

Pennsylvania Surgical News

April 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

April 2023



Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

Where has the time gone? We are now looking at May and the second half of the year is coming around the corner at lightening speed. I hope you will have some time to relax with family and friends, perhaps at the shore, the mountains, or going on an adventure. It is important to continue to focus on your mental health and well-being in order to be at optimum performance.

The Keystone Chapter Spring Conference was held last Friday, April 21st at the St. Luke's Education Facility in Bethlehem, PA. I would like to thank Dr. Stan Stawicki, Dr. William Burfeind, and the entire team at St. Luke's for making the event a success. What a great facility! Dr. Diane Shih-Della Penna of WellSpan stepped up to the plate and will be hosting next year's event. Thank you, Dr. Penna and WellSpan! Pictures and additional information on the event included in this issue.

Several members of Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters attended the ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit April 15-18. This conference is always a great resource and wealth of information for Chapters and the opportunity to meet with Federal legislators is a plus.

Calling those who have not remitted their annual local chapter dues— **THERE IS STILL TIME** to renew and maintain your active status with the local ACS. Head over to your member portal and renew today. The surgical voice in Pennsylvania

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

Robbi

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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

Leadership & Action

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

April marks the annual Leadership and Advocacy meetings in Washington DC – several days of intense learning, planning, and implementing the vision of the ACS. Leadership training and professional advancement experiences provide platforms for growth and career planning. Look for releases in the *Brief* and *Bulletin* with links to the inspirational lectures and materials – they are open source and free to all members. The second portion of the conference is filled with legislative and advocacy training, provided by our ACS DC team who lead policy creation and evaluation, coordination with other medical and governmental groups, and direct communication with our elected congressional leaders. The culminating day of Hill visits cannot be overstated in its impact and importance: we are IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS. You, too, can participate and be in the room. We need you.

Reasons why advocacy action is a necessary and vital component of the ACS:

SMFs Top 10 Advocacy Goals for all Surgeons

1. Ensure that surgeons are integral to healthcare
 - We are not a specialty—we are a primary need
 - *Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act*
2. Address the physician shortage
 - Establish a surgical shortage designation

- *National Health Care Workforce Commission*
3. Bring care to the underserved
 - Incentivize work in rural or critical access areas
 - Stop restrictive covenants/non-compete language in all contracts
 - *Workforce Mobility Act*
 4. Determine how you get paid
 - Stabilize the Medicare payment system
 5. Determine how your hospital gets paid
 - *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*
 6. Allocate research and prevention monies
 - NIH 50B for cancer, 25M for firearm injury prevention
 - ◇ As violence is the leading cause of death for all age groups to 30—???
 7. Demand loan/interest limitations and debt forgiveness to fix pipeline clogs
 - *REDI and SPARC Acts*
 8. Prepare for surges and disasters of all types
 - *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)*
 9. Integrate and advance military and civilian partnerships
 - *Mission Zero Grant*
 10. STOP THE BLEED
 - Educate and provide kits as ubiquitously as AEDs.

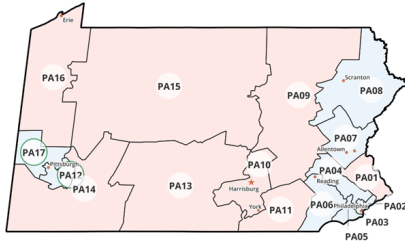
I encourage you to become familiar with the above. Actively choose to impact our futures. Start close to home with an email or phone call to your elected officials. And while we can correctly conclude that many of the day-to-day functionality and operationalization of healthcare delivery is at the local—county, regional, state levels—the programs and the money come from the top.

Do you know your voting district and current Federal representative?

Pennsylvania

118th U.S. Congress
District Maps
(as of 4/29/2023)

PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)
PA-02 Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)
PA-03 Rep. Dwight Evans (D)
PA-04 Rep. Madeleine Dean (D)
PA-05 Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D)
PA-06 Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D)
PA-07 Rep. Susan Wild (D)
PA-08 Rep. Matt Cartwright (D)
PA-09 Rep. Dan Meuser (R)
PA-10 Rep. Scott Perry (R)
PA-11 Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)
PA-12 Rep. Summer Lee (D) (New!)
PA-13 Rep. John Joyce MD (R)
PA-14 Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R)
PA-15 Rep. Glenn Thompson (R)
PA-16 Rep. Mike Kelly (R)
PA-17 Rep. Chris Deluzio (D) (New!)
PA-S Sen. Robert Casey (D)
PA-S Sen. John Fetterman (D) (New!)



Highlights of the 2023 ACS LAS conference can be found: [Conference Highlights | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)
Current legislative platform and engagement opportunities can be found: [Advocacy | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)

With gratitude and hope

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shannon Marie Foster".

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 .



FINAL REMINDER 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



Pennsylvania ACS Members Take to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC during the ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit.

L-R: Dr. Shannon Marie Foster, Dr. Daniel Kim, Dr. Ashanthi Ratnasekera Cavello, Dr. Amir Guindi, and Dr. Thomas Tracy



**A Message from
MPACS President
Matthew Philp, MD, FACS**

The recent ACS Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC provided a unique opportunity for surgeons from across the country to come together and discuss the pressing issues facing the field of surgery today. From new advances in technology to the ongoing debate over healthcare reform, there was much to discuss and reflect upon.

One of the key themes that emerged from the conference was the importance of leadership in the field of surgery. As healthcare continues to evolve and change, it is becoming increasingly important for surgeons to take an active role in shaping the future of the profession. This means not only staying abreast of the latest developments in technology and medical research, but also taking a proactive stance when it comes to advocating for the needs and interests of surgeons and their patients.

Another important topic discussed at the conference was the ongoing debate over healthcare reform. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the complex issues surrounding healthcare, there was widespread agreement among conference attendees that access to quality care should be a top priority. This means addressing the root causes of healthcare disparities and working to ensure that all patients, regardless of their background or financial situation, have access to the care they need.

In addition to these broader topics, the conference also provided an opportunity for attendees to reflect on their own experiences as surgeons. Many participants shared stories of triumph and struggle, discussing the challenges they have faced in their careers and the lessons they have learned along the way. These personal reflections served as a reminder

of the important role that surgeons play in society, and the tremendous impact they can have on the lives of their patients.

Overall, the ACS Leadership and Advocacy Summit was a valuable and thought-provoking event for surgeons from all walks of life. By bringing together experts and practitioners from across the country, the conference provided a forum for discussion and collaboration, and helped to foster a sense of community among those working in the field of surgery. Whether through leadership, advocacy, or personal reflections, the insights and experiences shared at the conference will undoubtedly help to shape the future of the profession for years to come.

Everything above this paragraph was written by ChatGPT when I gave it a prompt to help we write a newsletter article for MPACS. I did however attend the conference and share very similar feelings with my AI friend. I was speaking with a governor at lunch about the upcoming role of video based education and operative assessment that is likely coming our way and I started thinking about what other roles disruptive technology is going to have on the practice of surgery. AI may certainly be one of them.

It definitely speeds up newsletter writing! Hearing some of the ACS Chapter success stories, I'm struck as to how engaged, active, and successful the Metro Philly Chapter is. I highly recommend our members consider attending the conference in the future, especially our trainee and YFA members. The content and presentations were really outstanding though, and would benefit surgeons in all phases of their careers.

Matthew Philp, MD, FACS is President of the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter. He also serves on the PA Chapters Collaborative Task Force, and is a member of the Committee on Applicants Committee. Dr. Philip is a colorectal surgery specialists at Temple University Hospital and Associate Professor, Clinical Surgery, at Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.

ACS Launches “Power of Quality” Campaign

The National Press Club in Washington, DC, served as the backdrop on April 14th for the official public launch of the ACS Power of Quality Campaign. This national, multiyear campaign is aimed at improving care for all surgical patients by increasing awareness about the importance of quality with a goal of bringing [ACS Quality Programs](#) into every hospital in America.



“We are driving a national conversation about quality and the key role that programs like ours can play in improving care for patients everywhere. This means engaging with hospitals, policymakers, payers, and patients to ensure the entire healthcare ecosystem understands the Power of Quality,” said Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS, ACS Executive Director & CEO. “This means having meaningful conversations like the one we will have today about how we can all work collaboratively to improve quality.”

[A video of the discussion](#) is available on the ACS website, where additional information about the campaign also is available.

Click [HERE](#) for more.

Resident Leaders Share Advice for Newly Matched Trainees

Amid the excitement and celebration of matching into residency, there is much to do, including contacting your new residency program, figuring out the logistics of relocating, and seeking early training opportunities. Watch Julia R. Coleman, MD, MPH, and Kaitlin Ritter, MD, the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the ACS Resident and Associate Society, discuss next steps after residency.

[Read the April Bulletin](#) for more practical advice.

Watch Now

House of Surgery Excelsior Surgical Society Edward D. Churchill Lecture

Abdominal trauma surgery has seen profound advances over the previous century, with many innovations originating from military surgeons. In the newest episode of the *House of Surgery*, listen to David V. Feliciano, MD, FACS, deliver the Clinical Congress 2022 Excelsior Surgical Society/Edward D. Churchill Lecture on the extraordinary evolution of this critical trauma field.



Highlights of the Keystone Chapter Spring Conference

The Keystone Chapter held its first in-person conference since 2019 on Friday, April 21st at the St. Luke's University Hospital Conference Center. This was the first time St. Luke's hosted the annual conference. Thank you to Dr. William Burfeind, Dr. Stanislaw Stawicki, and the entire team at St. Luke's for hosting and facilitating the behind-the-scenes preparations.

The day began with an Exhibit Hall and viewing of electronic poster submissions. Thank you to our sponsors, Bio Med Sciences; CSL Behring; WL Gore; Molli Surgical; Olympus; and Takeda. Without the support of our sponsors, educational events would not be possible.

Dr. William Burfeind welcomed attendees to the campus and gave a brief history of the St. Luke's University Hospital, followed by Keystone Chapter Governor, Dr. Shannon Marie Foster providing an update from the ACS Leadership and Advocacy Summit held earlier in the week. Seven research papers were selected to orally present and the highest scoring research paper was provided a 15-minute podium presentation. Those presenting orally included: Sigrid Williamson, MD (Tower Health-Reading); Hannah Shin, DO (PCOM); Jazmin Belton, MS (Drexel College of Medicine); Roslyn Alexander, DO (St. Luke's); Michael DeRogatis, MD (St. Luke's); Amed Natour, MD (Lehigh Valley Health Network); and Zi Huang, MD (WellSpan). Anthony Allsbrook, DO (St. Luke's) was the 1st place winner in the poster competition and provided a podium presentation on his research.

Twenty posters were selected for electronic presentation throughout the day's conference. The poster video can be found on the Keystone Chapter's website. We encourage all members to take a moment to view the excellent presentations by our Residents and Medical Students.

Educational sessions focused on the changing landscape of surgery and included panel discussions on *Optimizing Collaboration in Challenging Cases* and the *Evolution of Surgical Practice & Training*. Second Vice-President of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Anne G. Rizzo, was the keynote speaker and provided a great presentation on *How to Die Better*, discussing physician responsibilities to not only the patient, but to family regarding end of life care and tested the skills of attendees on "prognosis" and "outcomes". Each presentation included time for discussion, sharing of concerns and struggles and potential pathways to improve the well-being of surgical members.

Plans are in the works for the 2024 Spring Conference at WellSpan Health in York. Thank you to Dr. Diane Shih-Della Penna for stepping forward to host next year's conference.

The planning committee included Dr. Kurt Bamberger (chair); Dr. Stanislaw Stawicki; Dr. Chand Rohatgi; and Dr. Shannon Marie Foster. Attendees to the event are able to claim 4.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

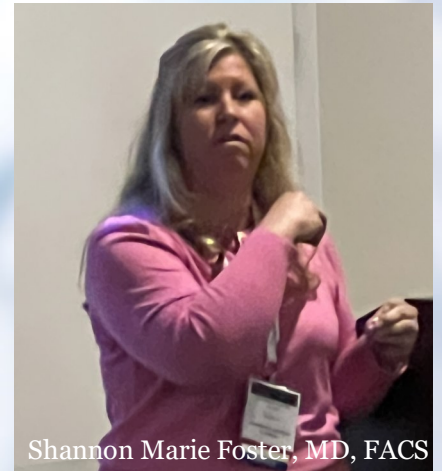
Highlights of the Keystone Chapter Spring Conference



Stanislaw Stawicki, MD, FACS



P. Kurt Bamberger, MD, FACS



Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS



William Burfeind, Jr, FACS



Anne G. Rizzo, MD, FACS

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



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Keystone *Chapter*

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Keystone Chapter
Poster Competition Winners

1st Place

Anthony Allsbrook, DO (St. Luke's University Hospital)

2nd Place

Sigrid Williamson, MD (Tower Health—Reading)

3rd Place

Hannah Shin, DO (PCOM)

Poster presentations will be available to view on the Keystone Chapter [website](#) in mid-May. We encourage all members to take a moment to view the excellent poster submissions.

Highlights of the Keystone Chapter Spring Conference



1st Place Poster Winner—Anthony Allsbrook, DO (St. Luke’s University Hospital)
L-R: Anne Rizzo, MD, FACS; Kurt Bamberger, MD, FACS; Anthony Allsbrook, DO; Stanislaw Stawicki, MD, FACS

Congratulations



2nd Place Poster Winner—Sigrid Williamson, MD (Tower Health-Reading); and 3rd Place Poster Winner—Hannah Shin, DO (PCOM) accept their certificates and awards from KCACS President—Stanislaw Stawicki, MD, FACS and President-Elect—Kurt Bamberger, MD, FACS

Highlights of the Keystone Chapter Spring Conference

Evolution of Surgical Practice & Training Panel Discussion—Moderator: Stanislaw Stawicki, MD, FACS

Panelist: Melissa Linskey-Dougherty, MD (Penn State); Rebecca Hoffman, MD, FACS (Geisinger); Kurt Bamberger, MD, FACS (Tower Health-Reading); and Brian Hoey, MD, FACS (St. Luke's)



Optimizing Collaboration in Challenging Surgical Cases

Panelists:

Gurshawn Singh, MD (St. Luke's); Christoph Pohl, MD (Tower Health-Reading)
Kurt Bamberger, MD, FACS (Tower Health-Reading)

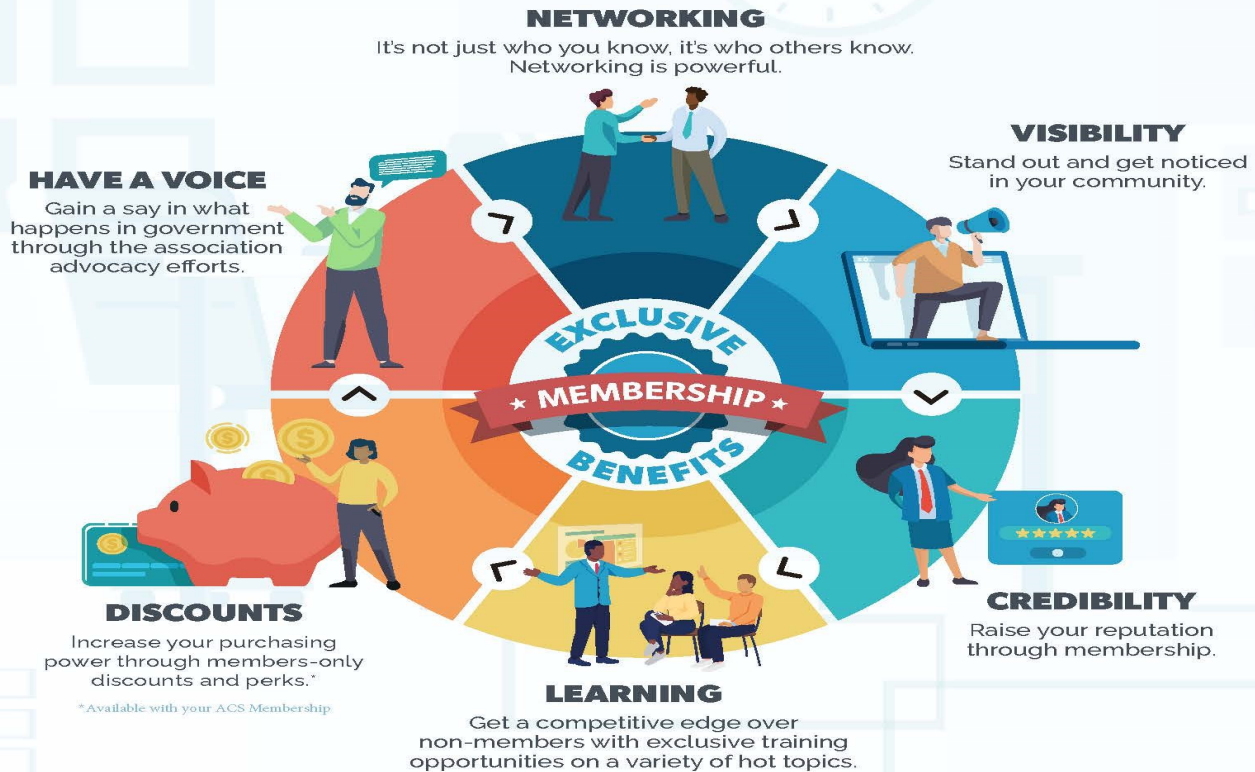


Research Poster Viewing Room. Twenty posters were available for viewing by attendees in the Poster Viewing Room. Poster authors were on hand to answer



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) for additional information.

