



**Association of Residency Coordinators in
Surgery**

August

2004

Dear ARCS Membership:

Greetings from Sunny Northern California! Congratulations for another academic year completed! Whew, now that you have had a chance to catch your breath, (ok, your minute is up) we can share some ARCS news.

First let me say that it is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as President for this membership. You have shown yourselves to be dedicated professionals who will go the extra mile to see that your Program and Residents succeed. It was truly wonderful to see each of you in Houston, Texas. The meeting was informative and interesting, thanks to Past President Donna Turovac and the Steering Committee. The turnout was one of the highest on record for ARCS. It was a joy to see all of you. The meeting was a success because of your participation and input.

The Steering Committee will meet in October during the American College of Surgeons Meeting in New Orleans, LA to create the agenda for the next ARCS Conference. We hope to bring you another interesting and most importantly, an informative meeting. To do this, we need your HELP!

Attached is an Abstract Form to solicit your assistance in planning this meeting. We are asking that you submit your ideas for topics and discussions that may be beneficial to other Coordinators. We know that not everyone is a Presenter, but we can certainly use your help by perhaps encouraging others to speak on designated topics of interest that you submit to

us. We want to formulate an agenda for this meeting that is well rounded and informative. The Abstract Submission Form will also be sent out via the ListServer as well. We would like to thank Dr. Margaret Tarpley who does an outstanding job of disseminating information out to us via this arena. Thanks again!

In this Newsletter you will find an update from Ruth Nawotniak, Chairperson of STAC that is most informative. Kudos to Ruth and the STAC staff who are continuing to make great strides. Also, Dr. Robert Rhodes, from the American Board of Surgery has graciously provided an update for us concerning Board activities. Dr. Rhodes has already consented to being a speaker at our meeting in New York and will provide us with further updates at that time. We thank him in advance for always keeping the ARCS membership informed.

Again congratulations for making it through another year! I hope the rest of your summer is filled with plans to treat yourself to some fun before ERAS begins! And interviews, and Christmas parties, oh, never mind. Enjoy it while you can! Here's to a successful 2004-2005! See you in New York!

Juanita Braxton, MBA
President, ARCS 2004-2005

ASE/APDS/ARCS ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 31ST – APRIL 2ND, 2005
GRAND HYATT HOTEL
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



**CERTIFICATION
UPDATE FROM
RUTH
NAWOTNIAK**

At the 2004 Spring Conference in Houston, STAC
(Surgical Training Administrators Certification Board)

was established to develop a certification process for managers of surgical training programs. Letters of support were received and read from ARCS and the APDS. Many coordinators attending the conference offered their time and expertise to help develop the content and measurement tools. STAC met in July to determine the guidelines and content areas for the process, after which small groups were formed to focus on each area. It is hoped that the certification process will be ready for piloting by the 2005 Spring Conference in New York City. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of the STAC Board members: Ruth Nawotniak (SUNY Buffalo - rhn@buffalo.edu); Ava Fulbright (Orlando Regional Medical Center - afulbri@orhs.org); Bobbie Grissom (University of Texas, Galveston - bagrisso@utmb.edu); Machell Thompson (University of North Dakota, Grand Forks - machellt@medicine.nodak.edu).

There will be a further update of the certification process at the 2005 Spring Conference in New York.

AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY UPDATE:

Two Important Changes to the 2005 Qualifying Examination in Surgery

Richard Rhodes, Ph.D.

2005 QE to be given in August



The ABS has made two significant changes to the Qualifying Examination in Surgery (QE) for 2005. The first is that the examination will be administered on Thursday, **August 11, 2005**, rather than in October. This change in time of year will give residents who are successful in the QE more options in choosing a time and location to take the Certifying Examination, facilitate their transition to fellowships or practice, and allow them more time to focus on their new activities.

With the QE being given two months earlier, the entire application process will be shifted accordingly. The regular deadline for receipt of the completed application form (without the penalty of

a late fee) will be in mid-May and the late deadline (including a late fee) will be in mid-June. These deadlines are needed for both application processing and to allow applicants the maximal time to register at an examination center near them (see below). The ABS recognizes that these new deadlines will not permit applicants to submit their full chief year operative experience, however, this has never been a requirement—the applicant's operative experience must only meet the ABS' defined minimums (500 procedures in five years, with 150 in the chief year and a balanced operative experience across all essential content areas).

A Computer-Based QE for 2005

The second significant change is that the 2005 Qualifying Examination in Surgery will be given as a computer-based examination through Pearson VUE™, the ABS' testing services vendor. The change to a computer-based format will afford residents greater flexibility in examination locations as they will be able to choose from over 200 testing centers nationwide operated by Pearson VUE. Since some centers may have limited space, residents should submit their applications as early as possible so that they will be able to schedule their examination at the center closest to them.

Further information on both of these changes will be sent to program directors and coordinators in the near future and will be discussed at the ARCS Annual Meeting in New York.

ARCS STEERING COMMITTEE

The ARCS Steering Committee consists of an eight-member board, each serving a maximum term of four years. A President-Elect will be elected by the Steering Committee at the Annual ARCS Fall Planning meeting to serve for a term of one year. A Secretary will also be elected to serve for one year and may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms. In addition, the committee will select new members as needed to maintain its membership of eight. These members

will be announced at the Spring ARCS meeting. Please consider submitting your name for consideration as a steering committee member at the spring meeting in New York.

Steering Committee Members – 2004/2005

Juanita Braxton (President)

Sandra DuBard (President-Elect)

Donna Turovac

Kathy Garvin

Ava Fulbright

Judy Craig

Gretchen Schultz

Judith Olenwine

List Server Update

The List Server for Program Directors and Coordinators continues to be a vital resource. The posting of vacant positions in our programs and the subsequent filling of them have been made very easy with the List Server. If you are not currently signed on as a member of the List Server, contact Margaret Tarpley at Margaret.tarpley@vanderbilt.edu with your email address and program name.

Address Updates

We are always in need of current names and addresses for residency coordinators. If you are a new coordinator, or if we do not have your current name, address, program name and email, please contact Kathy Garvin, at kathy.garvin@jax.ufl.edu so that she can add your name to the ARCS roster.

Mentor Network

ARCS established a Mentor Network to help with the “Am I the only one doing this?” and the “What do I do next?” questions, as well as to have a sounding board for the frustrated “Help!” There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting in New York for both mentors and ‘mentees’. We encourage all of you to participate in this important support system.

ARCS Academic Calendar

July

Start of New Academic Year

Orientation begins, Organize group photo, Complete SOL reporting, Organize welcome party.

August

SOL Due to ACGME

Medical Students register for ERAS

September

Programs Register for ERAS

FREIDA Survey Due

October

Payment of ABSITE Due

ARCS Steering Committee Planning Meeting

New Orleans, LA (10th –12th)

ACS meeting - New Orleans, LA (10th – 14th)

November

Dean’s Letters/Student Interviews

December

Final Changes to ABSITE Exam Requests

Organize holiday party.

Quick Reference

American Board of Surgery- ABS	215 568-4000	www.absurgery.org
American College of Surgeons- ACS	312 664-4050	www.facs.org
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education- ACGME-	312 464-4920	www.acgme.org
CPT Codes/Defined Categories - Dr. D. Stoll	312 755-5499	das@acgme.org
Residency Review Committee in Surgery- RRC	312 755-5047	
Residency Review Committee Newsletter- RRC	312 464-4687	
Association of Program Directors in Surgery- APDS		www.apds.org
APDS List Server		apds@topica.com
Association of American Medical College- AAMC		www.aamc.org
Electronic Residency Application Service- ERAS		www.aamc.org/eras/
National Resident Matching Program- NRMP		www.aamc.org/nrmp/

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