



INDIANA CHAPTER

American College of Surgeons

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

SPRING 1997

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ULTRASOUND SESSION A NEW FEATURE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING MAY 1-3

"Ultrasound for the Surgeon" will be a four hour course offered Friday afternoon during the Annual Meeting. It will feature intraoperative, breast and trauma applications of ultrasound useful to the surgeon. The course will contain lectures for two hours followed by a two hour session using phantoms and live models. The course will have a limited enrollment and a charge of \$100.00 will be made. **This course will not count toward certification** although c.m.e. credit will be awarded.

Thirty nine resident papers and seventeen papers from Fellows were received by the program committee. Thirteen papers were in general surgery, seven in trauma and thirty six in specialty areas. Only four papers were from outside Indianapolis.

The program committee consists of Lewis Jacobson (Chairman), RoseMarie Jones, Robert Pennington, Mark Pescovitz, George Rodman and Eric Wiebke. They heard the finalist resident papers on March 12 and decided on the winners of the resident paper competition.

The **Shumacker Oration** will be given by Frank Lewis, MD, FACS, Chairman, Department of Surgery, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. The **A.C.S. Distinguished Lecturer** will be Paul Ebert, MD, FACS, Director, American College of Surgeons.

Program on Website

The entire Program of the Annual Meeting is featured in the What's New section of the Indiana Chapter Website. If all goes right, it will be on the server for a full two weeks prior to the meeting. The website may be accessed at
<http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/acs_chapters/indiana/indiana.html>

Josef Fischer Gives Fifteenth Jesseph Lecture

Josef Fischer, MD, FACS, Christian R. Holmes Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH, gave the fifteenth lecture to honor John E. Jesseph, MD, FACS. The evening lecture to Fellows of the Chapter and their guests on Friday evening was: "Nantucket in the Golden Era of Whaling." The presentation to surgeons and residents at Surgical Grand Rounds on Saturday morning was: "Nutrition in the Surgical Patient Revisited in the 1990's." Dr. Fischer is a past president of the Ohio Chapter, a Governor of the College and a Director and Vice Chairman of the American Board of Surgery.

New Trauma Award

The Indiana Chapter has instituted a new trauma award. Four outstanding surgeons have been nominated to have their name associated with this award: (1) Dr. Bud Gardner, vascular surgeon from Indianapolis, (2) Dr. James Bennett, plastic surgeon from Indianapolis, past president of the Chapter and a vice president of the College, (3) Dr. R. Morton Bolman, general surgeon from Fort Wayne and sixth president of the Chapter, and (4) Dr. Joseph Davis, general surgeon from Marion, past president of the Chapter, Governor of the College and Regent of the College.

Malpractice Act Under Attack

Since its enactment 22 years ago, the Indiana Compensation Act for Patients (INCAP) has been challenged by the trial lawyers. Now an Indiana judge has ruled that the two year statute of limitations is unconstitutional. This ruling is being appealed, but, if sustained, would increase the statute of limitations to seven years.

Should the Patient Compensation Fund (PCF) ever be unable to pay an award, the act automatically terminates. So far this has not occurred, but actuaries are very concerned that the potential liabilities could bankrupt the fund.

Senate Bill 57 contains measures that Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA) feels are necessary to ensure that the PCF remains sound. The bill would raise the level at which the PCF would be "attached" - meaning that doctors and hospitals would have to carry higher limits of insurance. It would raise the cap on awards (a concession to trial lawyers) and it would shift the responsibility for defending the fund to insurance companies. At present the Attorney General and his staff defend the fund. This results in a new set of attorneys defending the case against plaintiff's attorneys who are well acquainted with it.

Some insurance companies offer lower malpractice rates if home, auto and general liability insurance is purchased from them. They "cost shift" the malpractice rate in order to lessen the PCF fund payments. Companies hiring physicians will purchase "claims made" instead of "occurrence" policies, also to lower the PCF surcharge. All physicians need to contribute "proportionally" to the PCF. This will cost money. The higher cost of basic coverage will result in higher PCF payments. Higher PCF payments will keep INCAP intact

Instructions how to Make the Indiana Chapter Home Page Your Home Page

Internet Explorer does not permit changing the Home Page; Netscape Navigator does. Choose "Options," then "General Preferences." A window opens and select the tab "Appearance." At the bottom of the page a box states "Browser Starts With"; select the button "Home Page Location."

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Coming Events

- April 30** - Council Meeting 5:30 P.M. at the Westin Hotel
- May 1-3** - **1997 Annual Meeting and Scientific Program** - Westin Hotel, Indianapolis. Across Washington St. from the State Capitol.
- May 2** - Chapter Business Meeting and Election 12:00 Noon.
- May 29-31** - Chapter Officers Seminar, A.C.S. Headquarters, Chicago.
- Oct. 14** - Chapter Breakfast, A.C.S. Chicago.
- November 21** - Will C. Moore Lecture, Seymour I. Schwartz, M.D.
- February 20, 1998** - John E. Jessephe Lecture, Jerry M. Shuck, M.D.

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Type in the line:

"http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/acs_chapters/indiana/indiana.html", then click "OK". Every time you access the internet, the Indiana Chapter Home Page will come up.

Indiana Website Update

The Indiana Chapter Website on the A.C.S. server was launched in December 1996. The first revision of that site is now on line. It features completion of items that were "under construction" and bringing the "What's New" section up to date. The College has been slow in processing revisions, but is working to improve this.

Those of you who sent your website addresses should note that they have been included. Any Indiana website with interest to surgeons should be sent to the editor at <rpirgi@ind.tds.net> or <rinlow@mem.po.com>.

Deikhoff and Sood to Attend Young Surgeons Meeting

The Indiana Chapter's representatives to the Young Surgeons Meeting in Chicago will be Edward Diekhoff, MD and Rajiv Sood, MD, both of Indianapolis. The meeting is held on Sunday and Monday April 27 & 28.

This worthwhile meeting is open to Indiana Fellows under 45 years of age. Expenses are paid by the Chapter. Applications may be obtained from Carolyn Downing, and need to be returned by Valentines Day (Feb. 14) 1998.