

## Connecticut Chapter news & updates

### Legislative Update & Board of Governor's Update Kathleen LaVorgna, MD, FACS



#### Connecticut Legislative Issues

This session is focused on only "big picture" items:

- The Public Insurance Option - Expand the state employee plan to small businesses and non-profit organizations. The issue is whether there will be network adequacy.
- Telehealth: Pros and Cons, including state joining the Interstate Compact for Licensing
- Legalization of Marijuana for recreational use is very likely to be passed this session
- Vaccinations
- Flavored tobacco/vaping products
- Medical Aid in Dying (coming around again this year). AMA opposes any legislation on this topic. CSMS took a neutral stand, with emphasis on protection for physicians who participate

There were a number of bills in the house and senate that had surgical relevance.

#### SB-1007, AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE AND MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEVERE OBESITY

This is an active bill and will be open for written and oral testimony. We have been working with the CT Chapter of the ASMBS for the past few years on getting this passed. Please reach out to your legislators to encourage them to support this important bill. . If anyone wants to be more involved, please email Darren Tishler, MD, FACS [darren.tishler@hhchealth.org](mailto:darren.tishler@hhchealth.org) as he will be hosting zoom planning meetings.

The following bills were raised but are essentially "dead" except the last, SB 604, which is still being discussed in the Joint Committee of Transportation, but not likely to pass this session.

- HB 5024 and 5997: regarding surgical smoke protection in OR
- HB 5189 and 5687: regarding health insurance responsibilities for breast cancer care, coverage for screening mammos, ultrasounds, MRI, etc.
- HB 5403: Eliminating barriers for nurse practitioners
- HB 6016: Transparency regarding training and licensure HB 6337: Balance Billing by certain providers
- SB 604: Increasing penalties for distracted driving and studying the increase in pedestrian fatalities across the state

#### ACS Governor's Report:

The Vice Chair of the Board of Regents sent out a summary of their recent meeting, describing the BOR's "Top Ten List".

Overall ACS finances are strong with \$650 M in total assets. (65% comes from various verification programs, 25% from membership dues)

There are 293 governors from chapters and specialty societies. 21% are women, of the total, 8% are under the age of 45

**New Diversity Pillar:** The BOR Committee on Racial Issues along with the ACS Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity at work on this new Pillar.

**Communications Pillar:** realizes that they need better communication with the governors.

**Quality Pillar** has a Telehealth work group in place, the Leadership and Advocacy Meeting will be May 15-17, Clinical Congress 2021 will be held Oct 23-28 (No clear message re virtual/in person/hybrid yet)

**RAS & YFA** busy with the following:

- Increasing diversity, international engagement and mentorship
- Developing a "Future Quality Leaders Program"
- Exploring a curriculum on "The Business of Medicine."
- Surgical Jeopardy "So You Think You Can Operate."
- Collaborating with the podcast "Behind the Knife."
- Making a podcast on "firearms" with the Advocacy Pillar
- Doing mock interviews for Medical Students with the Communications Pillar
- Creating virtual hangouts, membership recruiting, burnout interventions

**COVID-19 effect on the Resident Experience Data:**

- 96% had negative impact on their educational experience
- 47% experienced physical stress
- 70 % had mental health issues
- Biggest issue was PPE shortages, mostly N-95 masks and eyewear, 73% were asked to re-use PPE, 22% were told to purchase their own

**Verification Programs:**

- Expanding and thriving
- New ones for Rectal CA, Geriatric Care
- All virtual, with one year extensions being given
- ATLS- also has a one year extension
- STB (Stop the Bleed) has a virtual module
- Surgical Quality Verifications (Red Book) are in pilot phase
- MBSAQIP has been selected by CMS for bundled payment initiatives
- COC and COT both have their 100 yr. anniversaries in 2022
- COT received a \$700K grant from the National Collaboration for Gun Violence Research; for a multicenter prospective study with 190 TQIP hospitals; comparing risk factors/ social determinants of risk, etc.

ACS working on integrated communication strategies, digital transformation of journals, social platforms, etc.

**BOR Committee on Racial Issues**

- Developing a new Division of Diversity, and hiring a director
- ACS Summit planned for June 2021 "Promoting DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity) and Anti-Racism for Professional Societies."

- Developing a Diversity Toolkit for Chapters
- Working on Pipeline Projects
- Finance Committee is giving 8 matching grants for innovative and impactful programs for increasing DEI and Antiracial Issues

#### Division of Education

- CC2020 awarded 115,000 Cat.1 CMEs
- Credits of Excellence can be obtained via SESAP 17
- ACS is redesigning the MyCME platform
- ACS Division of Education received ACGME Accreditation with Accommodation

ACS Division of Health Policy and Advocacy addressing the following:

- maintenance of surgeon reimbursement
- compromise on surprise billing
- freeze on thresholds for participation in alternative payment models thru 2024

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## Two NEW Committees Formed by Council

We are pleased to announce that at the last Council meeting the following two Committees were formed by your Council leadership:

- **Committee on Diversity and Inclusion:** The Committee is in its early stages of formation and will be led by David Shapiro, MD, MHCM, FACS. The Committee is in the process of establishing its mission statement and objectives. More to follow on our website and in future newsletters.
- **Woman in Surgery Committee:** A group of surgeons including, Amanda Ayers, MD, Glenda Callendar, MD, FACS, FACS, Roselle Crombie, MD, FACS, Christine Finck, MD, FACS, and Kristin Galsgow, MD, FACS reached out to Dr. Lui to offer to restart the Chapter's Women in Surgery Committee. The group is meeting next week to discuss it's mission and goals. More information to follow.

If you would like to be involved with either of the above Committees please email our Executive Director, Christopher Tasik at [info@ctacs.org](mailto:info@ctacs.org). He will forward your information along to the Committee Chair.

**2021 CTACSPA/CtSQC Annual Meeting**  
**Friday, 08 October 2021, Trumbull Marriot**  
**Save the date!**

**Connecticut Trauma Conference Goes Virtual**  
**Friday, March 26, 2021**

The 2021 CT Trauma conference will be held virtually on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The fee for attending physicians is \$25. There is no charge for all other attendees.

**CT TRAUMA '21**  
23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021**

**We've Gone Virtual!**

For the past history two years, the Connecticut Trauma Conference has provided high quality education in trauma, critical care and injury prevention. In response to the pandemic and in the interest of safety, we respectfully need to cancel the 2020 conference.

In 2021, we have created an all virtual format with great speakers lined up. The Lenworth M. Jacobs Keynote speaker is a trauma surgeon who will share a personal experience. Other topics include Pre-Hospital Care, Non-physician Providers, Geriatrics, Sub-specialties in Trauma Care and Challenges facing trauma centers. This conference is designed to educate caregivers across the spectrum of trauma care, including pre-hospital providers, nurses, midlevel practitioners and physicians of all specialties.

We are planning for a blockbuster return to an in-person conference at Foxwoods in 2022!

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- To discuss the unique aspects in the care of elderly trauma patients.
- To address challenges in the pre-hospital care of trauma patients.
- To discuss the challenges nurses and other non-physician providers face in the care of trauma patients.

Disclosure Information: In compliance with the ACCME Accreditation Criteria, the American College of Surgeons, as the accreditor of this activity, has taken steps to ensure that anyone in a position to control the content of the educational activity has disclosed all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest. All reported conflicts are managed by a designated official to ensure a high level of presentation. Please see the insert to this program for the complete disclosure list.

7:50 am	Welcome Remarks	Kevin Schuster, MD David Shapiro, MD
8:00 am	Pre-Hospital Care	Moderator: Adrian Maung, MD
	Modern Threats Require Modern Responses: Managing the Hospital Event Response	Scott Martus, MS, LP
	When Enough is Enough: Terminating Resuscitative Efforts in the Pre-Hospital Setting	Shea Gregg, MD
	The EMS Physician and the Trauma Patient	David Cone, MD
	The Unique Challenges of Caring for Severely Injured Kids	Steven Rogers, MD
10:00 am	Break (Visit Vendors)	
10:30 am	The Lenworth M. Jacobs Keynote Address	Moderator: Brendan Campbell, MD Martin Croce, MD
11:30 am	Lunch (Visit Vendors)	
12:30 pm	In Other News	Moderator: Gary Kamel, MD
	History and Evidence of APPs in Hospital Practice	Scott Sherry, MS, PA-C James Healy, MD
	The Importance of Mechanism in Pediatric Trauma	James Clune, MD
	Management of the Mangled Upper Extremity	Leah Tatebe, MD
	Heroes in Crisis: Trauma Centers Need to Respond	
2:30 pm	Break (Visit Vendors)	
3:00 pm	The Silver Tsunami: Geriatric Trauma	Moderator: David Shapiro, MD
	Developing a Geriatric Trauma Service	Douglas Schuster, MD
	Rib Picking: Advantages and Challenges	Andrew Cohen, MD
	Geriatric Trauma – Breaking the Frailty Code	Bellal Joseph, MD

**CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION**

**Accreditation:** This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the American College of Surgeons and the Connecticut Trauma Conference. The American College of Surgeons is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**AMA PRA Category 1 Credits:** The American College of Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Nurses:** For the purposes of recertification, the American Nurses Credentialing Center accepts AMA PRA Category 1 Credit issued by organizations accredited by the ACCME.

**EMS Professionals:** The Connecticut Department of Public Health has approved this activity for 6.5 hours of continuing medical education. Attendees should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**  
Improving Quality • Higher Standards, Better Outcomes

**ACCME**  
ACCREDITED PROVIDER

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**  
DIVISION OF EDUCATION

**ATTENDING PHYSICIANS – \$25 – NO COST FOR ALL OTHERS**  
Jennifer Tobak, RN – jstak@connecticuttrauma.org – (860) 540-9810

The ACS has awarded 6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 CME credits to the conference for physician attendees. The same credits are accepted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. EMS Professionals can receive 6.5 credits from The Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Register Here Today!

## Stop the Bleed at the Yard Goats!

### Save the Date

In partnership with the St. Francis Foundation and the CT Committee on Trauma, your Chapter will be involved in a Stop the Bleed night on Thursday, May 20th and Dunkin Park in Hartford.

David Shapiro, MD, FACS will be coordinating the event and is actively seeking volunteers to help out at the event. If you are interested in getting involved please contact him at [dshapiro@trinityhealthofne.org](mailto:dshapiro@trinityhealthofne.org). Please include the following when you email Dr. Shapiro:

- Name
- Phone number
- Email
- Indicate if you are or are not a certified STB trainer

Game tickets are NOT available through us. Please contact the Yard Goat directly if you want to attend.

## 2021 ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit

### Register Today!



**LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY SUMMIT 2021**  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

**May 15-17**

**VIRTUAL**

Register Now!

The ACS 2021 Leadership & Advocacy Summit will be held virtually, May 15–17, as follows:

**Leadership Summit**—Saturday, May 15 - offers up to 4 CME credits

**Advocacy Summit**—Sunday, May 16 and Monday, May 17

The Summit is a dual meeting offering comprehensive and specialized sessions to

Register today!

provide ACS members, leaders, and advocates with topics focused on effective surgeon leadership, as well as interactive advocacy training with coordinated virtual visits to Congressional offices.

## Consider Supporting the Dr. Dudrick Memorial Fund

### To Benefit Resident Education

Honoring on the extraordinary contributions Dr. Dudrick has made to medical science, surgical education, and humanity, Council unanimously voted to dedicate the Chapter Charitable Giving fund in memory of Dr. Dudrick.

The Stanley Dudrick, MD, FACS Memorial Fund is managed by the College's Foundation. 100% of all donations to the Dudrick Fund benefit the Chapter. The funds will be used to support our resident paper competition, to provide stipends for residents to attend College events, to fund local educational opportunities for residents and medical students, and other programs that are within the purview of the ACS Foundation.

We were able to draw down from the fund this year to help cover some of the expenses of the Annual Meeting as we saw a significant drop off in vendor support due to going virtual.

To make your donation online please click on this link [ACS Foundation Donations](#). To donate by check please [print this form](#) and mail it along with your check.

When donating, select "Chapter Programs Fund" and type/write in Stanley Dudrick MD, FACS Memorial Fund in the description box. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Help your Chapter support tomorrow's surgeons today!



## Earn CME for Real-time Learning with ACS Point of Care

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) now offers Point of Care CME to support the need for real-time learning. Point of Care learning allows physician learners (both ACS Members and non-Members) to engage in self-directed learning on topics related to clinical practice, patient care, or other areas of professional development.

Each Point of Care CME activity offers 0.5 CME Credits, corresponding with 30 minutes of research, analysis, and reflection, and costs \$25 per 0.5 CME Credit. The flexible format allows

the opportunity for self-paced education on relevant topics of interest, which can be linked to an individual learning plan.

Learners can complete many of these self-paced activities throughout the year. Login and access the Point of Care CME activity through the ACS course catalog.

ACS Point of  
Care

CTACSPA | [www.ctacs.org](http://www.ctacs.org) | [info@ctacs.org](mailto:info@ctacs.org)

