

# Pennsylvania Surgical News

June 2023

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*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

# Pennsylvania Surgical News

June 2023



Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE  
Executive Director

Where have the days AND months gone. Tomorrow will be July 1st! Action in the Pennsylvania legislature is in high gear as the House and Senate work to beat the budget deadline and finish business before summer recess. We continue to monitor legislation and update members. Check the legislative update in this issue for information on HB 106 (Nurse Ratios) which passed the House this week and other critical legislative issues being discussed.

Although Chapter activities have slowed for the summer months, both the Keystone and Metro Philly Chapters are working on upcoming educational events and opportunities to connect, learn, and advocate. If you have ideas or suggestions for topics of interest, please email me and we will work to bring you relevant education.

Metro Philly Chapter returns to the Bellevue Hotel in Philadelphia on Monday, September 18th for its annual joint dinner meeting with the Philadelphia Academy of Surgeons. Dr. Chris Ellis, ACS President, will be the keynote speaker. The Abstract Poster Submission portal is open and the deadline for submission of research papers and case reports is July 31st. Exhibit Hall registration is also open. Remind your vendors this is an opportunity to meet with surgeons from across the Philadelphia area. Registration for attendance will open in early August.

Reminder to lapsed members: There is still time to reactive or JOIN your local ACS Chapter. Head over to the Keystone or Metro Philly Chapter websites, access your member portal and renew or JOIN today. Be a voice in the choir to advance and protect surgeons and their patients in the Commonwealth.

As always, if you have comments, suggestions, or an article of interest, please email me at [rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com](mailto:rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com).

*Robbi*

Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE  
Executive Director

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*Pennsylvania Surgical News* is a collaborative effort of the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters. Content is copyright. Articles are the opinion of the writer(s), and may not reflect the mission, goals, and focus of the Chapters.

Editorial Team  
Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE  
Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS



## Meanderings from A Wandering Surgeon

### Evolving Member Benefits

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS  
Keystone Chapter—Immediate Past President  
ACS Board of Governors Communications Pillar Lead

Friends and Colleagues -

The 2022 ACS Leadership [Survey](#) provides a great deal of raw data to inform and explain who we are and what we do as surgeons. As with any survey, it can only reflect those included, but our hope is that this sample becomes a more accurate representation of real practice.

The survey also enforces the importance and value of active participation in the ACS. As a leader, you are a representative of your Chapter, Specialty Society, Workgroup, or Committee. As a member, you must demand from your leadership an active and accurate voice on the issues facing each one of us today. [Surgeon Volunteers Find Satisfaction in Altruism | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)

I hope you find this article insightful and informative. I did. Many of the points are key for informed action:

- Email remains the best way to communicate timely updates. [Email Is Most Popular Way for Members to Receive ACS Communications | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)
- Only 1 in 5 of us is not dependent on advanced practice providers to function. [Surgeons Value APPs but Say They Would Benefit from Clinical Internship | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)

- Barely 50% of us have the opportunity to report DEI problems anonymously. [Most Surgical Practices Have DEI Officer and Training, But Diversity Opportunities Remain | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)
- Compensation for the majority remains productivity based, regardless of the many additional responsibilities and tasks allocated.
- And, perhaps, most strikingly, the lack of comprehensive family and parental leave and childcare policies, as well their enforcement continues to push the idea of work-life balance in the wrong direction. [Most Surgeons Don't Have Adequate Time to Complete Administrative Work | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)

Thanks for your membership and interest.

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS



## Don't Miss the ACS Quality & Safety Conference

The ACS Quality and Safety Conference, July 10-13 in Minneapolis, is a must-attend event for everyone interested in surgical quality, including surgeons, nurses, hospital executives, and more. With new ideas, best practices, and updated QI Basics Course, and the new Quality Improvement Framework, there is something for everyone. Watch Drs. Clifford Y. Ko, Patricia L. Turner, and James W. Fleshman, Jr. explain why they won't miss this year's event.



Watch Now (2:00)

## Panel Discusses Preop Cognitive Impairment Screening in Geriatric Patients

The latest episode of the *House of Surgery* features a multidisciplinary panel of experts discussing the importance of preoperative detection of cognitive impairment and dementia in the geriatric population. The host is Dr. Xane Peters, from Loyola University Medical Center, who is an ACS Clinical Scholar. His guests include other geriatric surgery experts from across the US.



<p><b>Dates and Deadlines</b></p> <p><a href="#">See Events</a></p> <p><b>International and Osteopathic Medical Students Applying to Residency Advice Webinar</b> July 12 <a href="#">Register Today</a></p> <p><b>ACS Comprehensive General Surgery Review Course</b> July 13-15 in Chicago, IL <a href="#">Register Today</a></p> <p><b>Dr. George Clowes Memorial Research Career Development Award</b> Applications Due August 4 <a href="#">Submit Today</a></p> <p><a href="#">Claim CME</a></p>	<p><b>Career Connection</b></p> <p><a href="#">Career Opportunities</a></p> <p><b>Pediatric Surgeon</b> Carilion Clinic, Roanoke, VA</p> <p><b>Breast Surgeon</b> Tanner Health, Carrollton, GA</p> <p><b>Vascular Surgeon</b> Logan Health, Kalispell, MT</p> <p><b>General Surgeon</b> CoxHealth, Monett, MO</p>
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## Registration Now Open For ACS Clinical Congress October 22-25, 2023

Hotel Reservations Are Going Fast.

**CLINICAL CONGRESS 2023**  
OCTOBER 22-25  
BOSTON, MA

**Register Now**

## PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**HB 106—Patient Safety Act (MeHaffe—R).** In a surprise session on Wednesday, June 28th, the Patient Safety Act which includes languages on nurse ratios in hospitals, passed out of the Appropriations Committee and the full House by a vote of 119-84. The Bill now moves to the Senate for review. Early implications were this Bill would not make it out of the House Committee. It is unclear what may happen when introduced in the Senate. There is opposition from hospitals and their administrators. Compliance to such a rule, if passed into law, will result in millions of dollars added to hospital costs. To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Other Bills being monitored by ACS include:

**HB 1492 – Cancer:** Introduced by Representative Robert Merski (D), HB 1492 seeks to provide cancer screenings for firefighters. The bill was introduced and referred to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**HB 1493 – Cancer:** Introduced by Representative La'tasha Mayes (D), HB 1493 requires health insurers to cover fertility preservation services without cost sharing requirements, while undergoing medication therapy, surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other medical treatment recognized by a medical professional to cause a risk of impairment to fertility, up to age 45. The bill was introduced and referred to the House Insurance Committee.

**HB 1512 – Telemedicine:** Introduced by Representative Christina Sappey (D), HB 1512 state a health insurer may not refuse to reimburse a participating provider or covered person for a medically necessary covered health care service provided through telemedicine;

reimbursement shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract; no requirement for payment parity. The bill was introduced and referred to the House Insurance Committee.

## IN THE NEWS—LEGISLATION

### **American Medical Association (AMA) Launches #fixmedicarenow.org**

The AMA announced their one-stop-shop for information and resources to address the critical issues physicians face due to the Medicare physician payment system. Physicians are the only healthcare professionals whose Medicare payments do not automatically receive an annual inflationary update resulting in a 26% lag behind the rate of inflation since 2001.

You can visit the [fixmedicarenow.org](https://www.fixmedicarenow.org) website and learn more about the broken physician payment system and what Congress can do to fix it.

### **Malpractice Lawsuits Over Denied Abortion Care May Be on the Horizon**

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), a non-profit, independent health policy research center, published an [opinion](#) piece by Diana Nordlund, MD, an emergency physician in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and former malpractice defense attorney, who concluded when physicians decide not to provide treatment widely regarded as the standard of care because of new laws it is perceived as substandard care and increases liability.

### **Amazon Delays Launch of Telemedicine Service**

[Politico](#) reports Amazon is delaying the launch of a major expansion of its Amazon Clinic telemedicine service due to legislator concerns regarding privacy of patient information. Currently, Amazon Clinic is available in 33 states and leans on asynchronous care, meaning patients fill out a

form to get treated for conditions like urinary tract infections, acid reflux and pink eye, as well as to receive emergency contraception and birth control.

Amazon claims, “Amazon Clinic has stringent customer privacy policies, and complies with HIPAA and all other applicable laws and regulations. We’re focused on building products and services that our customers love, and we look forward to continuing to bring Amazon Clinic to even more customers to help address their everyday health care needs.”

However, Senators Peter Welch (D-VT) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) raised concerns the company is “harvesting” health data from patients by requiring the patient to sign a release giving the company “complete” access to their health information. By signing the release, customers authorize Amazon to share their data, and acknowledge the information is not protected by HIPAA.

In a joint statement, the two senators said they hoped the delay “is a sign that Amazon has taken our concerns about data collection and use practices seriously.”

#### **LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

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



## CLINICAL CONGRESS 2023

OCTOBER 22-25 / BOSTON, MA

SURGEONS  
UNITED

### Submit Your High-Impact Clinical Trials & Studies by August 1

You are invited to submit abstracts of your clinical trials and studies to be considered for presentation at a dedicated Scientific Forum session at Clinical Congress 2023 in Boston, Massachusetts.

The newly designed High-Impact Clinical Trials & Studies session (previously known as Clinical Trials/Late-Breaking Abstracts) will highlight important clinical trials and studies from all surgical disciplines with an emphasis on research that will directly impact surgical science and practice.

Both original research and research presented at other meetings within the past 6 months may be submitted. Work that is currently under review or accepted for publication may be submitted. Electronically or physically published research is not eligible for submission.

Submissions close on **Tuesday, August 1, at 12:00 pm CT**. Notification of acceptance will be sent in September.

[Submit Now](#)



American College of Surgeons

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p: 312-202-5000 | [clinicalcongress@facs.org](mailto:clinicalcongress@facs.org)



Crozer Health Celebrates 2023 Resident Graduation Night  
At the College of Physicians



Crozer Surgery Welcomes New Surgery Interns



**Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter American College of Surgeons  
2023 Abstract & Case Study Competition  
Monday, September 18, 2023**



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MIDNIGHT – JULY 31, 2023**

The Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter American College of Surgeons invites all MPACS member Residents and Medical Students to submit abstract papers and/or Case Study Reports for presentation at the 2023 Annual Joint Dinner Meeting.

**[SUBMISSION LINK](#)**

**Requirements for Submission:**

- Submitting Resident or Medical Student must be an active member of MPACS. Not a member, visit: <https://www.mp-ac.org/join-us>. You must be an active member of ACS (<https://www.facs.org>) to join MPACS.
- Complete the submission form and submit with your abstract or case study in a PDF file.
- **250-word count maximum for submissions.** Submissions above this will not be considered.

- Previously presented abstracts will be accepted. Case Study Reports must be original.

**Educational Outcomes:**

- Evaluate the quality of the research presented and offer actionable comments.
- Apply new information learned from the presentation to their own practice, if applicable.
- Utilize the session to form collaborations between institutions in the same geographic regions with the same interests.

- Top submission will present their research paper/case report prior to the keynote lecture on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- All abstracts/case studies selected will present using a poster presentation format on **September 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM**. Abstract/case study submitters must be present during this time to be eligible for prizes.

For additional information and to submit: <https://www.mp-ac.org/events>

Questions? Contact MPACS Executive Director Robbi Cook at [info@mp-ac.org](mailto:info@mp-ac.org) or call 717-220-5255.

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**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  
Spring Conference

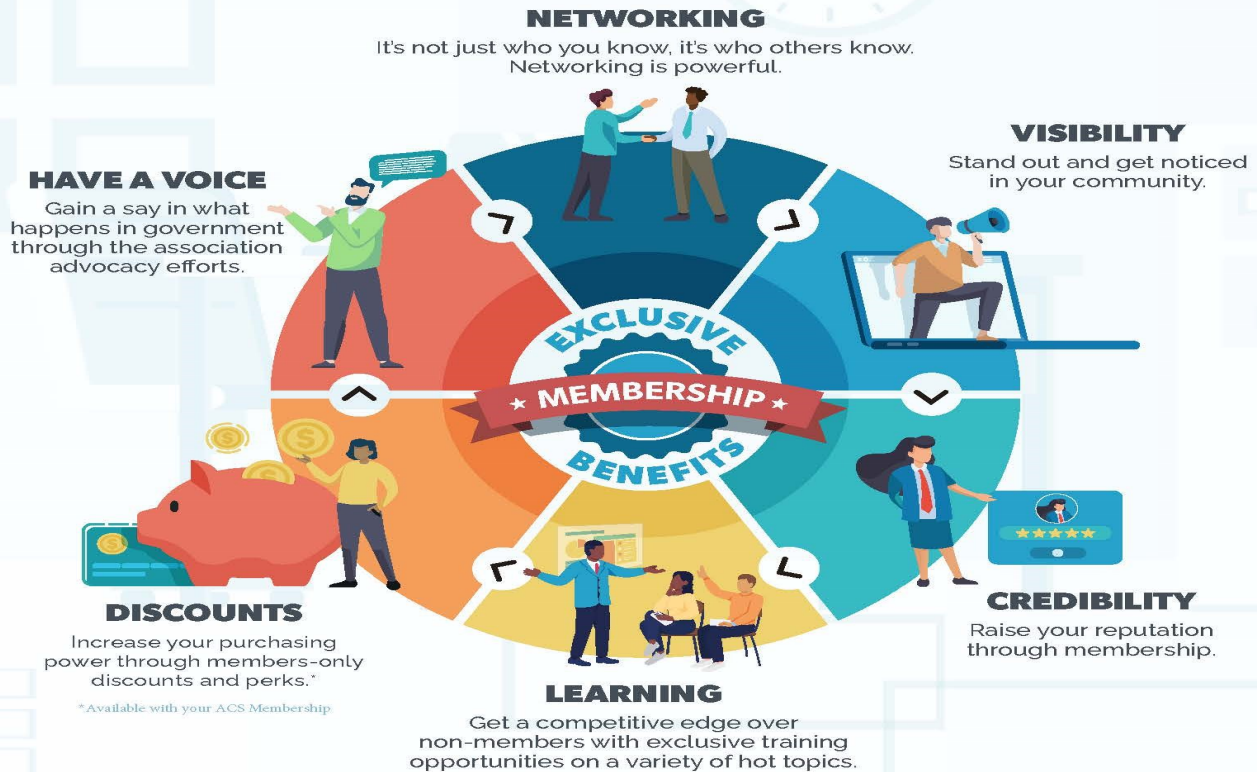


**Keystone Chapter**  
**ACS Chapters** American College of Surgeons



# WHY JOIN AN ASSOCIATION?

**Associations are stronger than ever.** By joining, you get members-only perks, exclusive advertising and networking opportunities, and a whole lot of exposure for yourself and your institution. **Get on board and see the difference!**



Keystone & Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters  
American College of Surgeons

**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](mailto:rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com)) for additional information.

