

# Pennsylvania Surgical News

February 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

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February 2023



Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE  
Executive Director

Here we are at the end of February and still now significant winter weather. I am fine with that, as I am looking forward to spring when I can return to the gardens and get ready for this year's harvest. I believe our famous groundhog may have again made an incorrect prediction and spread misinformation!

As we move into the March and the spring season, there are a number of events both at the local chapter level and at ACS. I encourage all members to get engaged in your local Chapter and consider engagement in the many opportunities available at the ACS.

As we continue through the membership renewal period, **YOUR** local ACS Chapters need your continued support to bring local educational programming, advocacy, and networking opportunities. If you have not remitted your 2023 ACS Local Chapter Dues, there is still time before your membership moves to lapsed status. Take a moment now and renew. ACS does not include the local chapter dues portion on its invoice. Each Chapter affiliated with the ACS is required to invoice members assigned to its Chapter separately for the ACS Local Chapter Dues. If you have questions, need additional documentation, or did not receive your 2023 ACS Local Chapter Dues invoices, contact me at [rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com](mailto:rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com) and we will assist you in maintaining your active status.

This month's issue is a little abbreviated from what you are accustomed to, but we will be back in full swing for the March issue. 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

## 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

Join the Keystone Chapter for the return of its annual in-person conference on Friday, April 21st. The conference will be held at the St. Luke's Hospital Education Campus in Fountain Hill (Bethlehem). This is the first time St. Luke's will host the Keystone Chapter Educational Conference and we are excited to have you join us for a full-day of educational sessions from leading experts. The Resident poster competition will showcase top research papers from the regional training institutions, with the top scoring poster having the honor of presenting their paper from the podium.

An Exhibit Hall will host breakfast and lunch for attendees and an opportunity to meet with local representatives of surgical devices and products. Attendees will be able to learn about new products and features available for surgical procedures.

The planning committee, under the direction of this year's conference chair, Kurt Bamberger, MD, FACS (Tower Health-Reading) is finalizing the agenda and additional information and registration will be available in the next few weeks.

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!

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# Keystone Chapter

ACS Chapters American College of Surgeons

## Keystone Chapter American College of Surgeons 2023 Abstract & Case Study Competition Friday, April 21, 2023



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MIDNIGHT – MARCH 27, 2023**

The Keystone Chapter American College of Surgeons invites all KCACS member Residents and Medical Students to submit abstract papers and/or Case Study Reports for presentation at the 2023 Spring Educational Conference being held April 21, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospital's Educational facility in Bethlehem.

### Requirements for Submission:

- Submitting Resident or Medical Student must be an active member of KCACS. Not a member, visit: <https://www.kc-accs.org/join-us>. You must be an active member of ACS (<https://www.facs.org>) to join KCACS.
- 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 as a podium presentation during the educational meeting on Friday, April 21, 2023.
  - All abstracts/case studies selected will present using a poster presentation format on **April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Abstract/case study submitters must be present during this time to be eligible for prizes.

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

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

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Keystone Chapter American College of Surgeons  
265 Oberlin Road | Middletown, PA 17057-3014  
Phone: 717-220-5255 | Email: [info@kc-accs.org](mailto:info@kc-accs.org) | Web: <https://www.kc-accs.org>

## Venue Change Update By the Numbers

Curt Schroeder, Executive Director for the [Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform](#) has been following the path of medical liability cases being filed in Pennsylvania since the reversal of the Venue Change rule on January 1, 2023. With his permission, we share the details of his work to show the impact this reversal has on the healthcare providers throughout Pennsylvania.

As a refresher, prior to January 1, 2023, medical malpractice cases could only be filed where the **cause of action arose**. Under the new ruling, venue now also exists where the **defendant has a business interest and/or where they can be served**.

January’s statistics demonstrate the massive increase in Philadelphia medical liability case filings is being driven by cases that could not have previously been filed in Philadelphia a year ago because the cause of action arose outside the City.

During the month of January, there were 67 medical malpractice cases filed in Philadelphia, compared to 24 cases filed in January 2022.

Curt further researched cases where a Writ of Summons (WOS) had been filed. A WOS serves to notify defendants they are being sued, but does not contain factual averments. A total of 29 WOS were recorded in the Philadelphia Court System. Curt notes it is not possible to determine with certainty where the cause of action arose in WOS cases where an official complaint has not been filed, but in reviewing the list, and based on the defendant address listed in the WOS, of the 29 filed, the cause of action in 10 cases most likely arose outside Philadelphia and in an additional 7

cases, he was unable to determine if the cause of action arose in Philadelphia.

### By the Numbers

Total Cases Filed January 2023—67

Total Cases Filed January 2022—24

Case Breakdown Based on Complaints

Cause of Action Arose Outside Philadelphia: 26

Cause of Action Arose Inside Philadelphia: 12

In the month of February, cases remained at higher than previous year levels. A total of 42 Medical Liability cases were filed and 4 Nursing Home cases. In addition to these 46 filings, a dental malpractice case and a miscellaneous malpractice case were filed, but not counted in Curt’s review.

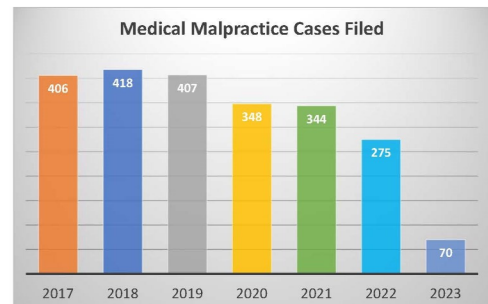
While February numbers are not as high as January, the comparison to February 2022 filings as shown in the chart from the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas below shows only 24 cases filed in February 2022.

Curt will keep monitoring and sharing information as his organization continues to reverse the most recent ruling.

Medical Malpractice Cases Filed

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Avg/Mo.
2017	45	34	26	32	50	39	36	33	20	22	34	35	406	34
2018	44	31	29	37	33	33	42	29	36	47	35	22	418	35
2019	24	27	31	40	38	48	36	26	36	25	32	44	407	34
2020	29	33	29	31	24	28	33	36	19	33	30	23	348	29
2021	32	32	31	32	37	23	32	23	26	24	39	13	344	29
2022	18	24	23	24	20	26	21	21	28	20	25	25	275	23
2023	70												70	70

Medical Malpractice Cases Filed



## SURGEONS VALUE APPS BUT SAY THEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM CLINICAL INTERNSHIP

*Juan C. Paramo, MD, MBA, FACS, Board of  
Governors Survey Workgroup  
February 28, 2023*

Because advanced practice providers (APPs) are an important component of the global delivery of healthcare, and multiple programs have been developed to train and graduate APPs, the 2022 ACS Leadership Survey inquired about use of and attitudes on APPs by ACS leaders in their institutions.

The quantitative survey was distributed to ACS volunteer leaders, including members of the Advisory Councils, Board of Governors, and more than 20 additional ACS Committees in September 2022. A total of 470 responses were received for a response rate of 63%.

Most respondents (78%) indicated they utilize APPs—primarily nurse practitioners and physician assistants—in their organization/practice, and almost all respondents (95%) were extremely satisfied/somewhat satisfied with the performance of APPs.

APPs are primarily used in postoperative care (94%), preoperative care (86%), and patient and family communication (77%). APPs allow for an increase in patient capacity (67%) and provide

more time for a surgeon's focus on acute patients (66%). Other valuable benefits of having APPs include that they allow residents to comply with duty hours, provide improved communication and enhance patient/family experience, facilitate an increase access to patients, and help improve work/life integration for the physician.

Among the 17% of respondents who do not use APPs, 26% indicated APPs take time away from residents. Other reasons included that APPs are “not needed,” lack of hospital support, and difficulty with availability of APPs in certain geographic areas.

Although 74% of respondents were extremely satisfied/somewhat satisfied with the competency of APP program graduates entering surgical practice, 69% believe APPs should be required to complete a clinical internship or training period following graduation and before clinical practice. 66% of respondents said they believe it is extremely/very important for the ACS to be involved with establishing requirements for APP training, and approximately 59% of respondents indicated it is important for the ACS to be involved in verifying APP training programs.

This article is the second in a series of brief summaries focusing on the results of the Leadership Survey. You can read the previous entry on [Leadership Communications Assessment in last week's ACS Brief.](#)

## 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**

### Clinical Congress Lecturer Discusses Academic Surgery's "Second Renaissance"

The latest episode of the ACS House of Surgery podcast features Omaidia C. Velazquez, MD, FACS, a vascular surgeon who chairs the Department of Surgery and is the surgeon-in-chief at the University of Miami Health System, FL. Dr. Velazquez delivered the Clinical Congress 2022 Olga M. Jonasson Lecture, during which she said that academic surgery is entering a "second renaissance" where enlightenment and progress on diversification will lead to improved patient care.



[Listen Now \(56:50\)](#)



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Leadership & Advocacy Summit**  
**April 15-18, 2023**  
Grand Hyatt Washington, DC Hotel  
[MORE INFO](#)

**MORE RESOURCES FROM ACS**

- [Learn to Lead at 2023 ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit](#)
- [Submit Nominations by Friday for Surgical Volunteerism & Humanitarian Awards](#)
- [Honors Committee Invites Submissions for Four Awards by March 15](#)
- [Residents: Take a Deep Dive on Surgical Teaching and Leadership at High-Impact ACS Course](#)

## Former PA Medical Society President Quoted in Recent Philadelphia Inquirer Article

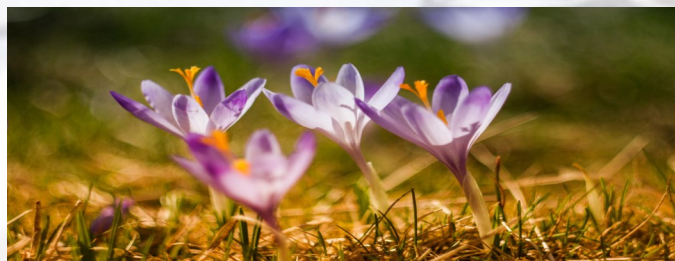
The *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran an article on February 28th discussing recent movement by Residents at Penn Medicine to unionize. In the article, Dr. Michael DellaVecchia, a member of the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter, along with other members of the physician community, share their thoughts on the debate of why unionization may or may not become more common among physicians as they face grueling schedules, and often 80-hour work weeks during residency training.

“It’s getting closer to happening,” said Michael DellaVecchia, an Ardmore ophthalmologist who as a former president of the Philadelphia County and Pennsylvania Medical Societies discussed labor issues with doctors. “We are not there yet but once again, you push people against the wall and they’ll come out swinging.”

Veteran doctors empathized. They remember residencies as grueling. Pressure from attending physicians and program directors, filter down to residents, and creates a tense environment, even among peers.

“If I’m tired and I can’t function well, I can’t take care of myself, let alone my patients,” said Dr. DellaVecchia.

To read the full article, click [HERE](#).



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.

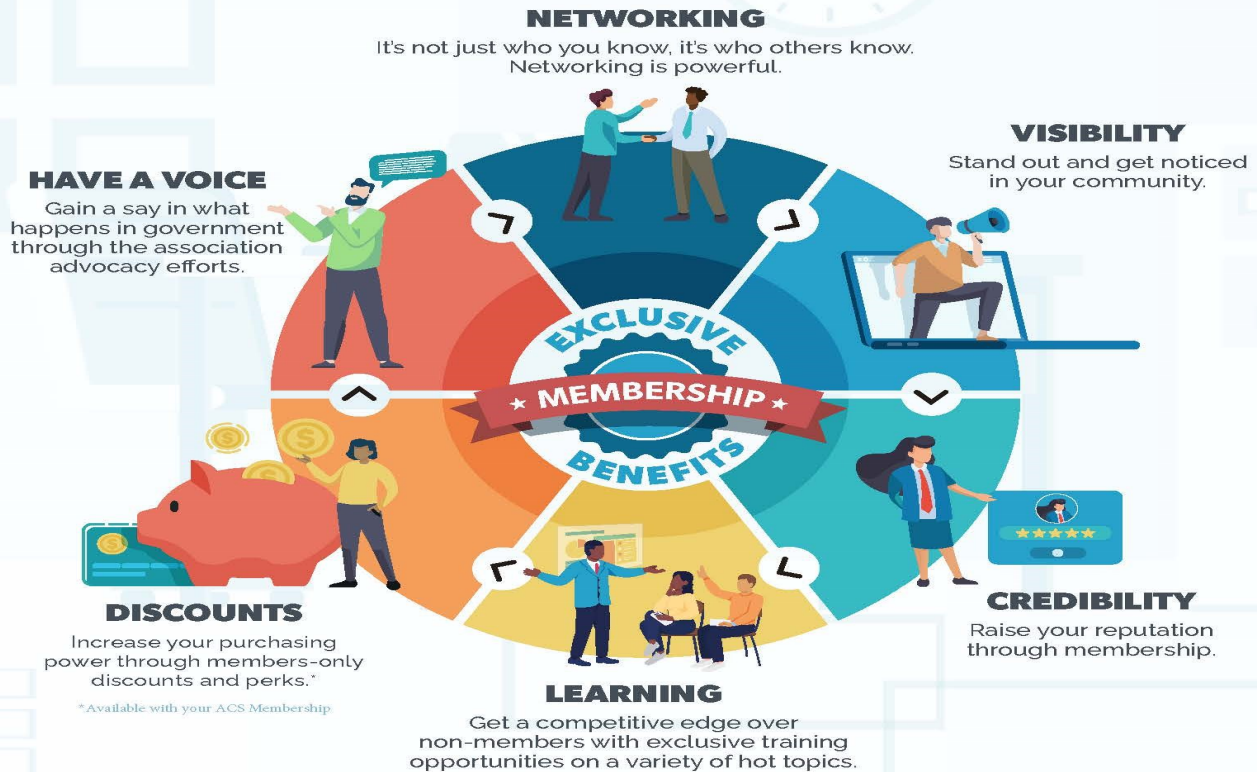






# WHY JOIN AN ASSOCIATION?

**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 in the Choir!

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.

