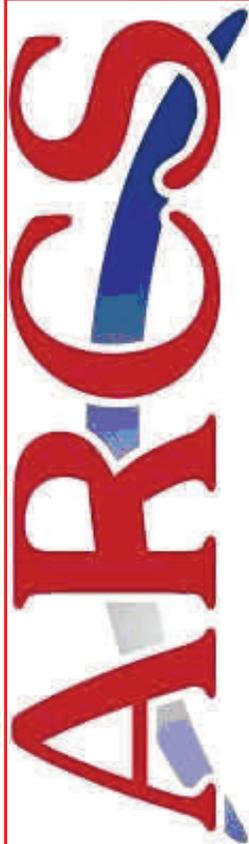


**NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2012**



*Mark
your
Calendar*

**SURGICAL EDUCATION WEEK
APDS/ARCS/ASE Annual Meeting
April 23-27, 2013
Gaylord Palms, Orlando (Kissimmee), Florida**

Sun-drenched and spectacular, Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center brings excitement to life through world-class restaurants, dynamic on-site recreation, and breathtakingly beautiful gardens under glass. Our signature atriums, tropical and lush, recreate three Florida environments, immersing you in the sights and sounds that make the Sunshine State a top vacation destination. From the gently rising mists of the Everglades, to the funky and vibrant island revelry of Key West, to the Spanish-infused, old-world charm of St. Augustine, you'll delight in these unique Florida-themed settings. You have to see this to believe it!

The hotel itself was built in the sumptuous style and grandeur of a turn-of-the-century Florida mansion, but with the modern amenities and deluxe accommodations of a world-renowned luxury hotel.

Located just 1.5 miles from the front gate of Walt Disney World® and in close proximity to other Orlando theme parks, Gaylord Palms Hotel is just 20 minutes from Orlando International airport.

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**2012-2013
Executive**

Committee Members

President & APDS

Representative for ARCS

Linda Shaffer, C-TAGME
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia
304.293.1254

lishaffer@hsc.wvu.edu

**President-Elect & Membership
Chair**

Mary Burda
University of Toledo
Toledo, Ohio
419.383.6462
mary.burda@utoledo.edu

Executive Secretary

Chi Quach
University of California
Los Angeles, California
310.206.9291
cquach@mednet.ucla.edu

Newsletter Chair & Website

Manager

Stephanie Rowe Burnham
Vanderbilt University Medical
Center
Nashville, Tennessee
615.343.6642
stephanie.rowe@vanderbilt.edu

**ARCS Liaison Representative to
ACS**

Lillian Figueroa, BS, C-TAGME
Saint Raphael Campus of YNH
New Haven, Connecticut
203.789.3443

lillian.figueroa@ynhh.org

Professional Development

**Chair, Certificates &
Mentor/Mentee**

Dawn Fountain
University of Kansas
Wichita, Kansas
316.268.5990
dfountain@kumc.edu

**SCORE Representative,
Certificates & Mentor/Mentee**

Laura Warner, C-TAGME
Guthrie/Robert Packer Hospital
Sayre, Pennsylvania
570.887.3585

warner_laura@guthrie.org

**Sunshine, Roommate & Social
Event Chair**

Kim Molteg, C-TAGME
UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School
New Brunswick, New Jersey
732.235.7674
moltegke@umdnj.edu

Past President & Consultant

Donna Guinto, AS, C-TAGME
Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
215.955.6864
donna.guinto@jefferson.edu

Message From The President



Happy New Year! I hope that you were able to take a break and come up for a breath of air from the hustle and bustle of the holidays and the interview season. I, like the rest of you, am back to work finishing up the interview season, getting ready for the ABSITE Exam and crossing my fingers and toes that there will not be technical difficulties this year. Oh, and not to mention NRMP match and SOAP. I can feel my ulcer coming back! Thankfully, I can glimpse over the snow drifts and the bitter cold weather that spring will be here in three months and the Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery (ARCS) conference will be held in the sunny, warm city of Orlando, Florida. Please let it be sunny, so that we can enjoy the warmth. I hope that the dreadful, cold weather does not follow us there as it did in San Diego.

This year the conference will be held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel, from April 23-27, 2013. I will enjoy seeing all the new and seasoned coordinators. Whether this is your first meeting or your twenty-seventh meeting, the wealth of knowledge is invaluable. From personal experience and from other coordinators, I have learned that once you leave an ARCS meeting you are rejuvenated and eager to share the information you have gleaned with your programs. I am confident that you will have the same experience after attending this meeting.

I must recognize that the experience would not be possible without an outstanding executive committee that has worked diligently this year and over the past four years, for ARCS. Each year the ARCS program continues to offer valuable information and this year is no exception. We have an extraordinary program planned again for this year. This is a colossal job and cannot be done alone. Thank you to my executive committee for working as a team.

Our recent planning session was in Chicago in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons 98th Annual Clinical Congress. The ARCS Executive Committee accepted an invitation from Dr. Sachdeva, ACS Executive Director of Education and the American College of Surgeons 98th Annual Clinical Congress, for the 6th year to coordinate a special program for medical students "Now That You Want to Become A Surgeon: Strategies for Success". For the second year Ms. Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME, ACS/ARCS representative did an excellent job in coordinating the session and leading the Executive Committee. An awe-inspired audience of over three hundred medical students attended the session. Thank you to Kim Agretto for this outstanding opportunity that she initiated several years ago. The ARCS Executive Committee is honored to be involved with this educational session of the ACS.

Message From The President

We received an overwhelming number of excellent abstracts this year and it was truly hard to choose which presentations to accept. After 2 days of meetings we were able to put together an extraordinary program. It was invigorating to see abstracts submitted not only from coordinators, but from program directors, residents and educators this year; they were all outstanding and thank you for the submission to the ARCS. At our 2013 conference, we will have four Professional Development Sessions; “Team Building Strategies and Processes”, “Mean Girls, Mean Boys”, “Public Speaking”, and “Outside the Job Activities for Self Improvement”. We will have a special 2 ½ hour panel presentation with discussion and questions on the Next Accreditation System (NAS) with Dr. James Hebert, Dr. Peggy Simpson and Dr. John Potts. A first-hand Clinical Learning Environment (CLER) Review experience presentation from an Alpha site. Updates and new requirements from the American Board of Surgery (ABS), Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS), ACS Fundamentals of Surgery and Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE). This is just a sneak peek of over forty invaluable presentations (including the new coordinators workshop) that will be given at the conference. ARCS will join in the APDS program for the Thursday keynote address. The Joint APDS, ARCS, ASE Reception will be held on Thursday evening.

The Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery (ARCS) registration will open on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 8:30 am. Once the meeting registration form is available, please review carefully: 1) a fee has been added, and 2) attendees must be a coordinator for 0-5 years to attend. The New Coordinators Workshop (NCWS) will begin at 10:00 am and adjourn at 5:00 pm. The ARCS will run a full conference agenda beginning on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 7:00 am and ending on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at Noon. I am happy to report that the Executive Committee received numerous qualified applicants to join the committee and it was very hard to select and vote on only one application this year. The 2013 Executive Committee will once again have a full complement of members. We will continue the new tradition of special awards. This year we will have a door prize to be given out at the end of each conference day starting on Thursday. Winner must be present to collect. We will also have a special award given to the newest coordinator.

During our 2012 ARCS Conference in San Diego we learned of the passing of Mr. Bob Hamilton. He was the person involved in directing all of us where we need to be and to get there on time by ringing the school bell. Donna Guinto and the Executive Committee suggested that we take a donated collection and send the money to the US Navy Seals Museum in Bob’s honor and memory. At our fall planning meeting, I wanted to do something more. I recommended to the Executive Committee to take Donna’s suggestion and add to it and start a new ARCS tradition. The president of the Executive Committee will contact the residency coordinator in the city hosting our conference each year. The president will ask for three charities that the EC will vote on at the fall planning meeting.

The charity will be announced at the ARCS conference and funds would be collected for the three days while attending the conference. The president can take charge and also select a different charity outside the host city; this may be necessary due to disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. The contribution will be from the ARCS Organization in honor of Mr. Bob Hamilton. This project will be called “B.O.B.” - Because of Bob.

Message From The President

Finally, after being a member of ARCS for the last 27 years and an Executive Committee member for the last five, I have watched the organization grow in attendance from 10 to over 200 and become one of the most recognized, respected and leading organizations of residency coordinators/managers in the country. This would not have been possible without you. The ARCS organization supports each other, contributes, shares educational knowledge and is eager to grow professionally. Former RRC Director, Dr. Doris Stoll has made this quote to our organization on more than one occasion: "*Others try to copy; ARCS may be mimicked, but will never be replaced*". I whole heartily believe this to be true for the ARCS organization.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in warm and sunny Orlando, Florida in April. Until then wishing all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and good luck in the Match. If you have any questions, suggestions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at lishaffer@hsc.wvu.edu.

Linda



**98th American College of Surgeons
Annual Clinical Congress Meeting
October 1, 2012—Chicago, IL**



“Now That You Want to Become A Surgeon: Strategies for Success”

The American College of Surgeon (ACS) presentation to the medical students was held in Chicago on Monday, October 1, 2012 and was an amazing success. Over 300 medical students, both American and international, attended the presentation. The program consisted of:

Opening Remarks & Moderator

Linda Shaffer, C-TAGME, ARCS President, *Morgantown, WV*

Strategies for Success: Surgical Residency Training

Paula M. Termuhlen, MD, FACS, APDS President, *Milwaukee, WI*

Evaluating Potential Residency Programs

Mary Burda, ARCS Executive Member, *Toledo, OH*

Interview Process: Keys for Success

Lillian Figueroa, C-TAGME, ARCS Executive Member, *New Haven, CT*

Interview Questions: First and Lasting Impressions

Stephanie Rowe, ARCS Executive Member, *Nashville, TN*

Overview of Academic Skills: ACS Fundamentals of Surgery and Surgery Boot Camp

Niels D. Martin, MD, FACS, Associate Program Director, *Philadelphia, PA*

A Resident’s Perspective: Internship Year and Duty Hours

Katherine Klein, MD, R2, MD, *Toledo, OH*

Valerie Takyi, MD, R2, *Toledo, OH*

Family Life and Residency: The Balance

Karen A. Chojnacki, MD, FACS, Program Director, *Philadelphia, PA*

Ask the Experts Panel

Raul M. Bosio, MD, *Toledo, OH*

Karen A. Chojnacki, MD, FACS, *Philadelphia, PA*

Donna Guinto, C-TAGME, *Philadelphia, PA*

Katherine Klein, MD, *Toledo, OH*

Matthew S. Loos, MD, *Morgantown, WV*

Niels D. Martin, MD, FACS, *Philadelphia, PA*

Valerie Takyi, MD, *Toledo, OH*

Paula M. Termuhlen, MD, FACS, *Milwaukee, WI*

The medical students were able to ask the panel questions and obtain valuable information. The program evaluation was distributed at the beginning of the session and collected at the conclusion. Overall, the evaluation summary is excellent with high ratings.

In summary, the students agreed that the topics presented were excellent, relevant, and helpful in the planning of their medical education. The students recommended having the presentation again next year. They agreed it was the best conference. Overall, the presentation was an amazing success and the largest session attended by the medical students in the past five years.

The ARCS Executive Committee thanks Dr. Ajit Sachdeva, ACS Executive Director of Education and Kim Eckert, ACS Coordinator and staff for all of their support with the promotion of the program and inviting yearly the ARCS Executive Committee to participate. It is the amazing teamwork that makes this presentation a yearly success. In addition, kudos to the ARCS Executive Committee for organizing and participating! The program outline is included in the following page and in the ARCS website.

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, THE ASSOCIATION OF PROGRAM DIRECTORS IN SURGERY, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCY COORDINATORS IN SURGERY

Updates

TAGME Update

The TAGME Assessment for Spring 2013 will be held on Wednesday afternoon during Surgery Education week. The application deadline for that assessment closed on December 15. The next assessment period will be in September 2013. Information regarding the certification process, applications materials, and deadlines can be found on the TAGME website at www.tagme.org.

TAGME continues to grow. There are now 26 clinical specialties offering certification for coordinators. In addition, program administrators of ACGME programs and of AOA programs can sit for certification. There are at least two specialties in the process of developing tools for certification.

At the August 2012 meeting of the TAGME Board of Directors, a significant change to the assessment process was approved. Previously, the certification process consisted of the completion of a work effort tool (you may recall Ruth Nawotniak referring to this as a “personal PIF”) followed by a five-hour monitored assessment. Beginning in Spring 2013, the length of the monitored assessment will be shortened. This portion of the assessment will still be “open-book,” however, there will be fewer questions overall and fewer questions requiring the candidate to provide a citation from the Institutional, Common, or Specialty Requirements.

Finally, at the 2012 ARCS meeting Ruth Nawotniak, MS, C-TAGME stepped down as Chair of STAC (Surgery Training Administrators Certification). Ruth was involved in the development of certification for residency coordinators from its inception. She continues to be an active member of STAC and a member of the TAGME Board of Directors. I am grateful to Ruth for the work she has done on behalf of program coordinators and for her mentorship.

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Mentor - Mentee Program

Whether you are a new program coordinator, or a seasoned veteran, you are encouraged to participate in the ARCS Mentorship Program. This program was started to help provide support to new coordinators (<3 years) by pairing them with more experienced coordinators who can help guide them through those harrowing first few years of being a surgery residency coordinator. This is also a wonderful way to make a lasting friendship.

So, if you are a new coordinator interested in obtaining a mentor or a seasoned coordinator who would like to help someone navigate their way, please contact us via email. We will also have a sign-up sheet for both mentors and mentees at the registration table of our spring meeting.

Surgical Council on Resident Education – SCORE UPDATE

As the SCORE (Surgical Council on Resident Education) representative for the ARCS (Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery) Executive Committee, I would like to gather your thoughts, opinions, and questions as they relate to SCORE. I will be meeting with the SCORE Committee in Orlando for the first time, and I would like to give them a comprehensive report from the perspective of the surgery coordinators. Please e-mail me with your information and I will do my best to represent us as a whole and to obtain answers to any questions that you may have. I can be reached at warner_laura@guthrie.org.

Professional Development

It is ARCS goal to help its members increase competence, performance, improve and broaden the coordinator's knowledge and skills and develop the personal qualities required in their professional lives. We will continue this commitment this year with another great schedule of Professional Development lectures. We have the following Professional Development Lectures scheduled for our spring meeting in Orlando, FL.:

Team Building Strategies and Processes – Jack Contessa, MD

Mean Boys, Mean Girls (professionalism & teamwork) – Charles Yeo, MD

Public Speaking – Kim Molteg, C-TAGME

Outside the Job Activities for Self-Improvement – Juanita Braxton, C-TAGME

In order to be sent a certificate of attendance, Professional Development Lectures will require you to complete an evaluation with your name and address. After the meeting, we will use these evaluations to determine who is sent a certificate. Remember, that these lectures can be used toward your initial TAGME certification, or counted towards the continuing education required for continued certification, so keep your certificate in a safe place!

New Coordinators Workshop

The new coordinators workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. We have a full day of information and fun planned for you. The workshop this year will be more interactive with question and answer sessions after every few talks. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. with lunch at 12:15 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. If you are a new coordinator with 0-5 years of experience, please come and join us.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have over 190 members and are very excited that the membership continues to grow on a yearly basis. Just a friendly reminder to please take a moment to review your information on our website to make sure your information is correct. If you have any changes that need to be made please complete the attached form and return to me at mary.burda@utoledo.edu or you may fax it to 419-383-6462. An updated membership listing will be put on the thumb drive for you at our annual meeting in Orlando. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Please join the Executive Committee in welcoming the
new members of ARCS. The following coordinators were
approved for membership at the
October 2012
American College of Surgeons Meeting**

[Kiesha Herrin](#)

Temple University Hospital
3401 N. Broad Street
Zone C, 4th Floor, Room 450
Philadelphia, PA 19140

[Amber Johnson](#)

Sanford USD Medical Center
1400 W. 22nd Street, Room 223
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

[Brienne Nickel](#)

Indiana University
545 Barnhill Drive
Emerson Hall 202
Indianapolis, IN 46202

[Kathy Flesher](#)

Methodist Health System
General Surgery
1441 N. Beckley Avenue
Dallas, TX 75203

[Megan Zrimsek](#)

Allegheny General Hospital
Department of Surgery
320 East North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

[Rita Piccioni](#)

McGill University Health System
1650 Avenue Cedar
Suite L9-424
Montreal, AC H3G 1A4
Canada

[Wendy McCrorey](#)

University of South Florida
2 Tampa General Circle, Room 7015
Tampa, FL 33606

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Are you a member of the Association of Residency Coordinators in Surgery (ARCS)?

If not, you should be.

While being a member provides you, the coordinator, with several tangible benefits, the true impact of belonging to a professional organization comes from being an active member of that organization and supporting its goals and helping it to grow and become stronger. By doing so, you develop a vested interest in your own growth, your own success and your own professional future, as well as the organization's.

The networking opportunities within the membership are invaluable. Our coordinators are one of our best sources of information, ideas, support, and friendship. Each year, men and women of the organization exchange ideas, form new friendships, and feel a collective sigh of relief as we realize that we are not alone.

There is strength in numbers and ARCS is a large, strong leader among the specialties. ARCS affords its members the opportunity to meet people from all across our country, contributing to that all-important networking system. Besides sharing with one another, ARCS provides a venue to become involved nationally, which in turn promotes your program and helps it to be recognized. Lastly, professional membership confers a special status on those individuals who hold it.

It is important to note that when you pay the registration fee for the Spring APDS / ARCS meeting, it is the registration fee only, and does not automatically secure your membership. The APDS Board of Directors review membership twice a year, at the fall ACS meeting and the spring APDS meeting.

To become a member of ARCS, you must first be an Associate Member of the APDS. Associate Membership can be obtained by completing and submitting an application form, copy of your current curriculum vitae and a letter of support from your Program Director. Feel free to contact any Executive Committee member to discuss the process for membership or follow the link at www.arcsurgery.org for additional information and an application. Yearly dues are \$225.00.

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Importance of completing session evaluation in a professional manner

It is very important to always complete a session evaluation in a professional and timely manner. Evaluation is a process that critically examines a program. It seeks to assess the relevance, sustainability, impact, effectiveness, and efficiency of the body of the program. Since they involve systematic gathering of information about overall session success, evaluations can help identify possible areas for program improvement. Additionally, sharing your opinion about what was most and least effective helps us enrich and expand our ARCS meetings.

THE ARCS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKED VERY HARD IN CHICAGO, IL TO PUT TOGETHER AN APPEALING AND MOTIVATING PROGRAM FOR THE UPCOMING 2013 MEETING!

We hope that you will be able to join us in Orlando, Florida. We also want to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season! Stay warm and we look forward to seeing you in the spring.

The ARCS Executive Committee

