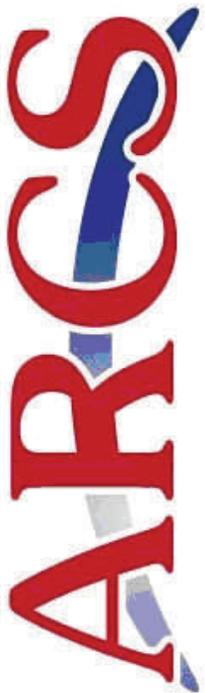


June Newsletter



NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2009



I think you should know who I am. I was born and raised in South Portland, Maine. After completing a two-year business degree I decided to “sow my oats” and travel the country. I visited every continental state and ended up in Seattle. There I became a medical assistant working at Virginia Mason Hospital. When I was ready to come back home I was able to transfer to the Department of Surgery at Maine Medical Center as the Chair’s secretary. I have remained in the department for 13 years, progressing from being secretary to the Chair, to secretary for education then after two years becoming the first recognized Residency Coordinator at Maine Medical Center. I am currently the Program Manager for Surgical Education. I received my BA in Organizational Leadership from the University of New England, a Project Management Certificate and TAGME certification. I will receive my Masters degree in Medical Education Leadership in June of 2010.

I have managed three program directors and two chairmen. I have been through three ACGME site visits with full accreditation each time.

As President of ARCS I will work diligently at being an effective leader. My peers on the committee are wonderful people and also share in the commitment of educating our membership. I am proud to work with these women. We are planning a spring meeting which will incorporate discussions of the most important issues facing surgical residency coordinators. We also are asking for abstracts from the membership on topics which they feel need to be discussed among us.

This year we will be working to help programs implement the SCORE curriculum, to help programs incorporate FLS into their residency structure and creating a website of transparency with resources for all. Surgical Education is changing rapidly as you are aware. In recognition of ARCS experience the vascular coordinators have asked us to help them create a forum for them to educate their peers. There are multiple other issues that the committee will try to tackle as well. If you have any ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact me anytime. I am looking forward to a successful year as your president.

June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME
President, Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009

MENTOR/MENTEE PROGRAM UPDATE:

At the Annual Meeting in April 2009 of ARCS in Salt Lake City, UT, four new coordinators signed up for a mentor. These coordinators will be paired with a seasoned coordinator by location and type of program; community versus university and size of program.

Mentees will be notified of their assigned mentor and asked to contact them for further information. To date, the Mentor/Mentee Program has a total of 28 members.

-Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME
ARCS Steering Committee

TAGME/STAC UPDATE:

There are now 41 certified coordinators! If you are interested in certification, visit the TAGME web site at www.tagme.org or contact Linda Billingsley at LBILLINGSLEY@swmail.sw.org.

Certified since ARCS 2008 and recognized at ARCS in SLC:

Certified - Tracy VanDeWeg

Maintenance Of Certification Completed - Kim Agretto, Judith Craig, Ava Fulbright, Betty Gardner, Gretchen Lynch, Suzanne Moon, Ruth Nawotniak, Rose Thomas, Laura Warner

Suzanne Moon, C-TAGME
STAC Member
ARCS Steering Committee



Tracy VanDeWeg, C-TAGME

2009-2010
Steering
Committee
Members

June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME

President
Maine Medical Center
Portland, ME
(207) 662-4078

Sandy DelCoglin, BS, C-TAGME

President-Elect
Christiana Care Health
Newark, DE
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Donna Guinto, AS, C-TAGME

Secretary
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Jeannine St. Pierre

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Suzanne Moon, BA, C-TAGME

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(617) 789-2990

Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME

Mentorship
Hospital of Saint Raphael
New Haven, CT
(203) 789-3443

Linda Shaffer, C-TAGME

Professional Development
West Virginia University
(304) 293-1254

Kim Agretto, C-TAGME

Past President
Easton Hospital
Easton, PA
(610) 250-4375

Welcome Lillian & Linda

On behalf of the ARCS Organization, please join us in welcoming Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME from the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, CT and Linda Shaffer, C-TAGME from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV as the newest members of the ARCS Steering Committee. Both Lillian and Linda were of great help to the Steering Committee at our recent meeting in Salt Lake City.



Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME

Lillian is the Senior Residency Program Coordinator of the General Surgery Residency Program at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut. She graduated from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT with an Associate Science degree in 1991. Presently, she is attending the Albertus Magnus College New Dimensions Program for a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Lillian became certified by the National Board of Certification Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education in 2007. She is also a Notary Public for the State of Connecticut.



Linda Shaffer, C-TAGME

Linda Shaffer has been a surgical residency program coordinator at West Virginia University since 1985 and one of the founding members of ARCS. In 2008, Linda received the ARCS Coordinator Recognition Award. She has served as a Board Member of the Surgical Training Administrator Certification (STAC) since 2007. Linda holds Certification by the National Board of Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education (TAGME). Linda has two grown sons Michael and Derek and one daughter Mikaela, still at home. She loves and enjoys spending time with her two grandchildren Dakota and Madilyn. Linda has three Labrador Retrievers, Zoe, Abbey and Zeke. In her spare time, she can be found on a soccer or softball field coaching, in a flower garden or in a kitchen cooking for everyone. She is an avid scrapbooker and instructor, and a mother and friend to many.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

More! More! More! There was an overwhelming response to the Professional Development Lectures that were held at Salt Lake City, UT. Each lecture received positive evaluations and comments. Overall, the attendees felt that these lectures were beneficial to their positions as coordinators. There were also program directors who attended these lectures. They also felt that the wealth of information that was given not only pertained to the coordinators, but also to the program directors themselves. We hope to continue these Professional Development Lectures in the future and we are asking for your help. Please submit any topics you want discussed at next year's meeting to the ARCS before July 31, 2009. See the Abstract Submission form in the back of this newsletter. These lectures are for the benefit of all.

-Linda Shaffer, C-TAGME
ARCS Steering Committee



**2009-2010
Steering
Committee
Members**

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Portland, ME
(207) 662-4078

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A New Coordinator's Experience at an ARCS Meeting

I arrived at the ARCS Conference in Salt Lake City, having been a coordinator for less than a year.

The conference began with the New Coordinator's Workshop, which was a fantastic primer. Seasoned veterans in the job explained the "nuts and bolts" of how to better do our job, on topics such as the operative log, evaluations, and educational conferences. As the conference progressed, guest speakers updated us with insights into the key components of how general surgery residency programs *should* function. Among the guest speakers were representatives from the ACGME, the ABS, the RRC, and the NRMP. These discussions were invaluable. The guest speaker's presentations gave me the opportunity to put a face with the name, and it was reassuring to receive the latest information directly from the source.

I found the breakout sessions especially useful. There were several topics to choose from, and it was beneficial to have the option to attend the sessions of greatest interest. I attended seminars on goals and objectives, ACGME site visits, and common citations given to residency programs. New to the conference this year were the "Professional Development Series" presentations that offered a certificate to those who attended.

The networking possibilities, also a highlight of the conference, allowed me to meet many coordinators from my area. I spent time discussing questions and scenarios with several coordinators, and learned quite a bit from those discussions. Additionally, the coordinators that were part ARCS leadership were approachable and informative, and also helped to set new coordinators up with mentors to help further their skills.

I came back from Salt Lake City enthusiastic, and eager to utilize some of the new techniques and ideas I learned. Since the conference, I have been in touch with several coordinators that I met, and have additionally been able to apply some of the information I learned to our surgical residency program's goals and objectives and electronic evaluations. I'm certainly looking forward to next year's conference in Texas, and I hope to see you there.

- Rebecca Augustine
Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, PA

2009 Coordinator Recognition Award

MICHELE BOWMAN – WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS HONORED AS THE 2009 COORDINATOR RECOGNITION RECIPIENT



Pictured L-R: Mary Klingensmith, Program Director, Nicholas Hamilton, Surgical Resident, Ryan Fields, Chief Resident

The ARCS Steering Committee received many nominations this past year for the 2009 Coordinator Recognition Award. It was not an easy decision and was based upon the criteria set forth by the Steering Committee which is:

- 1) Displays dedication of time and effort to the education of residency coordinators in surgery
- 2) Shows commitment to the education of peers through presentations or other active roles within the ARCS organization
- 3) Demonstrates leadership in professional organizations related to graduate medical education
- 4) Exhibits creativity, hard work, and enthusiasm within the individuals' residency program
- 5) Models professionalism
- 6) Demonstrates a strong interest in education while recognizing and encouraging others

I believe we truly surprised our Coordinator Recognition Recipient this year. Ms. Michele Bowman from Washington University in St. Louis was honored on Saturday, May 2, 2009 by the Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery. Michele was nominated by her Program Director, Ms. Mary Klingensmith and the Associate Program Director, Dr. Bradley Freeman. Michele has been a Residency Coordinator for 24 years and was described by Dr. Klingensmith and Dr. Freeman as a dedicated individual who goes over and beyond everyday. They also stated that Michele cares deeply about her residents, is a positive influence, and is an expert on all things related to ACGME. Michele is a member of the Association of Surgery Coordinators in Surgery and TAGME. Congratulations Michele!

2009 Coordinator Recognition Award

VALERIE GOUSMAN – TULANE UNIVERSITY HONORED



Picture L-R: Kim Agretto, C-TAGME, President-ARCS, Valerie Gousman, Coordinator Tulane University, Dr. James Korndorffer – Program Director

As we reviewed the nominations submitted this past year, one of the nominees stood above the rest and will be long remembered by the Steering Committee. We were all acutely aware of the devastation that Katrina caused on August 28, 2005. I know that I still have etched in my memory the thousands of people standing outside the Superdome in New Orleans and can still see water covering what was once a happy home with a yard and a swing set. The faces of the people of New Orleans are something all of us will never forget. We also remember the heroes – the stories of those who risked their life to help others, those who stayed behind to offer healthcare, those who searched the murky waters, and areas where a house once stood. We also remember the advertisement for placement of orphaned residents and many programs across the country helped those residents through a very trying time. There was another unsung hero also in New Orleans and her name is Valerie Gousman.

According to Dr. Korndorffer, Valerie was the first staff member back after Hurricane Katrina. He described her as committed, dedicated, and loyal. She has worked at Tulane University for 25 years and has trained six program directors. Dr. Korndorffer credits Valerie with helping to develop a stronger, educationally orientated residency program and believes that without her help the third oldest residency program in the country may have ceased to exist. As a Steering Committee, we felt it not only an honor but certainly our duty to recognize Valerie Gousman with the first ever ARCS Humanitarian Award. Congratulations Valerie!

Kim Agretto, C-TAGME
Immediate Past-President, ARCS

New ARCS Members

Please Join Us in Welcoming the Following New Members of ARCS.
These Coordinators Were Approved for Membership at the April 2009
APDS Board of Directors Meeting.

Rebecca Augustine

Abington Memorial Hospital
1200 Old York Road, Price Bldg, Ste 604
Abington, PA 19001

Rebecca Bernstein

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Blvd, Ste 8215 NT
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Eva Hayward

Lenox Hill Hospital
130 E. 77th Street, Fl. 13
New York, NY 10075

Jennifer Higgs

St. John Hospital & Medical Center
2215 Moross Road, Ste 332
Detroit, MI 48236

Catherine Nitto

Morristown Memorial Hospital
100 Madison Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07962

Molly Ostrowski

Greenville Hospital System
701 Grove Road
Greenville, SC 29605

Juliet Ramirez

Kaiser Permanente
437 W. Sunset Blvd, 3rd floor
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Alayna Rini

Cleveland Clinic
9500 Euclid Avenue, Ste A100
Cleveland, OH 44195

Leslie Simmonds

The Brooklyn Hospital Center
121 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Stacy Snead-Peterson

UPMC Mercy
1400 Locust Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Allison Stein

Drexel University School of Medicine
245 N. 15th Street, MS 413
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Angela Stewart

Tulane University Health Sciences Center
1430 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

Tammy Watson

Duke University Medical Center
PO Box 3443-DUMC
Durham, NC 27710



NOT A MEMBER YET?

Complete an application form (attached to this newsletter or on the web)

1. Attach current CV
2. Attach a letter of support from your program director

Mail all the above to:
APDS/ARCS Headquarters Office
6400 Goldsboro Road, Ste 450
Bethesda, MD 20817

VASCULAR RESIDENT COORDINATORS SUB-COMMITTEE

Due to the many changes in vascular surgery training and the increasing need for interaction with general surgery training programs, the ARCS Steering Committee has decided to form a Vascular Sub-Specialty Committee.

The name of the sub-committee will be “Association of Vascular Coordinators” or AVC. The goal of this committee will be to give the vascular coordinators a place to come together to talk about the many challenges we face with our ever expanding role.

The first meeting of the Sub-Specialty Committee was held during the ARCS Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City in April 2009. Sixteen vascular coordinators attended. A presentation on the results of a vascular coordinator survey was given and Dr. Amy Reed, vascular program director for the University of Cincinnati, gave an update on the status of vascular surgery.

A Google group has been set up to make it easy for vascular surgery coordinators to correspond with each other and share information. If you are interested in joining this group, please send an email to the address below.

STAC is working on the tools needed to certify vascular surgery coordinators. The biggest need is suggestions for questions to use on the exam. Please send your suggestions for questions to the email below.

To make this website effective and useful for coordinators, we need suggestions for topics and contents. Please send in any suggestions or questions you have and they will be used as topics for the website.

Julie A. Gulley
Vascular Sub-Committee Chairman
513-558-5367



Julie Gulley and Sandy DelCoglin

If you would like to join the Google group, or if you have questions or topics that can be content on our website or can be used for the certifying exam, please send them to: Julie.gulley@uc.edu



2010 MEETING ABSTRACTS

The ARCS Steering Committee needs your input! If you have an idea for a presentation, panel discussion or break out session we want to hear from you!!

The committee is responsible for the development of the spring conference. We need everyone's input regarding new topics and sessions that would benefit us all in our roles. We can only be successful with your help. If you are not willing to present but have an idea to share or topic you would like to learn more about please complete the abstract form and the committee will try to find a way to incorporate that into next years conference.

To submit an abstract please fill out the attached form and return it to:

June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME

President, ARCS

207-662-4078 - phone

camerj@mmc.org





2010 ABSTRACT FORM

Name(s): _____

Institution(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax : _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE

Type of Presentation: Panel _____ Individual _____

Breakout Session _____

Topic _____

Goals & Objectives of presentation: Please attach separate sheet if necessary.

PLEASE RETURN ABSTRACT FORM TO:

June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME

President, ARCS

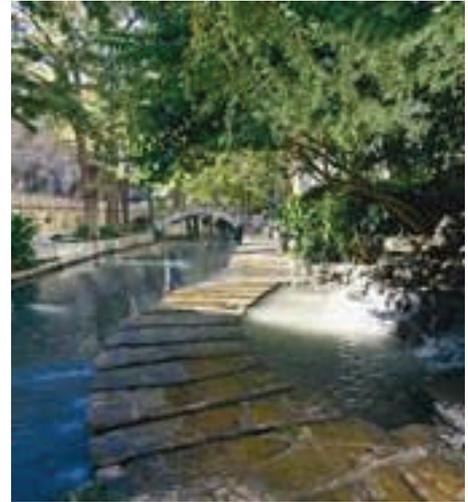
by email camerj@mmc.org

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

The 2010 Spring Meeting of the ASE/APDS/ARCS

April 20-24, 2010
Grand Hyatt
San Antonio, TX

It's a grand, new hotel that "blends modernism and the Latin culture",
right near The San Antonio River Walk area!



Dine-Out Groups in San Antonio

The Dine Outs in Salt Lake City were a great success again this year! We went to three different restaurants with at least 15 coordinators at each place. Thank you to all who attended it was a great deal of fun!

I am working on plans for our Dine Outs in San Antonio. I hope to find some great selections along the River Walk which will make for a beautiful evening! There are so many great cuisines to choose from including Tex-Mex, Southwest, Texas-Style, as well as French, Greek, and Italian!
I'm getting down right hungry now!

I look forward to seeing
everyone in San Antonio!

-Jeannine St. Pierre
ARCS Steering Committee



Submit an Article to the Journal of Surgical Education!

Since the January/February 2006 issue of The Journal of Surgical Education, a section entitled "Program Coordinator's Corner" is available to publish contributions by those who manage the day-to-day activities of our residency programs. This section appears when an article written by the coordinator or education director is submitted and accepted by the JSE Editorial Board. This journal is the only one that I know of that supports its coordinators and their efforts to publish manuscripts that are geared towards the coordinator, but have applications to the program directors as well. Articles written by coordinators have appeared in the following issues of the JSE:

January/February 2006

March/April 2006

July/August 2006

September/October 2006

November/December 2006

March/April 2007

July/August 2007

I encourage you to put in writing what we verbally share in our discussion with each other at our conferences - what is working in our programs. It could be a best practice, an educational activity that incorporates one or more of the competencies, an outcome of the annual program review that resulted in an improvement in your program, to name just a few topics or areas. Your article would be reviewed by the ARCS JSE Editorial Review Board before being submitted to the JSE Review Board. The purpose for the ARCS board is to give assistance to those unfamiliar with manuscript structure and/or unsure of their writing skills.

Please let me know if you are interested in taking advantage of this unique opportunity or if you have an idea to share but are not sure of where to go with it.

-Ruth Nawotniak, C-TAGME
STAC Committee



Association of Residency
Coordinators in Surgery

**Consider Applying for the ARCS Steering Committee!
It's hard work, but it's fun!**





**Association of Residency
Coordinators in Surgery**

Steering Committee Application for 2010

Name: _____ Program Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Program Director: _____ Years as a coordinator: _____

Are you a member of ARCS? Y N

To be considered for the ARCS Steering Committee you must be a member of ARCS and have the full support of your program.

Membership: The ARCS 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 ARCS. Associate membership can be obtained by sending a letter of request, along with a current curriculum vitae and a letter of support from your Program Director, to:

APDS/ARCS Headquarters Office
6400 Goldsboro Road
Suite 450
Bethesda, MD
20817-5846

Steering Committee: The ARCS Steering Committee is comprised of a maximum of nine members. Each member serves a four-year term. The Jr. Past President will serve one additional year and fill the ninth position. Officers are elected from the Steering Committee as follows:

President: one-year term

President-elect: one-year term

Secretary: maximum two-year term

To be a member of the Steering Committee you must:

1. be a member of ARCS
2. have attended at least three APDS/ARCS meetings
3. show written and financial support from your program director
4. be able to attend all Steering Committee meetings
5. be willing to host a planning meeting if elected president

***Please send all completed materials to June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME
President, ARCS
Maine Medical Center
22 Bramhall Street
Portland, ME 04102***



2010 Coordinator Recognition Award

Established in 2006 this award is given to the person who best exemplifies dedication and commitment to the support of their Residency Program and one who continually contributes to the overall management of their program.

The recipient should be someone who:

- Displays dedication of time and effort to the education of residency coordinators in surgery
- Shows commitment to the education of peers through presentations or other active roles within the ARCS organization
- Demonstrates leadership in professional organizations related to graduate medical education
- Exhibits creativity, hard work, and enthusiasm within the individual's residency program
- Models professionalism
- Demonstrates a strong interest in education while recognizing and encouraging others.

Criteria for submission:

Complete the nomination application

Include a photo

*Steering Committee members are not eligible for a period of four years following completion of their term.

*Please send all completed materials to
June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME
President, Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery
Maine Medical Center
22 Bramhall Street
Portland, ME 04102
camerj@mmc.org*

**Nomination application deadline is
September 25, 2009**

More pics from SLC!



THANK YOU!

Some of us might not hear that very often, but we know how hard a residency coordinator works, especially at this time of year!

Let's give ourselves a collective pat on the back and hope we can get a break soon! Treat yourself in your favorite way.

You're doing a great job!!