACS Updates	4
Executive Director Update	2
Legislative Updates	5-7
Penn Medicine Receives EGS	3
Save the Date!	8
Thank You to Our Sponsors	8
Why Join?	7

A collaborative monthly publication of the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters of the American College of Surgeons providing resources and educational content for the Pennsylvania Surgical Community

Keystone *Chapter*

ACS Chapters American College
of Surgeons

Metropolitan Philadelphia
Chapter

ACS Chapters American College
of Surgeons

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Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

We are in the throws of the “dog days of summer”! Hope you are all surviving the heat, pop up thunderstorms, and humidity. Pennsylvania is one state that you can experience multiple seasons in one day. Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter Councils continued exploring new and innovative educational programs and opportunities for all career levels. If you have yet to renew or join your local ASC Chapter, head over to the Chapter websites and renew OR join today! Be a voice in the choir as we tackle legislative issues that effect surgeons and all members of the healthcare profession. We cannot allow insurance companies and/or the government determine how you run care for your patients or run your clinics/institutions.

The Metro Philly Chapter has confirmed Dr. E. Christopher Ellison will be the keynote speaker for the upcoming Annual Joint Dinner Meeting, September 18th at the Bellevue Hotel in Philadelphia. The Chapter teams up with the Philadelphia Academy of Surgeons to bring this event to the members. Abstracts are currently being judged and the top scoring paper will present from the podium. Remind your vendors this is an opportunity to meet with surgeons from across the Philadelphia area. Vendor registration is open now. Attendee registration will open the first week of August.

We want to hear from you, our members. A member survey will be distributed in August to all current and prospective members. Please take a moment to provide feedback on how we can best serve your needs. Information from the survey will help both Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters plan and provide meaningful opportunities and services to its members.

As always, if you have comments, suggestions, or an article of interest, please email me at rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com.

Robbi

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ACS Updates	5
ACS Local Chapter Dues Renewal	8
Executive Director Update	2
Keystone Chapter Spring Conference	7-9
Penn Medicine Receives EGS	3
Why Join?	9

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The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Achieves Emergency General Surgery (EGS) Verification from ACS



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The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania is one of five hospitals nationwide that has achieved Emergency General Surgery (EGS) verification as part of the American College of Surgeons Emergency General Surgery Verification Program. The review occurred as part of the program pilot, taking place over a two-day period in December 2021. The site review involved stakeholders from across the hospital including nursing, perioperative services, anesthesiology, collaborating specialties including gastroenterology and interventional radiology as well as executive hospital leadership. The rigorous process included a thorough review of the EGS program including service line structure, operative and staffing resources, quality improvement efforts and EGS patient registry efforts. The process also included an in-depth chart review and discussion of several EGS cases representative of the case mix and acuity within the EGS program at Penn. The Resources for Emergency General Surgery ACS EGS-VP Standards book was used as the benchmark to gauge our program's compliance throughout the site visit.

Since the relocation of our Level I trauma center to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in 2015, our EGS service at HUP has expanded to comprise two

parallel teams, each with a dedicated ACS attending or second-year ACS fellow, seven inpatient advanced practice providers focused solely on EGS and a full resident complement. The site reviewers applauded our service line structure and recognized the complexity of the patient populations we serve at HUP. Reviewers also pointed out some of our programmatic limitations, including lack of dedicated resources for EGS program management as well as limitations in operating room access to fully address both the elective and emergent nature of our practice. These opportunities for improvement were also relayed to the hospital executive leadership in attendance during the visit.

Participation in the ACS EGS-VP site review allowed us to look critically at our program strengths and address some weaknesses that have already had a positive impact. Some examples include solidifying a performance improvement process and establishing a prospectively maintained, electronic medical record-based registry. Summary statements and recommendations provided by the ACS EGS-VP has also provided a tangible wish list that can be used when lobbying for additional hospital resources in the future. Verification through the ACS EGS-VP was an extremely valuable experience for our group, and we are proud at Penn Medicine to be EGS verified.



Heading to Clinical Congress? See What Surgeons Look Forward to at the Event

Clinical Congress is a highlight of the year for surgical teams around the globe. Hear from ACS surgeon leaders about why they cannot wait for the [meeting, October 22-25 in Boston, Massachusetts.](#)

The video is part one of a three-part series, featuring Drs. Anthony Atala, Lillian Kao, Eileen Burger, Michael Zinner, Mark Savarise, and Douglas Wood.



Clinical Congress Lecturer Discusses How CoC Addresses Cancer Care Disparities

The latest episode of the *House of Surgery* features Dr. Edward Partridge, professor emeritus from the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama Birmingham delivery the ACS CoC Oncology Lecture during CC 2022. He reflects on the 100-year anniversary of CoC and addressing ways to decrease healthcare disparities in cancer care.



Registration Now Open For ACS Clinical Congress October 22-25, 2023

Hotel Reservations Are Going Fast.



<p>Dates and Deadlines</p> <p>See Events</p> <p>Clinical Congress 2023 Early Bird Registration Discount Deadline Is August 28 Register Today</p> <p>ACS Surgeons as Educators Applications Due September 29 Apply Today</p> <p>Quality and Safety Conference Attendee CME Credit Claiming Due October 13 Submit Today</p> <p>Claim CME</p>	<p>Career Connection</p> <p>Career Opportunities</p> <p>Pediatric Surgeon Carilion Clinic, Roanoke, VA</p> <p>General/Breast Surgeon MUSC Health, Orangeburg, SC</p> <p>Vascular Surgeon Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor</p> <p>General Surgeon New Mexico Cancer Center, Albuquerque</p>
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Legislative Updates

[In California—Nurse practitioners sue California over restricted use of 'doctor'](#)

Three nurse practitioners are suing the state of California for its restrictions over the use of "doctor," asking the court to prevent enforcement of the law. Under California [law](#), only physicians and surgeons can use the word "doctor" or the prefix "Dr."

Background: In November 2022, Sarah Erny, a nurse practitioner with a doctorate, was [found](#) violating the law by calling herself "Dr. Sarah" on professional websites and social media. She was fined \$19,750 by the state for inferring she was a medical doctor to the public and failing to identify her supervising physician.

Last month, three nurse practitioners with doctorates of nursing sued the California attorney general, leaders of the medical board of California and leaders of the state board of registered nurses, arguing they have a right to call themselves doctors. Several states regulate the use of the doctor title, but California's laws are the strictest in the country. The law prohibits any person from using "doctor" in signs or advertisements without having a valid certificate as a physician or surgeon.

Why it matters: Patients have the right to understand who they are speaking with in the health care setting, as well as the education and training of their health care professional.

Resources: The AMA Truth in Advertising Campaign was developed to ensure health care professionals clearly and honestly state their level of training, education, and licensing, and they have [resources](#) to enact truth in advertising legislation in your state. Contact Catherine or Rebecca for more information on this program.

[Bills Being Monitored by in Pennsylvania](#)

HB 1566— (Malagari) [Firearms Policy in Healthcare Facilities](#) (Referred to Health Committee—July 11, 2023)

While health care facilities have policies regarding visitor behavior and professionalism, many fail to have accessible policies regarding their acceptance or prohibition of firearms and firearm accessories in buildings and on campus, leading to misunderstandings when responsible concealed carry licensed firearm owners bring a firearm into a hospital that prohibits weapons, but has no policy on their website or on the premises. This bill aims to rectify this by requiring certain health care facilities, like hospitals and psychiatric facilities, to create and maintain a publicly accessible policy on the acceptance or prohibition of the possession of firearms and firearm accessories. Having a simple policy that is easy to find will provide patients and their loved ones with more information on what they can and cannot bring into a health care setting when receiving treatment or visiting, helping to keep staff and visitors safe and informed.

Firearm owners and health care workers must be able to have access to, and be familiar with, important policies when working at or visiting health care facilities to prevent possible misunderstandings.

SB 674—(Schwank) Disclosure of Disingenuous Physician Complaints (Referred to Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee—May 15, 2023)

When physician complaints are made, the Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, initiates an investigation through its Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation (BEI). While physicians are notified that a complaint has been filed against them, they are prohibited from receiving any information about the complaint, which is kept on file indefinitely.

BEI initially determines if the complaint, at face value, could possibly reflect a violation if it were to be proven true. For these cases, BEI will initiate an investigation. However, when BEI determines that a particular complaint lacks merit, the case is closed, and the physician receives a letter informing them accordingly, with the caveat that BEI retains the option to re-open the case, should further information be obtained.

Unfortunately, complaints against physicians found by BEI to be either frivolous or meritless, physicians must continue to disclose them when asked if their license has ever been subject to an investigation or complaint. Because the details of BEI investigations are confidential, a physician lacks the ability to explain the nature of the “closed complaint” thereby tarnishing their reputation in perpetuity.

This legislation would no longer require physicians to acknowledge the existence of a complaint filed against their medical license if the case were closed without any formal action by BEI and no board action was taken.

This bill amends the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act of 1978.

SB 677 — (Schwank) Disclosure of Disingenuous Physician Complaints (Referred to Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee—May 15, 2023)

When physician complaints are made, the Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, initiates an investigation through its Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation (BEI). While physicians are notified that a complaint has been filed against them, they are prohibited from receiving any information about the complaint, which is kept on file indefinitely.

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This legislation would no longer require physicians to acknowledge the existence of a complaint filed against their medical license if the case were closed without any formal action by BEI and no board action was taken.

This bill amends the Medical Practice Act of 1985.

HB 106—(MeHaffie) Patient Safety Act (Passed House June 28, 2023 (119-84). Introduced in Senate July 17, 2023 and referred to Health & Human Services Committee)

Bill would establish safe patient limits under the care of an individual nurse in Pennsylvania hospitals, to be known as the Patient Safety Act.

Nurses have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic putting their lives on the line to keep patients in our communities safe. Unfortunately, nurses across the state are being assigned an increasing number of patients as staffing levels continue to decline, resulting in nearly 300 surgical patient deaths per year in Pennsylvania. Now, in this crisis, more than ever, our patients need the protection of the Patient Safety Act.

The Patient Safety Act legislation would set appropriate ratios for Pennsylvania hospitals dependent upon the acuity of the unit's patient needs.

Mehaffie feels the legislation is an important part of keeping hospital patients safe and ensuring they receive the best care possible. In addition, the Patient Safety Act represents an excellent way for hospitals to make an investment in patient care that will pay dividends in overall savings. A number of other states have already instituted safe patient limits.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

To view a complete list of bills ACS State Affairs is tracking, visit our online [State Legislative Tracker](#).



An infographic titled 'WHY JOIN AN ASSOCIATION?' with a central 'EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS' hub. Six segments radiate from the center, each with an illustration and text: 1. NETWORKING: 'It's not just who you know, it's who others know. Networking is powerful.' 2. VISIBILITY: 'Stand out and get noticed in your community.' 3. CREDIBILITY: 'Raise your reputation through membership.' 4. LEARNING: 'Get a competitive edge over non-members with exclusive training opportunities on a variety of hot topics.' 5. DISCOUNTS: 'Increase your purchasing power through members-only discounts and perks.' 6. HAVE A VOICE: 'Gain a say in what happens in government through the association advocacy efforts.' At the bottom, it says 'Keystone & Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters American College of Surgeons' and 'JOIN US! Contact us to learn more about the benefits of membership today!'.

Be a Voice for YOUR Surgical Community!

Join Your ACS Local Chapter Today and be part of the momentum to move the surgical community forward.

[Keystone Chapter Membership](#)

[Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter Membership](#)

Or contact Executive Director, Robbi Cook (rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com)

Metropolitan Philadelphia
Chapter
ACS Chapters American College of Surgeons

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Joint Dinner Meeting Hosted by
Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter ACS & Philadelphia Academy of
Surgery

Bellevue Hotel, Philadelphia

Monday, September 18, 2023

Details coming soon.

Are you an industry partner, supplier, device manufacturer? Be a part of
the Exhibit Hall to engage with surgical members.



Keynote Lecture | Poster Competition | Exhibit Hall | Networking

The Keystone Chapter
Would Like to
Thank Our Sponsors
Who Participated in the
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