

# THE Cutting Edge

NEWSLETTER



FLORIDA  
CHAPTER  
American College  
of Surgeons

THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IS A NON-PROFIT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO SUPPORT AND IMPROVE THE PRACTICE OF SURGERY IN THE STATE.

- + Perspective on the Pulse Nightclub Shooting Response + PG 2
- + Chapter Leadership + PG 3
- + Florida Chapter Annual Meeting Highlights + PG 4
- + Annual Resident Paper Competition + PG 6
- + Stay Connected + PG 9
- + Awards Announcement + PG 9
- + Florida Chapter Updates + PG 10
- + Upcoming Events + PG 12

## President's Message

Joseph T. Gallagher, MD, FACS



As your new president, I first want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and you, its members. My colleague

and friend, Jaime Membreno, MD, FACS, ensured that our chapter followed the right path during his presidency, and I want to follow his lead during my term. The Florida Chapter offers a professional home for Florida surgeons who are interested in protecting our profession and our patients. We proudly provide avenues for continuing education in all surgical fields, practice enhancement and networking opportunities, and the development of personal relationships of the highest quality not available through

other organizations. But of all the great benefits you receive while being an active member in the chapter, I would like to introduce you to the newest benefit: *The Cutting Edge* newsletter. *The Cutting Edge* will be one of our greatest resources for staying up to date on upcoming chapter events, legislation and advocacy, membership, and education.

The 2016 Annual Meeting was a great success. It was held May 6–7 at the University of South Florida's Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs) in Tampa. This meeting brought together practicing surgeons, researchers, residents, fellows, and students representing all subspecialties. Featured topics included the incorporation of robotics in thoracic surgery, recognition and remediation of deficiencies in operative performance, and prevention of medical errors. A full recap of this meeting can be found on page 2. I hope that more members will attend and participate at next year's Annual Meeting to make it even more successful.

The webinar held on June 13, titled *The Rationale and Reality of Rectal Cancer Center Accreditation*, presented by faculty members Steven D. Wexner, MD, PhD (Hon), FACS, and Mariana Berho, MD, is another example of educational events the chapter offers to members. Attendees digitally joined Dr. Wexner and Dr. Berho as they discussed the outcomes following rectal cancer surgery, including rates

of morbidity, recurrence, survival, and constructive permanent colostomy, and why they greatly vary. Visit [floridafacs.org/webinar-programs](http://floridafacs.org/webinar-programs) to view this and other webinars.

---

The webinar held on June 13, titled *The Rationale and Reality of Rectal Cancer Center Accreditation*, is another example of educational events the chapter offers to members. Visit [floridafacs.org/webinar-programs](http://floridafacs.org/webinar-programs) to view it.

---

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with all of you during the coming year. With your help, we can carry forward the Florida Chapter's goal of providing avenues for continuing education in all surgical fields, practice enhancement and networking opportunities, and the development of personal relationships of the highest quality not available through other organizations. +

## Perspective on the Pulse Nightclub Shooting Response

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS



An act of terrorism, the Pulse nightclub shooting on June 12, 2016, left 53 wounded and 49 dead, a combined third of the club patrons, in the deadliest mass shooting in US history. Most casualties found a way to get to the closest hospital, which happened to be a Level 1 trauma center, Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC). Of 44 casualties presenting to ORMC, nine had died; 35 casualties were admitted, with 27 remaining beyond 48 hours. The last casualty was discharged on September 6, 2016. Twelve casualties received care at Florida Hospital Orlando, with six at other hospitals.

This event illustrates the scene lethality of mass shootings; the geographic effect, whereby most casualties go on their own to the hospital closest to the scene; and the challenge of tracking casualties from the scene and beyond. More importantly, it demonstrates lives saved through quick action at the scene to prevent more injured, followed by organized trauma care for the injured. Nearly 85 percent

of those in the club at the time of the shooting are alive. While the physical injuries can readily heal, the mental health consequences can linger for everyone involved, as well as the entire community. Orlando has shown the value of effective community response to drive community recovery and promote resilience.

We live in a state with a six-month hurricane season and other natural hazards; we also live in a world where terrorism can be a reality in any community. Because most mechanisms of disaster involve physical injury, the trauma system remains a vital framework for planning and response. We need to be ready for mass casualty events: surgeons and acute care professionals are well-positioned to be leaders in mass casualty response through evidence-based education and training, organizational drills, and community-wide exercises. +

*The Florida Chapter of American College of Surgeons would like to thank the trauma surgeons, nurses, trauma teams, hospitals, and first responders for the unified and professional response to the Pulse nightclub attack in Orlando on June 12, 2016. A special thanks to the following surgeons at the Orlando Regional Medical Center:*

- ~ Michael Cheatham, MD*
- ~ William Havron, MD*
- ~ Joseph Ibrahim, MD*
- ~ Marc Levy, MD*
- ~ Gary Parrish, MD*
- ~ Chadwick Smith, MD*

# CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

## 2016-2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

**Joseph T. Gallagher, MD, FACS**  
Colon & Rectal Clinic Orlando  
Orlando, FL

### President Elect

**Patricia M. Byers, MD, FACS**  
Ryder Trauma Center  
Miami, FL

### Secretary

**Christine Laronga, MD, FACS**  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center  
Tampa, FL

### Treasurer

**John Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
Tallahassee, FL

## COUNCILORS

**Ziad T. Awad, MD, FACS**  
University of Florida College of Medicine  
Jacksonville, FL

**Deepak G. Nair, MD, FACS, MS, MHA**  
Sarasota Vascular Specialists  
Sarasota, FL

**Charles Lewis Neustein, MD, FACS**  
Ocala Surgical Associates  
Ocala, FL

**Sharona B. Ross, MD, FACS**  
FHT General Surgery  
Tampa, FL

**Eli N. Lerner, MD, FACS**  
North Florida Surgeons  
Jacksonville, FL

**Vic Velanovich, MD, FACS**  
University of South Florida  
Tampa, FL

**Andrew J. Shapiro, MD, FACS**  
Andrew J. Shapiro, MD, PA  
Wellington, FL

**Ali Kasraeian, MD, FACS**  
Kasraeian Urology  
Jacksonville, FL

## ACS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Christine Laronga, MD, FACS**  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center  
Tampa, FL

**John Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
Tallahassee, FL

**Patricia M. Byers, MD, FACS**  
Ryder Trauma Center  
Miami, FL

**Mark Alan Dobbertien, DO, FACS**  
University of Florida-Urology  
Jacksonville, FL

**Joseph T. Gallagher, MD, FACS**  
Colon & Rectal Clinic Orlando  
Orlando, FL

## COMMITTEES

- Advocacy Committee
- Annual Meeting Committee
- Carrier Advisory Committee
- Commission on Cancer Committee
- Communications Committee
- Development Committee
- Florida Committee on Trauma
- Membership Committee
- Nominating
- Quality & Outcomes Committee
- Resident Abstract Competition
- Resident & Associate Society
- Women in Surgery Committee
- Young Fellow Association Committee

## INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL?

Florida Chapter has opportunities available for members interested in serving on one of its committees or Council.

If you are interested in serving, please contact the Florida Chapter Executive Office at (904) 309-6240, or email us at [florida@floridafacs.org](mailto:florida@floridafacs.org).

## OFFICE CONTACT INFO

**Florida Chapter, American College of Surgeons**  
6816 Southpoint Pkwy, Ste 1000  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Phone: (904) 309-6240  
Fax: (904) 998-0855  
[www.floridafacs.org](http://www.floridafacs.org)

**Executive Director**  
**Brian Hart**  
Phone: (904) 309-6222  
[bhart@floridafacs.org](mailto:bhart@floridafacs.org)

**Managing Director**  
**Stacy Manthos**  
Phone: (904) 309-6211  
[smanthos@floridafacs.org](mailto:smanthos@floridafacs.org)

**Membership**  
**Amanda East**  
Phone: (904) 309-6227  
[aeast@floridafacs.org](mailto:aeast@floridafacs.org)

**Advocacy**  
**Ryan Essegian**  
Phone: (904) 309-6226  
[ressegian@floridafacs.org](mailto:ressegian@floridafacs.org)

**Communications**  
**Judith Thomas**  
Phone: (904) 309-6225  
[jthomas@floridafacs.org](mailto:jthomas@floridafacs.org)

**Education**  
**Nicole Woodsmall**  
Phone: (904) 309-6215  
[nwoodsmall@floridafacs.org](mailto:nwoodsmall@floridafacs.org)



# the FUTURE OF SURGERY

Advancements in Surgery  
Through Simulation & Education

FLORIDA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

2016 Annual Meeting

MAY 6-7, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
TAMPA, FLORIDA

## Florida Chapter Annual Meeting Highlights

By John E. Mullinax, MD, Communications Committee Chair



The Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons was held May 6-7, 2016, in Tampa.

The venue for the meeting was the Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs) at the University of South Florida. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from leaders in American surgery while at the same time being exposed to the latest in simulation technology.

The meeting opened with an opportunity to gain state-mandated CME in prevention of medical errors through a lecture presented by John Rioux, MD, FACS, of Port Charlotte. A welcome reception followed where surgeons from across the state networked and renewed long-time friendships. Kandace Kichler, MD, chair of the Resident and Associate Committee, led residents from several programs in the state through an intense round of Surgical Jeopardy after the reception. The UF-Jacksonville residents Irving Zamora, MD, and Martin Rosenthal, MD, were victorious.



Following a nice breakfast, Joseph Gallagher, MD, FACS, now president of the Florida Chapter, welcomed attendees and introduced the keynote speaker, Stanley Dudrick, MD, FACS, FACN. An amazing tour through the history of surgical nutrition was led by Dr. Dudrick, a legend in American surgery and well-known as the "Father of total parenteral nutrition." Dr. Dudrick was generous with his time following the lecture and the audience had many questions, which he answered from his vast personal experience of nearly 50 years in surgical practice. Hilary Sanfey, MBBCh, FACS, then spoke about her very interesting research regarding

the identification of deficiencies in resident trainees and her innovative approaches to remedy those deficits. She presented again later in the day with a very comprehensive overview of the current controversies in healthcare policy along with the official position from the American College of Surgeons on several of those policies.

Between these lectures, Dao Nguyen, MD, FACS, presented his data from over 300 robotic-assisted lung resections. This was an opportunity to review data and discuss technique with a pioneer in minimally invasive thoracic surgery and many "pearls" were offered to the attendees. Just before lunch Jorge Marcet, MD, FACS, presented his research regarding the prevention of surgical site infection along with a nice overview of the current literature. At lunch, Patricia Byers, MD, FACS, was awarded the Raymond H. Alexander Award for her years of service to the state with a focus on injury prevention. John Armstrong, MD, FACS, spoke to the group about the obesity epidemic, specifically related to Floridians.

Following lunch, the attendees were treated to a series of simulation stations that were designed to introduce the most recent advances in device offerings from a variety of industry leaders. At each station, a local expert offered personal instruction regarding everything from robotic surgery to energy sources.

---

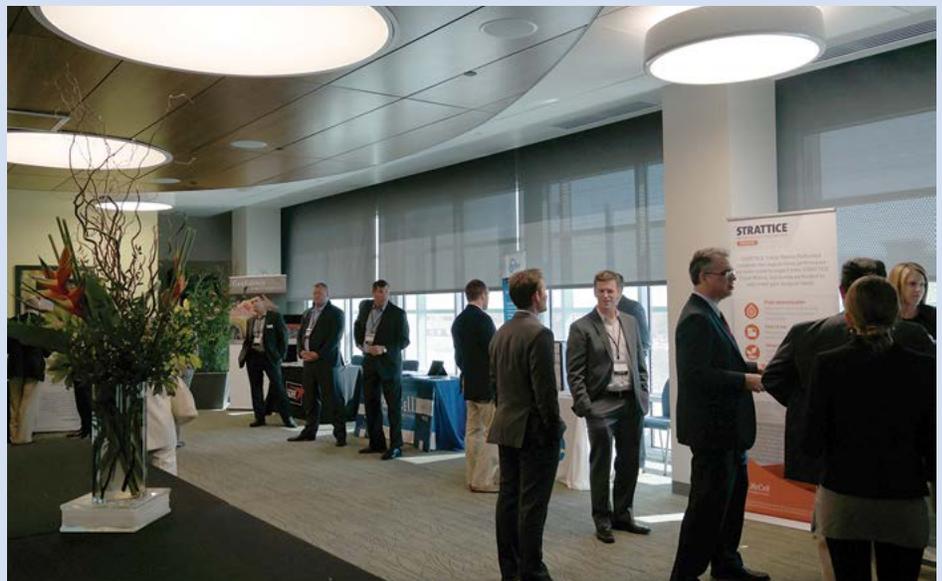
Attendees had the opportunity to learn from leaders in American surgery while at the same time being exposed to the latest in simulation technology.

---



Residents and students were actively engaged in the meeting. Their first event was early on the second day when the Scientific Poster Competition judging took place. This offers students and residents an opportunity to showcase their work to leaders from across the state. Later in the day, residents and fellows from several programs presented their work during the annual Ted Copeland, MD, FACS, resident paper competition. Read more about the poster and abstract competition on page 4.

The meeting adjourned in the late afternoon. It was well attended by a cross section of surgeons from all corners of the state, and all left better educated and more connected with colleagues from Florida. +



## Renew Your Florida Chapter Membership TODAY!

Please be on the lookout for your 2017 Florida Chapter membership renewal forms in the mail. Membership in the Florida Chapter runs from January 1 – December 31.

Please take a moment and renew your dues TODAY! You can pay your dues online at [floridafacs.org/membership/dues](http://floridafacs.org/membership/dues), or via **mail** or **fax**. If you have questions regarding this, please reach out to FCACS Membership Manager, Amanda East, at [aeast@floridafacs.org](mailto:aeast@floridafacs.org).

### Stay Active to Retain Your Great Member Benefits:

- Opportunity to learn, including several opportunities to network through the annual meeting and other local chapter events
- Member discount to the Annual Meeting
- Chapter representation at legislative, regulatory, and other administrative meetings
- Access to printed newsletter
- Updated Florida Chapter and ACS e-News
- Opportunity to author articles and publish on the website, newsletter, and in various e-news
- Opportunity to earn CME credits at a significant discount
- Outlets to gain chapter leadership positions
- Volunteer opportunities as a committee or taskforce member
- Utilization of and inclusion in the "Find a Surgeon" application
- Outlet to post open positions in your practice on the chapter website and in e-news

# Annual Resident Paper Competition 2016



Ahsan Raza MD, first Place Winner in both categories, Clinical/Basic Science and Commission on Cancer (CoC), as well as second place winner in the CoC category

By Christine Laronga, MD, FACS, Abstracts Committee Chair



The annual Resident Paper Competition has long been one of the crown jewels of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and this year was no exception. On

the heels of having last year's winner in the Commission on Cancer category go on to win the national competition, the chapter saw a record number of abstract submissions. After much deliberation, the abstract review committee selected six oral presentations (three Commission on Cancer and three Clinical/Basic Science) and 25 poster presentations (19 residents and six medical students). This was the first year that medical students were able to submit abstracts for poster consideration, and they did a remarkable job presenting their research to engage judges and the general audience. Residents from throughout the state presented their top-notch research as well.

Each poster presenter was given an opportunity to present their poster and then answer questions from the judges. Winners included Michelle Zeidan for the best medical student poster, and Juliet Ray, MD, for the best resident poster. Both won a cash prize of \$100. The six oral presenters were given the podium to present to all attendees and judges in the audience on Saturday, May 7. Presenters were judged on their research, presentation skills, and ability to respond to questions. Winners for the Clinical/Basic Science category from first to third place were Ahsan Raza, MD; Juan

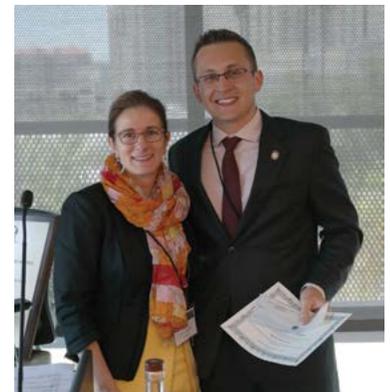
Mira, MD; and Cristen Litz, MD. In the Commission on Cancer category, the winners were Dr. Raza, who won the first and second place award, and Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD, won third place. Cash awards were \$500, \$250, and \$100, respectively. In the abstract selection process, reviewers were blinded to author and institution information to avoid bias. As such, Dr. Raza excitedly walked away \$1,250 richer.

The resident paper competition was such a success that feedback from attendees suggested the chapter accept more posters and have more oral presentations in the future. On another note, many medical schools and residency programs were not represented by the 78 abstracts submitted. Because of this, the chapter is already hard at work preparing for next year's program by aiming to have over 100 abstracts submitted with at least one from every program in Florida. The chapter also strongly encourages the faculty mentors/sponsor for each of these phenomenal trainees come out to the annual conference in support.

Keep an eye out for "Save-the-Date" information as well as a call for abstracts for the 2017 Annual Meeting. +



Third place winner in the Clinical/Basic Science category Christen Litz, MD, with Abstract Committee Chair Christine Laronga, MD, FACS



Second place winner in the Clinical/Basic Science category Juan Mira, MD, with Abstract Committee Chair Christine Laronga, MD, FACS



Third place winner in the Commission on Cancer category, Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD, with Abstract Committee Chair Christine Laronga, MD, FACS

# Annual Resident Paper Competition 2016 Winners

## First Place Winner in the Clinical/Basic Science Category

**Abstract Author:** Ahsan Raza, MD

**Abstract Title:** Cost Effectiveness of a Novel Attempt to Reduce Readmission from Dehydration after Ileostomy Creation

**Author's Financial Disclosures:** None

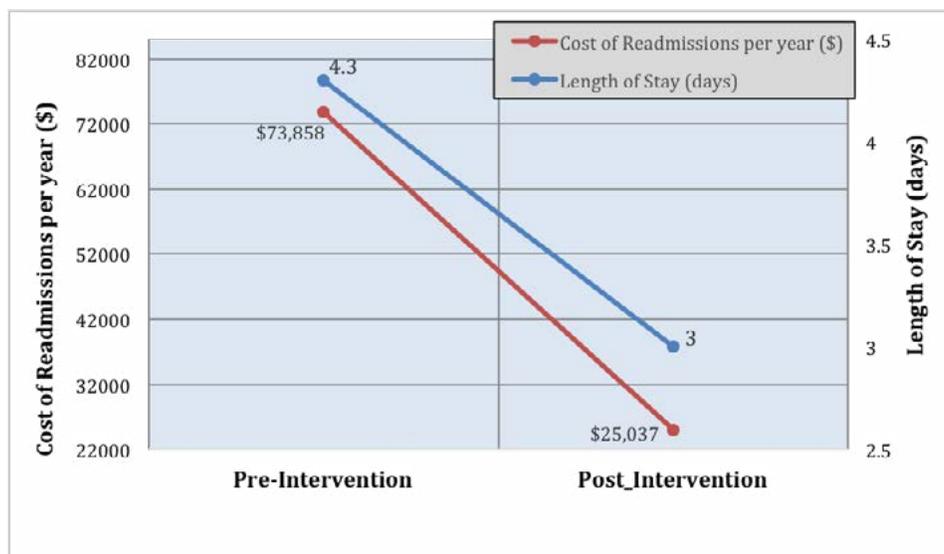
**External Funding:** No

**Background/Synopsis:** Ileostomy creation is a commonly performed operation in colorectal surgery, however, it has several complications associated with it. A frequently encountered complication is postoperative dehydration due to high ostomy output which is the most common indication for readmission. In this study, we sought to determine whether a simple patient-centered outpatient intervention would mitigate readmissions for dehydration and have a positive economic impact relative to the cost of this complication.

**Methods:** All patients with new ileostomies created from September 2011 to October 2012 by the Colorectal Surgery service were enrolled in this prospective study. All patients received standard ileostomy education by ostomy-trained nurses while admitted in the post-operative period. Patients were also educated on the signs and symptoms of dehydration. All patients were contacted with a daily telephone call from a healthcare provider for the first 21 days of their post-operative period. Medication adjustments for patients with a volume deficit or too high ostomy output (>1500 mL/day) were made in consultation with MD or ARNP on a daily basis. The outcome of the patients included in the study was then compared to a historical control cohort of patients that had undergone ileostomy at UF Health during the immediately preceding period. A cost analysis was done to estimate the cost of this intervention which were added to the costs of dehydration related complications during the study period and compared to the cost of similar complications in the preceding period.

**Results:** From September 2011 to October 2012, 38 patients with new ileostomies were enrolled for the study. The readmission rate for dehydration within 30 days of the index decreased significantly from 65% prior to this intervention to 16% after the intervention ( $p=0.002$ ). The length of hospital stay for the readmissions decreased from a mean of 4.2 days prior to the introduction of the study protocol to a mean of 3 days after its introduction as shown in Figure 1. The implementation of the intervention was associated with a decrease in the dehydration-specific readmission rate by 49% which in turn led to a decrease in total actual cost for the readmissions from \$73,858 to \$25,037. This resulted in a total saving of \$63,821 to the University of Florida after the intervention over the study period.

**Conclusions:** An ileostomy pathway with comprehensive postoperative patient education with aggressive outpatient telephone follow up has been shown in this study as an easily administered, cost effective intervention that resulted in a significant reduction in dehydration-related readmission rates, a decrease in mean length of stay for readmissions and a significant cost savings. The cost savings calculated in this study will likely be amplified in a larger division with higher clinical volumes and will need to be further evaluated prospectively in a larger patient population. Adoption of such a pathway is crucial in this era of cost savings with contiguous assessment of quality and outcome measures.



## First Place Winner in the Commission on Cancer Category

**Abstract Author:** Ahsan Raza, MD

**Abstract Title:** Differences in Treatment of Rectal Cancer by Age and Demographics: A National Review

**Author's Financial Disclosures:** None

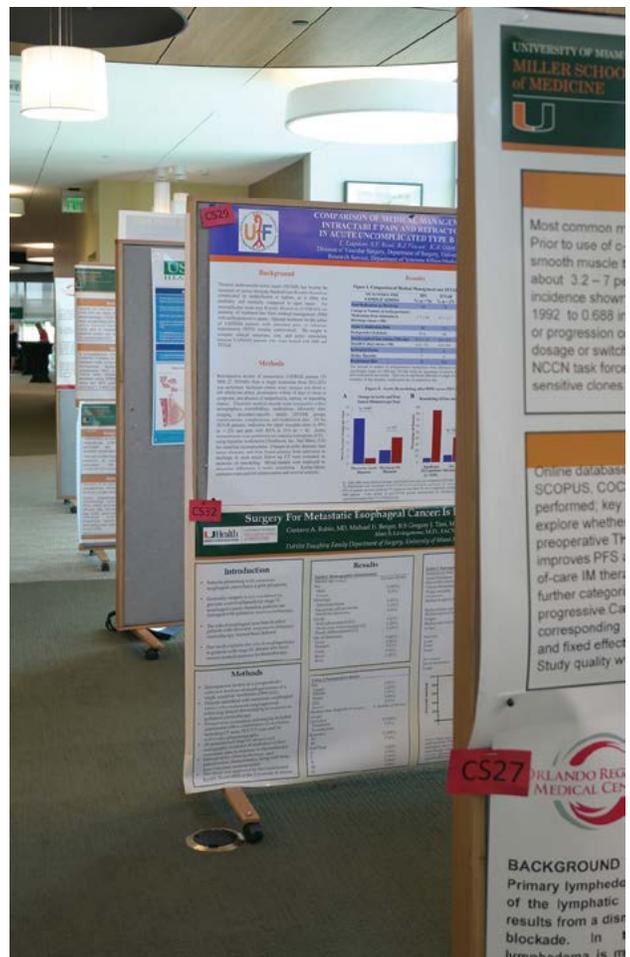
**External Funding:** No

**Background/Synopsis:** Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States. The aim of our study was to determine the differences in the presentation and treatment of rectal cancer by age and patient demographics

**Methods:** Data for all patients undergoing rectal cancer treatment from 2003 to 2013 was gathered from the National Cancer Database. Retrospective analysis was performed and stratified by age for variables including patient demographics, education level, insurance status, distance traveled, academic status & location of treating center and therapy received. "Young" patients were defined as being younger than 50 years of age at diagnosis.

**Results:** A total of 253,218 patients were reported during the 10 year period of which 36,926 patients (15%) were young. Young rectal cancer patients had a similar incidence between genders but a male predisposition was demonstrated in older patients (males 58%, females 42%). Caucasians were the predominant race with rectal cancer across all age groups. African Americans (<20 year age group) and Hispanics (20-39 year age group) were more likely to be diagnosed with rectal cancer at a younger age than Caucasians. Academic centers treated more than twice as many young patients compared to community centers, while older patients were equally distributed. More minorities were treated at academic centers (27%) than community centers (20%,  $p=0.008$ ). The more educated the patient, the further they traveled for treatment. Significantly more patients across all age groups traveled greater than 100 miles for academic centers (10%) as opposed to community centers (4.8%,  $p=0.002$ ). Young patients with rectal cancer were more likely to be uninsured (2% vs. 7%,  $p=0.003$ ). The percentage of uninsured young patients treated at community (7.8%) and academic centers (8.3%) was similar. When categorizing by income, more high income earners across all ages (<\$69,000/year) were treated at academic centers compared to community centers (24% vs. 16%,  $p=0.008$ ). Young patients were most commonly diagnosed at a higher stage compared to older patients (Stage III vs. Stage I). There was no difference noted in the tumor stage at presentation between academic and community centers.

**Conclusions:** Young rectal cancer patients are diagnosed at a higher stage and are more likely treated at distant academic centers when compared to older patients. Well educated and/or higher income earners, both young and old, undergo treatment at academic centers more frequently than community centers. Therefore, it is plausible that young patients may benefit more from being treated at specific cancer centers of excellence. OSTRICH Consortium efforts to establish rectal cancer centers of excellence would help better care for young patients, minorities and also help prepare participating community hospitals standardize treatment for those who are afraid or unable to travel far due to age or low income.



# STAY CONNECTED TO *YOUR* CHAPTER!



[floridaacs.org](http://floridaacs.org)

The Florida Chapter of American College of Surgeons has an interactive website that incorporates many members-only resources. Learn about the latest news and updates, find other members, and take one of the CME webinars. You can also view your membership account and keep your contact information up-to-date.

Be sure to “like” us on Facebook at [facebook.com/FloridaChapterACS](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaChapterACS), follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/floridaacs](https://twitter.com/floridaacs) and LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/florida-chapter-american-college-of-surgeons](https://www.linkedin.com/company/florida-chapter-american-college-of-surgeons), and participate in discussion on the ACS Community page ([acscommunities.facs.org](https://www.acscommunities.facs.org), and search for “Florida Chapter”) to stay up-to-date on important news and upcoming events. Be sure to “share” and “retweet” our posts that you would like to share with your friends, colleagues, and patients!

## Dr. Patricia Byers Receives Prestigious Raymond Alexander Award for Contributions to Florida’s Surgical Care

During the Florida Chapter of American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting in May, Patricia Byers, MD, professor of surgery at the Miller School of Medicine, was honored with the prestigious Raymond H. Alexander Award. This award recognizes outstanding dedication and service to the medical profession in the field of surgery as exemplified by the devoted and unselfish nature of Ray Alexander, MD. Dr. Byers has been a long-time advocate for effective trauma care, was the state’s trauma medical director, and served on the advisory council for Florida’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS). One of her many project is the ‘Survive the Ride’ program, a motorcycle education and injury prevention program.

In an article on the University of Miami website, Dr. Byers credits Jacksonville surgeon Raymond Alexander, MD, (1938-1992), for whom the award she received is named, with providing the impetus to establish Florida’s trauma care network. “Ray was a giant in emergency medical services, who got our state’s 911 and trauma system going,” she said. “Thanks to his leadership, Florida became one of the first states with a legislated trauma system, and it is a deep honor to receive the award in his name.”

## Dr. John H. Armstrong Awarded Distinguished Service Award and the Professionals Resource Network (PRN) Award of Merit

During the Florida Medical Association’s (FMA) Annual Meeting, current treasurer, John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS, was presented with the FMA’s Distinguished Service Award and the Professionals Resource Network (PRN) Award of Merit.

Dr. Armstrong was Surgeon General and Secretary of Health for the State of Florida for over three years. Previously, he was chief medical officer of the University of South Florida (USF) Health Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation, surgical director of the USF Health American College of Surgeons Accredited Education Institute, and associate professor of surgery at USF Morsani College of Medicine, in Tampa. Before this, he was trauma medical director at Shands at the University of Florida Medical Center in Gainesville, and a 2011 Exemplary Teacher at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

In regards to the award, Dr. Armstrong said, “This is a wonderful surprise and humbling honor. I am grateful to the Florida Medical Association and PRN for recognizing public service achievement through collaboration.”

# FLORIDA CHAPTER UPDATES

## Advocacy Update

By Deepak G. Nair, MD, MS, MHA, FACS



We have been waiting on the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) stance on the most relevant topic of the day, which is the Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA).

The ACS comments are very lengthy but a summary has been published in the July 1, 2016, copy of NewsScope (ACS Newsletter). The ACS has also submitted a comment letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Specifically, the proposed rule sets forth plans implementing the two pathways MACRA uses to replace the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula: the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs). Among other issues, ACS's comments address the four components of MIPS: 1) quality, 2) resource use, 3) advancing care information, and 4) clinical practice improvement activities. The comments also address the criteria necessary for an APM model to be considered an "advanced" APM, specifically: use of certified electronic health records

technology, inclusion of quality measures comparable to MIPS, and acceptance of more than nominal financial risk.

Participation in an advanced APM would exclude the clinician from participation in MIPS.

Christian Shalgian, the director of ACS Division of Advocacy and Health Policy, has made a video talking about MACRA. You can view this video at the following link: [facs.org/publications/newsletters/surgeonsvoice/june2016](https://www.facs.org/publications/newsletters/surgeonsvoice/june2016).

The ACS has a federal team working on getting general surgery included in the health profession shortage area (HPSA), and establishing a joint military/civilian trauma collaboration.

---

Save the date for the **Advocacy Days**,  
January 10–11, 2017 in Tallahassee.

It serves two important purposes,  
educating members on how to  
advocate and educating legislators on  
surgical issues.

---

The American College of Surgeons is in the process of finalizing its stance on addressing the opioid abuse crisis, which will basically state that they are **AGAINST**:

- MANDATES for continuing medical education specifically for prescribing opioids.
- MANDATES for using your state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) each time you prescribe an opioid.
- MANDATES on how strong an opioid

you can prescribe and for how long it is taken.

On the state level, the ACS State Advocacy Section has identified areas of focus for next year, and they include trauma system development and funding, bariatric surgery access/coverage, the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act (UEVHPA), coverage of colorectal cancer screenings, and definition of surgery.

In Florida, the ACS SurgeonsPAC has extended support to Neal Dunn, MD, FACS, (FL-Congressional Race in District 2) and Dr. Dena Grayson (formerly Dena Minning) in Florida's Congressional Race in District 09.

Save the date for the **Advocacy Days**, January 10–11, 2017 in Tallahassee. The Florida Chapter plans to host a reception at the Capitol for administration officials, legislative liaisons, legislative staff and others to join Chapter members and legislators. This event is open to all Florida Chapter members, from chapter leadership to retired members, to participate in this event. The more participants visiting legislative leaders, the more impact we can have on policy being considered. Each voice is valued in presenting facts on healthcare issues that Florida faces in the coming session. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ryan Essegian at [ressegian@floridafacs.org](mailto:ressegian@floridafacs.org) or call him at 904-309-6226.

The Florida Chapter's Advocacy Days serves two important purposes, educating members on how to advocate and educating legislators on surgical issues. The lobby day provides members who are new to advocacy and the legislative process an important opportunity to go to Tallahassee and see the process in

*Continued on next page*

# LEGISLATION UPDATES

## 2017 Legislative Preview

By Chris Nuland, Florida Chapter Lobbyist



While it is always risky to predict in August what the Legislature may consider in March of the next year, several issues have already emerged as likely advocacy points

in the upcoming session.

### 1. Workers Compensation:

A recent Supreme Court opinion on workers compensation has invalidated the cap on attorney's fees. As a result, legislators will be seeking legislative ways in which to reduce what are expected to be enormous premium increases. One of the proposals will be to reduce the physician fee schedule, which inevitably would reduce access to surgeons and reduce the compensation of those surgeons who do remain in

the program. For these reasons, the Florida Chapter of American College of Surgeons (FCACS) will oppose any decrease in the Worker's Compensation reimbursement of physicians.

### 2. Personal Injury Protection (PIP):

The Florida surgical community worked very hard years ago to ensure that \$5,000 would be set aside from every PIP claim to pay for physician services. With the entire PIP statute being reviewed, we expect hospitals to seek an elimination of the \$5,000 set-aside so that they may reap the entire guaranteed \$10,000 in PIP payments. The result would be that many surgeons providing PIP services simply would not be paid. The FCACS will therefore oppose the expected attempts to repeal this set-aside.

### 3. Use of Opiates and Anxiolytics in Level 1 Surgeries:

While FCACS passed rules that would allow the combination of a single dose of opiates and a single dose of anxiolytics in Level I office surgery, a legal technicality requires that the new rule receive legislative approval. FCACS will be taking a lead to ensure that this new rule becomes law.

Of course, other issues are sure to emerge over the next few months, and the FCACS will be monitoring developments over that period. +

### *Advocacy Update continued*

action. Simultaneously, this lobby day is used to schedule visits with legislators to educate them on surgical issues and how they can help protect patients. The lobby day allows the Florida Chapter to maintain a presence in Tallahassee and develop relationships between the legislature and surgery. The event is planned in coordination with the Advocacy Committee and lobbyist to help secure legislative visits and determine what issues the participants will be asked to speak on.

In Florida, there are various pieces of legislation that will certainly have an effect on surgeons if passed. As part of a legislative day, issue briefs will be drafted and distributed that discuss these priority bills and any new legislation introduced in

the new session. There are bills that will be introduced dealing with:

- Benefits Under Personal Injury Protection
- Caps on Non-Economic Damages

A lobby day is critical in making state advocacy come alive for Florida Chapter members. This event is an important activity to show surgeons firsthand how ideas and theories of bills come to fruition. Through their engagement on issues that are important to them, they are able to influence the policy-making process to impact Florida's healthcare delivery. Although this is only one part of the greater advocacy effort, it is one of the most visible to fellow surgeons, legislators, state government interested parties, and the media. +

# Upcoming Events

## Advocacy Days

January 10–11, 2017  
Tallahassee, FL

## Florida Chapter Annual Meeting 2017

April 28–30, 2017  
Hyatt Grand Cypress  
Orlando, FL

### Editor

#### John E. Mullinax, MD

Attending Surgeon, Surgical Oncology  
Sarcoma Department  
H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center  
Tampa, FL

### Staff:

#### Communications

#### Judith Thomas

Florida Chapter, American College of  
Surgeons

### Managing Director

#### Stacy Manthos

Florida Chapter, American College of  
Surgeons

Visit us on the web at [floridaacs.org](http://floridaacs.org).

The Florida Chapter, American College of Surgeons (FCACS) makes every effort to provide accurate information in *The Cutting Edge* at the time of publication; however, circumstances may alter certain details, such as dates or locations of events. Any changes will be denoted as soon as possible. FCACS invites members to write articles for *The Cutting Edge*; if the article includes medical or scientific opinion, it may not necessary reflect the policy of the FCACS.



The Florida Chapter is an affiliated organization of the American College of Surgeons

October 2016

Education CME webinars available online.

Check [floridafacs.org/webinar-programs](http://floridafacs.org/webinar-programs) for information on all webinars.



6816 Southpoint Pkwy  
Suite 1000  
Jacksonville, FL 32216