



Keystone & Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters Member Communication

The Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters instituted a Collaborative Task Force in the beginning of the COVID Pandemic as a means to share resources, provide continued educational opportunities, virtual networking events, and to continue to be the voice of surgeons in Pennsylvania. The Task Force has met and planned for various events over the past three years including advocacy updates, meet and greets, pandemic-related educational webinars, educational conferences, establishment of a Young Surgeons Work Group, and virtual social hours. The attached Collaborative Task Force Mission Statement provides additional details.

The pandemic has hit the specialty association world hard and has taken a significant toll on both Chapters with loss of membership, inability to host in-person events, and significant impact to the societies' financial stability. We are moving in a positive direction and returning to in-person events which have been well-received and beneficial to the members we serve. This is not unique to the local ACS chapters, but an issue being faced by multiple associations, both on the local, state, regional, and national level.

The Keystone Chapter serves members in a 42-county area including Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York counties. As of December 1, 2023, 1,580 ACS members reside/practice within the Keystone Chapter. Of those 1,580 members, 290 have membership with the Keystone Chapter.

The Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter serves members in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. As of December 1, 2023, 1,360 ACS members reside/practice within the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter and of those ACS members, 307 have membership with the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter.

The Northwest and Southwest Chapter of the ACS cover the western side of the State.

As the collaborative task force continues to meet and discuss next steps, it has become clear that a new direction is needed in order to sustain the ACS presence in Pennsylvania by seeking ways to expand resource sharing, collaborative events, and widening the presence of the House of Surgery.

What does this new direction look like? The first step is to ask our voting members to provide their support and commitment to the ACS members by voting to approve moving forward with a merger of the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters. A merger will allow both chapters to pull resources together in administrative, overhead, and educational areas to increase value and reduce costs. With a reduction of overhead expenses, funding can be allocated for areas better served to you, our members (e.g., recruitment efforts, expanded educational opportunities, additional resources to assist all career levels).

How will a merger look? Initial steps and timeline will need to be formulated once the voting membership approves moving forward. The Collaborative Task Force will work as a team to formulate a timeline, seek input from membership, and guidance from ACS. Submission and approval by ACS and the IRS to merge and become

one entity will need to be completed. New bylaws, goals, and mission will be drafted to incorporate the expanded roles and focus of the new Chapter and a combined Council with equal representation from across the region, and career levels, will continue to provide leadership, guidance, focus, and goals. Meetings and educational opportunities will continue to provide regional opportunities as well as combined events in a centrally located area easily accessible by all members of the organization.

Currently appointed ACS Governors in both Chapters will remain in place with no change. As Governor positions are determined by the number of Fellows on the ACS Roster, merging could provide additional representative slots for the newly merged Chapter, but this will need to be determined at a later date.

The ACS will assist in guiding the Chapters through the merger process to ensure that all members continue to reap the benefits of being a member of the House of Surgery and form a stronger voice for the surgeon community at home.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments to share, please email our Executive Director, Robbi Cook (rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com).

We hope that you will continue to support your surgical community and help us move forward with a stronger, more viable, and fiscally stable organization for the future of the surgical specialty and the patients served.

VOTING MEMBERS – Deadline to Submit Your Ballot is February 1, 2024

Voting members are active Fellow members (Fellows, Senior Fellows, Retired) of Keystone or Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter, current on Chapter dues in 2023 and are eligible to cast one vote on the ballot. Proxy voting is not permitted per the Bylaws of the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters. If you are unsure if you are a voting member, please contact our Executive Director, Robbi Cook (rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com).

Ballot: <http://tinyurl.com/485rwrp2>



Scan with your
mobile device



*Keystone Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
Pennsylvania Collaborative Task Force*

Mission Statement

Together, the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter Councils of the American College of Surgeons have adopted a formal position to actively engage and explore opportunities to strengthen the surgical community.

To facilitate this exchange the following goals and action have been defined:

- To increase engagement across the surgical community:
 - All activities, in-person and/or virtual, will be open to all members of both Chapters, regardless of assigned membership.
- To further propagate these efforts:
 - Create a Joint Events Task Force with prioritization of advocacy and networking programs and enduring materials.
- To ensure exchange of ideas, accessibility, and inclusion:
 - All activity and event planning meetings will include the educational/planning committee chair, or named representative, of the partner Chapter.
- To exchange Chapter goals, directions, and issues transparently:
 - Designation and open invitation of partner Chapter representative/designee to attend and participate in Council or other open leadership meetings.
- To enable implementation of the above:
 - The Joint Task Force will continue to meet regularly, at least quarterly throughout the calendar year, with the freedom to assess all topics within this purview of fostering development.

Handwritten signature of Shannon Marie Foster in black ink.

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS
Keystone Chapter President
Co-Chair, Joint Task Force
Date: 02.01.2022

Handwritten signature of Niels D. Martin in black ink.

Niels D. Martin, MD, FACS
Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter President
Co-Chair, Joint Task Force
Date: 02.01.2022