



# INDIANA CHAPTER American College of Surgeons NEWSLETTER

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## ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN CLARKSVILLE

The Annual Meeting of the Indiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons will be held in Clarksville, Indiana on May 7-9, 1998. The meeting is being hosted by President Gordon Gutmann of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

On Thursday afternoon, the session starts at 1 p.m. with scientific papers lasting until the break. Following this, the Distinguished Lecturer from the College of Surgeons will speak. Adjournment is at 5:15 p.m. and activities are planned in the evening.

Friday morning starts at 8 a.m. with "Documentation and Coding Update" by Barbara Walker of the Indiana State Medical Association. This session lasts for two hours. After the break, the Shumacker oration will be given by Hiram Polk, Jr. of Louisville, KY. His speech is on the "Selective Management of the Melanoma Epidemic."

The Annual Business Luncheon and Business Meeting will be at noon on Friday. The election of the president-elect and board of councilors will be held at that time.

On Friday evening the Annual Dinner and presentation of awards will occur. The newly elected officers and councilors will be introduced.

The Saturday morning session will start at 8 a.m. and consist of scientific papers. The meeting will adjourn at noon.

We look forward to seeing you there!



This is the beautiful poolside dining and lounging area at the Clarksville Holiday Inn. The hotel is on a five acre lake and ideally suited for families and meetings such as the Annual Meeting of the Indiana Chapter A.C.S.

## www.INfacs.org

As you read this the Indiana Chapter web site will be accessed by <http://www.INfacs.org>. This new address will be a "permanent" address for the web site. In the one and one half years of its existence it has had three different addresses. These have been on the ACS server and using the domain name <www.facs.org>. With the new domain name <www.INfacs.org> our website will keep the same address even though the server on which it is located may change. The new domain name has the advantage of being short and easy to remember. The relationship to the College address is obvious. (The IN portion of the address does not have to be capitalized, but is done so for emphasis.)

### How Are We Doing?

The Indiana Chapter web site has been in operation for eighteen months. How is it doing? Is anyone looking at it?

Between December 26, 1996 and March 7, 1998 the site had 11,794 raw hits. This number seems high until you consider that when a browser hits a page of material, each image is scored as a hit as well as the page of print. For this reason the number of page hits is a more realistic indicator of web site usage. During this period of time there were 4174 page hits. This averages to approximately ten page hits per day over fourteen months. The number of hits is increasing gradually. In January 1998 there were 14.4 page hits per day; in February there were 14.8 page hits per day. In the first seven days of March the rate was 23 page hits per day. The activities of one person, the webmaster, accounted for one sixth of the page hits. Most activity is on Friday, followed closely by Sunday. There is activity at all hours of the day and night. The hours of 1- 2 PM are most popular, with activity from 6-7 am and 11-12 PM being high. The page most frequently visited is the "home page" (16%), followed closely by the page outlining the programs given at the annual meeting in 1997 and 1996 (14%). Next in popularity is the page with links to other sites. The "What's New" page receives five percent of the hits and the page giving membership information the least.

It is interesting to note that the internet is world wide and that the chapter has international exposure from the site. While January showed

## Coming Events

**April 19-20, 1998** - Young Surgeon Representatives' Meeting, Chicago, IL

**April 26-29, 1998** - A.C.S. Spring Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

**May 7-9, 1998** - Holiday Inn Lakeview, Clarksville, IN; **The 1998 Annual Meeting.**

**May 28-30, 1998** - Chapter Officers' Seminar - Chicago, IL

**October 25-30, 1998** - A.C.S. Clinical Congress, Orlando, FL

three percent of page hits came from outside the United States, February showed that thirteen percent were international. The countries included Japan, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, Mexico, Dominican Republic, South Korea, Italy, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Ireland, India and Israel.

### Board of Regents Meeting February 6-7, 1998

"Principles Guiding Care at the End of Life," by the Regents' Committee on Ethics, was approved by the Board. The statement emphasizes respect for the dignity of both patients and care givers, the alleviation of pain and other physical symptoms, access to appropriate palliative and hospice care, and the need to forego treatments which are futile.

The 10th edition SESAP will premiere in October 1998. An updated software version will include sophisticated graphics, voice narration of slides and films, search features, and abstracts of many cited reference articles.

The Joint Commission (JCAHO) has approved a revised sentinel event policy. Accredited health care organizations that report sentinel events to the JCAHO within five business days of their occurrence and submit an acceptable root cause analysis within 30 days, will be exempt from being placed on accreditation watch.

The College has sent letters to all ACS chapters suggesting that there be more participation in tort reform activities at the state level as recommended by the Board of Governors Committee on Professional Liability. Enclosed with the letter were the names of ATRA coalition leaders in their respective states.