

# Pennsylvania Surgical News

March 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

March 2023



Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE  
Executive Director

The end of March is upon us and we look forward to the awakening of Spring. Central Pennsylvania has made it through the winter months with no significant snow storms, but March and April still could surprise us with a blanket of snow as it has in years past.

Registration for the Keystone Chapter's Spring Educational Conference is now open and I encourage all members in Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters to attend this excellent conference. Registration for Fellows is \$99! Additional information can be found on page 2. We have included a QR code for ease of access to the registration portal. Connect using your mobile device!

If you have not remitted your 2023 Local ACS Chapter dues, there is still time. Your investment in the local ACS Chapters allows us to continue serving the needs of all surgical career levels here in Pennsylvania. Your dues investment provides resources for educational training, advocacy, and networking events to the local level. We encourage you to renew or join today!

Dr. Shannon Foster is back this month with the *Meanderings of a Wandering Surgeon* column. Her column is always thought provoking and educational. Check it out on page 4.

Several Keystone and Metro Philly leaders will be heading to Washington, DC in a few weeks to participate in the ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit. Sessions and interaction with our Chapters across the country provide our leaders with new ideas, programs, and education on advocacy issues.

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

# SAVE THE DATE!

Keystone *Chapter*

ACS Chapters American College  
of Surgeons

REGISTRATION NOW  
OPEN



## Keystone Chapter Spring Conference & Annual Business Meeting Friday, April 21, 2023

St. Luke's Hospital Education Center  
Bethlehem, PA

Educational Sessions | Resident Poster Competition | Exhibit Hall | Networking

### AGENDA

- |          |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM  | Exhibit Hall, Job Fair, Poster Review & Breakfast                                                                                         |
| 9:00 AM  | Welcome Remarks (Dr. William R. Burfeind, Jr., Chair, Department of Surgery)                                                              |
| 9:15 AM  | Keystone Chapter President's Address (Dr. Stanislaw Stawicki)                                                                             |
| 9:30 AM  | Resident Poster Presentations                                                                                                             |
| 10:15 AM | Resident 1st Place Winner—Podium Presentation                                                                                             |
| 10:30 AM | Break                                                                                                                                     |
| 11:45 AM | Optimizing Collaboration in Challenging Cases (Panel Discussion led by Dr. P. Kurt Bamberger, Dr. Gurshawn Singh, and Dr. Christoph Pohl) |
| 11:45 AM | Surgical Errors (Dr. Anne Rizzo, 2nd Vice President, American College of Surgeons)                                                        |
| 12:45 PM | Lunch, Visit Exhibit Hall, Job Fair & Posters                                                                                             |
| 1:30 PM  | Evolution of Surgical Practice & Training (Panel Discussion moderated by Dr. Shannon Foster)                                              |
| 2:30 PM  | Closing Remarks, Awards Ceremony                                                                                                          |

**St. Luke's University Hospital Campus is located at 801 Ostrum Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015, a short distance from Harrisburg, Gettysburg, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, and Philadelphia.**

We look forward to seeing you!



## Meanderings from A Wandering Surgeon

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS  
Keystone Chapter  
Immediate Past President

Greetings friends and colleagues:

First and foremost – I hope to SEE you at the **Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Keystone Chapter Annual Meeting in Bethlehem PA!** Hard to believe it has been three years since our last real opportunity to be together and share the work, needs, and issues of our local surgical community. Please plan to attend. Send your fellows, residents and medical students! Sponsor! Hiring? Participate in the job fair! And certainly, use this as a physical reminder to renew your membership. Chapters only exist due to local member participation. Interested in speaking? Presenting work? Submitting questions or topics for leadership to address in the business meeting and open forum session? Email to [info@kc-ac.org](mailto:info@kc-ac.org).

Secondly, while there are so many important endeavors ongoing – quality standard development, expansion of verification and review programs, innovative teaching applications, standardization of care metrics, and the-never-to-be-underestimated-in-importance of active health policy advocacy and creation – all of which I would welcome the chance to expand upon – we must again be distracted as a whole by

the complex and heated exchanges occurring between our Fellow members within our community and from our Fellow members to the outside public. The misrepresentation and anger that has been circulating in the national news, social media and the ACS Communities does not and will not speak for or represent the voice and goals of the ACS. Each opinion, each perspective, each lived experience is important and must be heard – but never at the expense of another or when used as a weapon to cause harm. It deeply saddens me that we continue to encounter vitriol and hostility as commonplace.

I again implore we personally put forth and demand of others only the highest level of professionalism and respect, portray ourselves and colleagues with kindness, and use words that build rather than destroy. This is not a request for silence, or an intent for submission; rather a call for us all to question, differ, debate, and conclude as we will - with respect and safety. The ACS is and must always be a safe space for all Fellows and associates to serve its mission.

To be #SurgeonsStrong, we must be Surgeons Together.

Respectfully,

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS is Immediate Past President of the Keystone Chapter. She also serves as the PA Chapters Collaborative Task Force Chair, and at the national level as a Governor-at-Large, PA Liaison to CoT and WiS Committees, DEI Outreach Workgroup, Board of Governors Executive Committee, and the Communications Pillar Lead .

## ACS, SVS Launch Vascular Verification Program

The ACS, with the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), has launched a new national quality verification program to help participating hospitals improve outcomes and deliver the best treatment for patients receiving vascular surgical and interventional care in an inpatient setting.

The **Vascular Verification Program (Vascular-VP)** leverages the strengths and expertise of the ACS and SVS to provide an evidence-driven, standardized pathway for instituting and growing a quality improvement and clinical care framework within a hospital's vascular program.



"Vascular-VP builds upon the ACS's longstanding commitment to surgical quality. By utilizing the existing infrastructure of the College's quality programs and working closely with the SVS to address vascular-specific provider and patient needs, we have built an important program that will help all participating hospitals improve the quality of care they provide," added Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS, ACS Executive Director & CEO.

### A Vascular-Specific Program

Vascular-VP was developed by experts who recognize the depth and breadth of vascular care and treatment.

Multiple levels of participation (Comprehensive and Verified) help ensure the program can be established in a variety of inpatient hospital settings and encompasses all aspects of vascular care at an institution.

The program provides hospitals with a framework for patient education and informed consent, as well as the organizing principles for developing comprehensive patient services in the hospital and beyond, including allied health and patient support services.

### Program Standards

The Vascular-VP program standards manual is the fundamental basis for the program. The manual, *Optimal Resources for Vascular Surgery and Interventional Care (2023 Inpatient Standards)*, addresses elements of vascular surgical care and quality, including:

- Institutional commitment
- Program scope and governance
- Resources for facilities, equipment, services, and personnel
- Clinical care
- Data abstraction and analysis
- Quality improvement
- Education and research

"This program can truly be transformative throughout the entire hospital," said Clifford Y. Ko, MD, MS, MSHS, FACS, FASCRS, Director of the ACS Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care. "Vascular-VP helps strengthen a hospital's safety and continuous improvement culture to enhance patient outcomes with greater reliability and standardization of care."

Hospitals interested in becoming a Vascular-VP institution can **apply today**.

## Don't Forget to Claim Your CME Credit Hours from Clinical Congress

The ACS reminds all participants who attended Clinical Congress, either in person or virtually, to make sure you claim your Clinical Congress CME credit hours.

In-person and virtual attendees must complete an evaluation and complete the claiming process to earn CME credit hours, download/print your Certificate. The claiming process includes completing an evaluation for each session as well as the Global Evaluation.

For additional information and to claim your credit hours, click [HERE](#).

**DEADLINE TO CLAIM: May 1, 2023**

## Named Lecturer Describes Molding Surgical Residents in Mexico and Around the World

This episode of the *House of Surgery* features Eduardo Moreno Paquentin, MD, FACS, founder and director of the Surgery Hub in Mexico City, who delivered the International Society of Surgery Lecture during Clinical Congress 2022. Dr. Paquentin describes his experience training surgical residents in Mexico on safe laparoscopic techniques and developing quality surgical training programs around the world.



[Listen Now \(36.41\)](#)



## SAVE THE DATE! Leadership & Advocacy Summit

**April 15-18, 2023**

Grand Hyatt Washington, DC Hotel

[MORE INFO](#)

## MORE RESOURCES FROM ACS

[The ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit Is Coming Soon—Register Today](#)

[HRSA Plans to Modernize US Organ Transplant Donation System to Shorten Wait Times, Improve Equity](#)

[Read ACS Case Reviews in Surgery for Free, Subscribe for CME](#)

[Reminder: 1 Month Remains to Claim CME Credit for Clinical Congress 2022](#)

## Why a Temple Trauma Surgeon Is Pushing Journalists to Change How They Cover Gun Violence

*Director of research for the Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting, Jessica Beard challenges media to reframe the crisis as one of public health.*

Jessica Beard, MD, FACS, of the Metro Philly Chapter and member of the Young Surgeons Task Force, was highlighted in the *Philadelphia* magazine for her work on combating gun violence in the City. With her permission, we share her story.

At any given moment, Jessica Beard knows she could get “the call.”

As a trauma surgeon at Temple University Hospital — one of the busiest trauma centers for gunshot wounds in Pennsylvania — she cares daily for people injured by firearms. It was during these sadly routine interventions that she began to grasp how the media influences the way her patients — and the community — think and talk about gun violence.

***“Because I witness the excruciating heartbreak of this epidemic on a daily basis, I am passionate about firearm-violence prevention,” Beard says. “I believe that if the news media helped the public to understand the root causes and solutions for firearm violence and emphasized the humanity of firearm-injured people and their loved ones, this could result in more support for effective solutions for firearm-violence prevention.”***

Since 2021, Beard has served as the director of research for the Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting, dedicated to widening the media lens on gun violence in the city. The [organization](#), founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jim MacMillan, focuses on framing gun violence as a public-health crisis — an epidemic, rather than a crime surge — and centering the voices of victims and impacted communities.

PCGVR is advocating for journalists to move beyond the narrow scope of episodic gun-violence reporting that’s focused on single shooting events to tell deeper

stories about firearm violence in Philadelphia. What would that look like? How about stories that explore root causes and multi-level solutions? Stories that support evidence-based public-health responses. Stories that hold policy makers accountable for gun-violence prevention. The team hopes to reframe the crisis as a preventable problem that can be tackled with the tools of public health and community engagement, while also educating the public about causes and what policies they can support to prevent such violence.

For Beard, there’s one main challenge: the harmful media narratives around gun violence. She was lead author of a [January 2023 study](#) published in *Social Science and Medicine: Qualitative Research in Health* showing that “media reports on interpersonal firearm violence largely present it as a crime issue focused on individual shooting events.” That approach, the study says, “can undermine support for public-health solutions to firearm violence.” Beard’s research shows that the majority of TV news clips on gun violence in Philly are episodic crime reports that present police as the sole or dominant source of information and are often accompanied by images of shell casings, crime scenes and police cars. These reports can make police responses to gun violence seem more effective than they are and even result in calls for more policing from the communities most likely to be harmed by tough-on-crime policies.

The first-of-its-kind report, which involved interviews with 26 gun-violence patients at Temple University Hospital, also highlighted how the victims felt dehumanized by the media’s coverage. “These types of stories obscure the root causes of firearm violence and make it seem inevitable,” she says. “They can also reinforce racist stereotypes about firearm-injured people and the places where firearm injury occurs.” Beard further notes that crime-based coverage actually perpetuates the cycle of violence, increasing retaliation toward victims, furthering misinformation, and stoking community fear. Her conviction comes from knowing we can do better.

A September 2022 PCGVR workshop brought together 70 community stakeholders — including those directly impacted by gun violence, local journalists and

and scholars — to collaboratively design solutions for better gun-violence reporting in Philadelphia. The day-long event charged print and broadcast journalists with rethinking the crime beats of their newsrooms. After hearing feedback from community members in attendance, several journalists said they better understood the need to avoid further insensitivity and harm. At the most basic level, Beard says, journalists reporting on a shooting should interview people who have been shot and their loved ones. Ideally, follow-up stories beyond the initial event should explore grief, resilience and survivorship.



Jessica Beard, MD, FACS

Beard says PCGVR is now working to bring to life the prototypes imagined by the workshop participants, like creating a hub to foster trust between community members and

journalists and providing training in trauma-informed journalistic practices.

***“Recently, WHYY made the bold and unprecedented choice to employ two gun-violence prevention reporters, and Billy Penn keeps gun-violence prevention on their main menu,” Beard says. “The Trace is an outstanding source for solutions reporting and now has three journalists based in Philadelphia. Although Philadelphia is the birthplace of Eyewitness News and Action News” — two of the worst coverage offenders, in her view — “there are journalists doing phenomenal work on gun violence all over Philadelphia.”***

And it seems the story isn’t over yet.

Jessica’s article was part of a series relating to gun violence prevention, published as ***“The News Watcher”*** in the *March 2023* issue of *Philadelphia* magazine. To read the full series, click [HERE](#).

Thanks, Jessica, for allowing us to share your story.

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The 2023 ACS Local Chapter Membership Renewal period is currently open. ACS does not include the Local Chapter Dues on its renewal invoicing. Chapters are required to separately bill for the ACS Local Chapter dues. If you have not received your renewal email, contact the Chapter office:

Keystone Members: [info@kc-accs.org](mailto:info@kc-accs.org)

Metro Philly Members: [info@mp-accs.org](mailto:info@mp-accs.org)

Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters offer easy and quick online payment methods. Simply click the link in your dues renewal invoice and submit your credit or debit card payment. Takes less than 5 minutes!

While you are renewing your annual dues, check to ensure your information is complete and accurate. A member data reconciliation was recently completed with ACS, but you may prefer to receive your communications to a personal email or home address.

We look forward to your continued support of the local ACS Chapters in 2023.







## Healing All with Skill and Trust Since 1913

The ACS is the largest surgical organization in the world, and the pursuit of excellence has guided us throughout our 110-year history. We have been consistent in our commitment to providing evidence-based surgical care, relentless in our pursuit of excellence among our members and hospital partners, and unwavering in our focus on innovation and education.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**87,000+** members in **144** countries, with **123** chapters worldwide

**50M+** patient records tracked through our surgical registries to improve patient care

**300+** educational courses and sessions at Clinical Congress each year, with another **100+** throughout the year

**2,500+** hospital participants in ACS Quality Programs

**15,000+** surgeons and members of the healthcare team reached annually through our major meetings, including Clinical Congress, Leadership & Advocacy Summit, Quality and Safety Conference, Cancer Conference, and Trauma Quality Improvement Program Annual Meeting

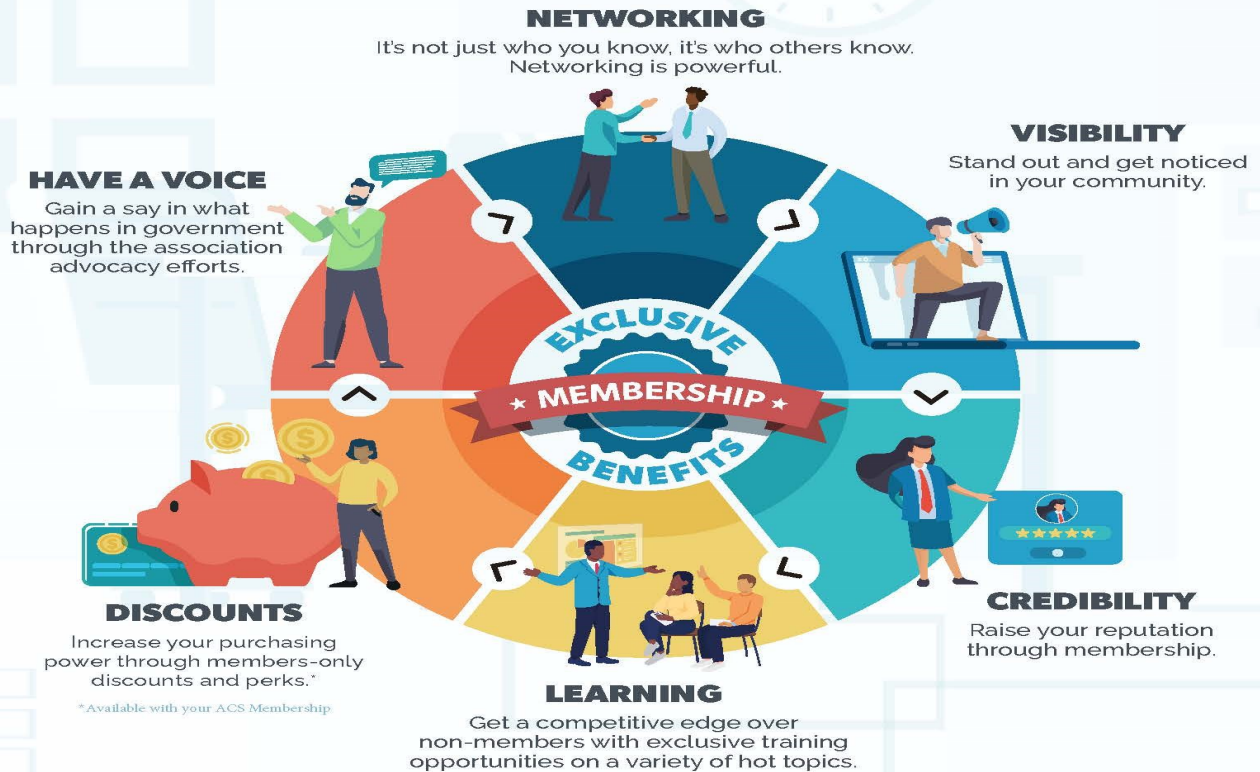
**42,500+** Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) courses taught since 2008

**2.6M+** trained to STOP THE BLEED® in **135** countries by **109K+** instructors



# 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.

