

Message From The President



January is always a tough month especially in Maine. It is dark, cold and you can barely see around the snow banks. Interview season is winding down and we are all preparing for the ABSITE exam and the match. What helps me get through January is thinking about spring time. The snow has melted, the sun is still out when you go home from work and we can put away our winter jackets for another year. The best part about springtime is the ARCS meeting. This year we will be meeting in San Antonio at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on the Riverwalk. I enjoy seeing all the new and seasoned coordinators and brainstorming with them about their best practices. This meeting always rejuvenates me as a Program Manager and I always learn new ways to improve my program.

I must recognize the hard work and diligence of the steering committee. Everyone has been working very hard for ARCS and to create an excellent program for everyone. This is a big job and cannot be done alone. Thank you!

We put out several calls for abstracts and you answered. Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts. The ARCS program starts Monday afternoon with the **ARCS New Coordinators' Workshop and Dine-Out Groups**. The main ARCS program begins Tuesday morning with the American Board of Surgery Update by Barbara Jalbert-Gerkens, Michele Silver's address on "The Coordinator as Educator," and Pamela Rowland, Ph.D., and Julie Gulley covering "Developing Communication Competencies through Mock Orals". Afternoon program features an address by Kimberly Schenarts, PhD, "The Long and Winding Road," as well as workshops covering the coordinator's job manual, using the surgical education lab meeting to foster better communication between educators and residents, and simulation in the PGY-1 rotation, followed by the special ARCS Welcoming Reception on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, ARCS parallels the APDS with inclusion of Dr. Borman's Presidential Address, as well as sessions on the ARCS Steering Committee, an update on the RRC from its Chair, Dr. Thomas Whalen, and Peggy Simpson, Ph.D. and Thomas Richter with "ACGME and Case Log News." Informative sessions continue in the afternoon with Dr. James Whiting on "Addressing Deficiencies in Communications and Professionalism Competencies", Margaret Tarpley discussing innovative general surgery website management, and a review from some experienced coordinators about the surgery site review. Additional special ARCS presentations continue on Thursday morning, including "Using the Dashboard in GME, an Update on the SCORE program, and an open forum, "Ask the Committee" session. ARCS will join in the APDS program for the Thursday morning keynote address. **The Joint APDS, ARCS, ASE Reception is Wednesday night.**

I am looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio!
June Cameron, BA, C-TAGME
President

2009-2010 Steering Committee Members

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NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

ACS PRESENTATION TO MEDICAL STUDENTS

We did such a good job
they invited us back...

At our August planning session in Maine, the Steering Committee was informed that we had been invited to present to the medical students, for the second year in a row, at the American College of Surgeons meeting. Steering Committee members were very excited and enthusiastic about the invitation. Actually we all were honored to be invited back.

The ARCS Steering Committee along with Ruth Nawotniak, MS, C-TAGME, Buffalo, NY, Jennifer Doty, RN, Medical Student Clinical Program Coordinator, Columbia, MO, and Gretchen Lynch, C-TAGME, Columbia, MO, presented: "Resident Interviews – The Keys to Success" at the American College of Surgeons 95th Annual Clinical Congress in Chicago on Monday, October 12, 2009. Following the formal presentation, a mock interview session was held. I would like to extend a special thank you to our actors: Deanna M. Blanchard, MD, Christiana Care Health System, Newark, DE, David Farley, MD, FACS, Director, Surgical Residency Program, Rochester, MN, Eric Hager, MD, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, Harjeet Kohli, M.D., FACS, FRCS, Director, Surgical Residency Program, Easton, PA, and James F. Whiting, MD, FACS, Director, Surgical Residency Program, Portland, ME.

The second half of our program, "Memorable for the Right Reasons – Bring Your Personal Story and Turn It into an Effective Personal Statement" afforded medical students the opportunity to work with ARCS Program Administrators to polish their personal statements and to answer any questions they had regarding the surgery interview process. In addition to Steering Committee members, and those listed above, thank you to Ava Fulbright, C-TAGME, Columbia, MO, and Judith Olenwine, C-TAGME, Allentown, PA, for their participation and the sharing of their expertise.

The presentation was a huge success. Approximately 70 medical students attended and seemed to be exceedingly impressed with the overview of the surgical residency program interview process. Many valuable take home pointers were obtained by all in attendance and an extended question and answer session appeared to be very gratifying for the medical students.

On behalf of the ARCS Steering Committee I would like to thank and congratulate all participants on a job well done and for representing ARCS in a very professional manner! Keep your fingers crossed, perhaps we will get invited back again next year....



Sandy K. DeCoglin, BS, C-TAGME
President-Elect

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THE NEW COORDINATORS WORK SHOP

The New Coordinators Work Shop is scheduled for Monday, 4/19/10 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

At our planning meeting in Chicago, some fresh ideas surfaced. New to the program will be a new coordinator from last year's meeting giving her perspective on the value of the NCWS and we will also have a Panel of Experts for any questions the audience may have.

The NCWS program will include:

- ARCS Overview
- New Coordinator's Perspective
- Alphabet Soup and Residency Program language
- Timeline
- Competencies & Duty Hours
- Evaluations
- Mandatory Curriculum Rules
- Operative Log
- Recruitment
- Question & Answer Session

We are also excited that this year we will be using an audience response system. The audience response system should bring interactivity to our meeting by allowing the audience to answer multiple-choice questions anonymously via a keypad. Almost instantly, results are collected and can be displayed on a screen or exported for reporting and analysis.



Donna Guinto, C-TAGME
Philadelphia, PA

The 2010 Surgical Education Week
ARCS/APDS/ASE
April 19-24, 2010



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

DINE OUTS

In less than 3 months we will all be gathering again for our annual conference in sunny San Antonio, Texas! I am excited at all the great things there are to do along the River Walk. While we are here, the Fiesta San Antonio will be in full swing. You can find out all the details about the Fiesta at <http://www.fiesta-sa.org/>. It's an eleven day celebration honoring the memory of the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto.

If you choose to rent a car you can venture out about an hour north to Texas' own wine country. Follow the Wine and Wildflower Trail to sample some of the wines produced by more than 20 wineries. For the rowdier type, you may want to spend an evening at Howl at the Moon, an interactive, sing-a-long, dueling piano bar.

Some other great nearby attractions are the Alamo, Six Flags, Sea World, Brackenridge Park (like Central Park) as well as a Golf Museum.

We will again have our popular dine outs for new and seasoned coordinators. The restaurants selected for our dine-out groups are located along the River Walk. There is The County Line BBQ which has been road tasted by the Deen Brothers. It has a fun Texas roadhouse atmosphere. Next is Rita's on the River (also known as an Ice House). Rita's is a mexican restaurant known for its Texas size Margarita's! And Last but not least is Texas Land and Cattle Steakhouse known for their great steaks of Texas. We will have sign-up sheets and menus at registration and following the new coordinators workshop.

This is just a fraction of the great restaurants located along the River Walk. I highly recommend that you visit www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com to view all the restaurants and happenings along the River Walk. Please also take a look at the s.a.v.e. section on www.visitsanantonio.com for savings on area attractions as well as updates on the area happenings.

This will be my first trip to San Antonio and I cannot tell you how excited I am to be visiting this fun filled city. I look forward to seeing all my old friends again and making new ones!

See y'all real soon now!



Jeannine St. Pierre
University of Massachusetts



Dining out in Salt Lake City.



Dining out in Toronto.



Dining out in Washington, DC.

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The advancement of skills or expertise to succeed in a particular profession, esp. through professional associations. It is ARCS's goal to increase competence, performance, improve and broaden the coordinator's knowledge and skills and develop the personal qualities required in their professional lives.

The following Professional Development lectures are scheduled for the spring meeting in San Antonio, TX.
The General Surgery Residency Website - Margaret Tarpley, MLS
The Coordinator as Educator: Building an Educational Retreat - Michele Silver, Med
The Long and Winding Road...not just a Beatles Tune...- Kimberly Schenarts, PhD

Each Professional Development lecture will require you to sign an attendance sheet and complete an evaluation with your name and address. Certificates will only be sent to attendees that have attended the lecture/s and completed an evaluation.

The Professional Development lectures can be used toward initial certification or as part of the requirements of continued certification for TAGME. (Keep your certificate in a safe place as you are required to submit a copy for certification).



Linda S. Shaffer, C-TAGME
Professional Development

SCORE

As you no doubt know, the Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) released in August 2009 the *General Surgery Resident Curriculum Portal* to all U.S. general surgery training programs. The purpose of this website is to provide high-quality educational materials aligned with the SCORE national curriculum to all general surgery residents.

The portal currently covers more than 200 patient care topics, all organized according to SCORE's *Patient Care Curriculum Outline*. Each topic module contains learning objectives, discussion questions, and educational materials, including chapters from major surgical textbooks, videos of surgical procedures and radiologic images. Modules covering the systems-based practice competency have also been made available to PGY-3 residents. In addition, residents can now take self-assessment quizzes on basic science and clinical management using questions from the American Board of Surgery (ABS). SCORE is also working on the medical knowledge competency and will post relevant modules and resources on the portal in the months ahead.

SCORE will be demonstrating the portal at the APDS/ARCS annual meeting in April to assist programs in using the site's resources. Feedback from program coordinators is greatly appreciated as the portal develops and can be sent to info@surgicalcore.org.

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MENTORING PROGRAM

Mentor: "A wise and trusted counselor or teacher."

The **Mentorship Program** was established years ago to provide support to the new coordinators (<3 years experience). The program pairs experienced coordinators (>3 years experience) with new coordinators. This support system was established to help new coordinators understand the many requirements from the ACGME, ABS, and RRC and to let them know that they are not alone in their endeavor. The veteran and the inexperienced coordinator interact; exchange ideas, problems solve, determine answers to questions, make acquaintances, and in many circumstances create lasting relationships.

As a new member of the Steering Committee for ARCS, at the APDS/ARCS Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, I was given the task to maintain the Mentoring Program. Fourteen new coordinators signed up to have a seasoned mentor coordinator assigned to them. The assignments were completed and the mentee and mentors were notified via telephone and email.

If you are a new coordinator who recently started in your role as the surgical residency program coordinator and would like to request to have an experienced coordinator assigned to be your mentor, please contact me via email. I will be happy to assign you a seasoned coordinator who is close to your location and who handles a similar, university or community program.

Seasoned coordinators, interested in participating in the the mentoring program and have not been assigned a new coordinator, please let me know.

We will have the sign-up sheets available at the upcoming meeting during the New Coordinator's Workshop in April in San Antonio, TX.



Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME
Mentor Program and Membership



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New ARCS Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members of ARCS. The following coordinators were approved for membership at the October 2009 APDS Board of Directors meeting.

Gisela Aaron

University of Arizona
1501 N. Campbell Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85724

Laurie Cooper

Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital
1835 Franklin Street
Denver, CO 80218

Jennie Jankowski

UCSF Fresno
445 South Cedar Avenue
Fresno, CA 93702

MEMBERSHIP

Are you a member of ARCS?

The Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery (ARCS) is a great organization to belong to. It is a professional established organization for the surgical residency program coordinators, and it provides educational resources, as well as, encourages the exchange of ideas and supportive networking with other coordinators that manage surgery residency programs. In addition, it provides you the opportunity to become certified and, if desired, become a member of the Steering Committee. It is definitely a privilege to be a member.

To become a member of ARCS, the process is simple. The requirements are a letter of support from your Program Director with a copy of your resume. All documents must be submitted to:

APDS/ARCS Headquarters Office
6400 Goldsboro Road, Suite 450
Bethesda, MD 20817-1200
Phone: (301) 320-1200
Fax (301) 263-9025

ARCS is supported by the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS) and when you submit your application to become a member of ARCS, your application will also be considered for membership of APDS. Applications for membership are voted on by the Executive Committee of APDS during the APDS fall planning session at the American College of Surgeons meeting as well as the APDS/ARCS annual spring meeting. Applications should be submitted in advanced for approval. The application is available online at the APDS/ARCS website www.apds/arcs.org.

For our upcoming meeting in San Antonio, Texas, we will update the ARCS membership list online. The updates will be completed in February. Please make sure to email me any changes of your program information. In addition, we plan to present at the meeting to each of the ARCS members, a recognition for being part of our organization. I encourage you to register early. A copy of the APDS/ARCS registration is now available online.

I look forward to seeing you at the APDS/ARCS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX in April 2010!

Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME
Mentor Program and Membership

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

WHY JOIN THE ARCS STEERING COMMITTEE

I was appointed to the ARCS Steering Committee in 2005 by President, Juanita Braxton. I was scared, but yet excited that I would be joining the Steering Committee and would have the opportunity to work along side those women who I watched from afar with admiration. My hope was that maybe one day I would be able to be the mentor instead of the mentee and make a difference.

Yes, we were all at one time a new coordinator trying to find our way through the masses of rules and regulations and all those letters that seemed to crop up differently every day – ABS, ACGME, RRC, ACS. The women who I saw from a distance, while sitting in the audience, knew so much about all these rules and seemed to have everything in order and together. How in the world was I ever going to be able to remember everything they said and more importantly, I prayed that no one would ask me a question for fear I would give the wrong answer. I have found that everyone, whether it be a new coordinator or a seasoned coordinator, had a lot to share and offer when it came taking care of running their program.

I highly recommend that each and every coordinator consider applying to be a member of the ARCS Steering Committee. The knowledge, assistance, and friendship that I have gained throughout the years will stay with me for the rest of my life.

I believe that being a part of the Steering Committee helps you to develop team building skills which you can then take back to your institution. These team building skills will assist you on other committees to which you are appointed. It also helps to build confidence and keeps you fully abreast of all current rules and regulations that affect your program.

On a personal level, it helps with regard to your own professional development. Personally, it has helped me to grow both professionally and personally. Years ago if I had been asked to present to anyone, I would have said absolutely not. Now I have no problem presenting to my peers, physicians, residents, or students. The Steering Committee has helped me to become confident when presenting and now the fear I once had is a thing of the past.

The best part of being a member of the Steering Committee is the friendships and bonds that you make with other coordinators across the country. The friendship extends past the yearly meetings through ARCS; you get to know your fellow coordinators on a personal level. You meet their families, know what they like and dislike, you agree to disagree and remain friends. Your bond extends past the job and now you are friends with the job being a secondary.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, I believe that ARCS has enriched my life in many ways. I highly recommend that you become involved as a Steering Committee member to share your expertise with other members. Your life will be changed in many ways for the better.



Kim Agretto, C-TAGME
Immediate Past President



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VASCULAR SURGERY COORDINATOR UPDATE

Vascular surgery coordinators are facing mounting challenges as programs offer additional training tracks and, as with all surgery training programs, the requirements of managing a program continue to increase. Over 20 organizations have started an Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency, which adds an additional program to manage; including separate interview seasons and rotation schedules. These vascular surgery residents spend two years training in general surgery and three years training in vascular surgery. Many vascular coordinators struggle to acquire the knowledge needed to help make the programs a success.

ARCS has been instrumental in helping the vascular coordinators organize and unite. The original plan was for the coordinators to form a subcommittee under ARCS but the APDVS has asked that the coordinators form an association under their direction and begin meeting with their organization. Julie Gulley, vascular surgery coordinator from the University of Cincinnati, has taken a leadership role and has formed the Association of Vascular Coordinators (AVSC) with the help of coordinators Peggy Mauer and Nan Siebert. The AVSC will hold its inaugural meeting at the upcoming APDVS meeting in Chicago, April 16 & 17, 2010.

The executive committee of the APDVS has asked vascular surgery program directors to allow and encourage coordinators to join the AVSC and to attend the meeting in April. In order to promote membership in the AVSC, the APDVS will not charge due. Coordinators will still need to fill out a membership application, which will be posted on the APDVS website (<http://apdvs.vascularweb.org/>). Registration for the conference will also be available on the APDVS website.

Topics of the inaugural meeting will include:

- Site visit/Internal review preparation
- Rolling calendar for vascular coordinators
- Making Sense of 0/5, 4/2, 3/3, 5/2
- Dealing with the problem resident
- Surgical Principles Exam
- Networking session for interacting with colleagues to exchange ideas and information

If you coordinate a vascular program or if your institution is considering starting an integrated vascular residency program, you are encouraged to attend the April meeting.

Any questions or comments can be sent to:

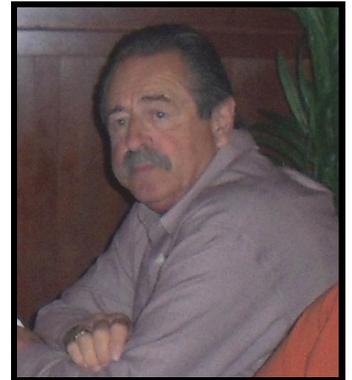
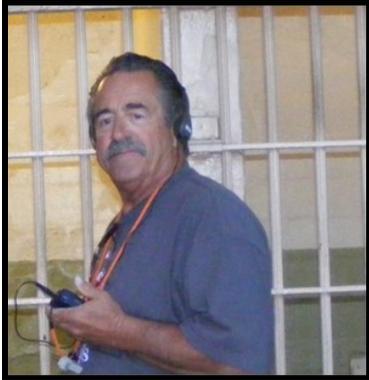
Julie Gulley
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Julie Gulley
Vascular Administrative Coordinator

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCY COORDINATORS IN SURGERY



In loving memory of Frank DelCoglin, Jr. who passed away on Thursday, January 14th 2010. Frank and Sandy were married for 16 years and during that time Frank always attended the ARCS meetings. We will all miss him dearly!

Our hearts and prayers are with Sandy for the loss she is dealing with.

**With Love,
June, Kim, Donna, Barb, Jeannine, Linda and Lillian
(ARCS Steering Committee)**

(photos taken in San Francisco 2008 and Chicago 2009)

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**The 2010 Surgical Education Week
ARCS/APDS/ASE
April 19-24, 2010
San Antonio, TX**

ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCY COORDINATORS IN SURGERY



The Alamo



The River Walk



A Texas Sunset



**Grand Hyatt
San Antonio
Host Hotel**



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



**Barb Carter, C-TAGME
Newsletter Chair/Editor**