

Q. What does ARAS stand for?

A. The ARAS is the acronym for "Association of Residency Administrators in Surgery". It is a nationally and professionally recognized membership organization for surgery residency administrators, and is endorsed and supported by the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS).

Q. How and when did ARAS begin?

A. The vision of forming a specialty group for surgery residency coordinators was discussed for a few years before it was actually developed into the ARCS (Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery). It was officially established in Dallas, TX, in 1987 by a group of residency coordinators representing a variety of surgery programs. The initiative for ARAS was encouraged and supported by the President of the APDS, Paul Friedman, MD, in 1987. In 1990, the APDS Board of Directors and President Arthur Aufses, MD made the decision that ARAS would be formally recognized by the APDS. A national newsletter was generated as a result of this meeting. Over the years, ARAS has become a leading nationally respected and recognized organization for surgical coordinators. The 30th year of ARCS was celebrated April 2017, in San Diego with over 200 in attendance, "Sharing the Past, Building the Future". It was at this meeting that the Executive Committee announced our organization's name change to the Association of Residency Administrators in Surgery (ARAS).

Q. How do I become a member of ARAS, is there a fee?

A. The ARAS is a subgroup of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS). You must be an Associate Member of the APDS in order to be a member of the ARAS. Associate membership can be obtained by completing an application form; sending the application form, a copy of your current curriculum vitae and a letter of support from your Program Director to the address on the application form. Feel free to contact any Executive Committee member to discuss the process for membership or follow the link www.ARASurgery.org for additional information and an application. Yes, there is a yearly dues fee of \$250.

Q. How do I become an Executive Committee Member, and how long is the term?

To be a member of the Executive Committee you must:

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1. be a member of ARAS (refer to Article III),
 2. have attended at least three APDS/ARAS meetings,
 3. have written support, including financial support from your surgery program director and chair,
 4. be able to attend and participate in the fall ACS meeting, spring ARAS conference meeting, and one additional planning session called by the President. (Article VI), and
 5. be willing to host a business meeting or 1-3 conference calls if elected President.

Executive Committee Members serve a four year term with 1 additional year as a consultant, if elected President. Executive Committee Member applications are reviewed, discussed and voted on at the fall ACS planning meeting. Please refer to the homepage of the ARAS website (www.ARASurgery.org) for complete contact information.

Q. If I decide to become a member of ARAS, am I now C-TAGME certified?

A. No, the National Board of Certification for Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education Programs (TAGME) has a complex process, fee and requirements that must be met before certification can be obtained. Please refer to the homepage of the ARAS website (www.ARASurgery.org) for contact information.

Q. How are the speakers selected for the meetings?

A. The speakers are the selection of the Executive Committee during the fall planning meeting. The selection includes abstracts submitted to the committee and the direct results of the evaluations, comments and/or suggestions made on the evaluation forms that are completed during the annual ARAS meeting. Each speaker volunteers their time and most attend SEW meeting and are willing to participate at the ARAS meeting, and are not given a stipend or honorarium. Since ARAS meets in conjunction with the APDS, we have great access to "the movers and shakers" in the world of Surgery! Refer to the homepage of the ARAS website (www.ARASurgery.org) to submit an abstract to ARAS.