



Volume XXXVIII • Issue 1 • Spring 2012

International U.S. Surgeon

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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If you have news/information that could be included in a future newsletter, please contact Headquarters staff today.



From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Larry S. Sasaki, MD, FICS

In this my first official message to all US Section Fellows, I wish to say that it is indeed an honor and a privilege to be your President for 2012. As I write this I am less than two months into my term and my admiration for Past Presidents has increased ten-fold. The responsibilities related to this position are immense and after a brief period I now truly understand what my predecessors were saying when they indicated that this was an immense undertaking.

Since taking office we have already conducted a meeting of the Executive Council at our Headquarters in Chicago. Of significant importance, the possible sale of our Headquarters building was discussed. While the US Section and the ICS World Body own this piece of real estate equally as two independent entities, discussions have been occurring for years about whether this asset is truly being utilized to its fullest. Our historical land marked property is truly amazing, but there are many financial considerations concerning ongoing maintenance that must be considered. The US Section is continuing its discussions with the World Body about how to proceed for the good of every member and the organization as a whole.

No less important was an extensive deliberation about the upcoming meeting in Atlanta. As one of my primary duties I have been working for some time now to guide the development of the 74th Annual Surgical Update scheduled for this June. This year, the theme of our meeting will be "Surgical Innovations and Current Advancements." Plenary sessions will address robotics and minimally invasive surgical procedures, focusing on a multidisciplinary and team approach to the practice of surgery utilizing the latest technology and the most cutting edge techniques. Also included will be enhanced specialty specific sessions and workshops that will further enlighten you during three days of scientific programming. A First Announcement was recently mailed and the registration brochure will be forthcoming shortly with detailed program information this March.

Over the years I have found that one of the most important aspects of planning a successful meeting is funding. I have been working closely with many vendors to increase the resources we will have available for the program, but as always, one person cannot do it all. The members of the Executive Council, CME Committee and the Council of Specialty Group Chairs are all working diligently to secure what will hopefully be enough to ensure our success.

At this time I implore everyone reading this message to take a moment and think about a corporate contact or two you may have that might be able to help the College. Educational grants are difficult to come by, but there are still significant resources available on the marketing side. In addition to companies in the medical and surgical field we can also approach our car dealers, insurance agents and lawyers to request that they make a donation in our name to an

over

organization that is providing education and humanitarian relief. Remember that a financially successful meeting means that resources will be available to support other programs like Surgical Teams.

It is my plan to send regular communications to you on what's happening in your College via email. You may recognize some of what is contained in this message as part of an email that was sent on February 1st. My goal is to someday soon reduce the number of printed newsletters to save the Section some money and be greener for the sake of the ecology. While we will always produce communications like the newsletter, posting it on the website and circulating it via email will benefit us all in the long run. While many of you have provided email addresses, there are still many who have not. Please take a moment to visit our website at www.ficsonline.org and login to "members only"

using your ID number located above your name on the envelope in which this newsletter came. Review your profile and if we don't have an email listed enter one today. You can also call Headquarters and let us know what your email is by phone or simply send an email to staff to let them know you want your email included in our database.

Finally, please also remember that we want to know what's happening with you, the average College member. If you have a recent accomplishment or award that you would like your colleagues in ICS to know about, let Headquarters know and we will post the information to the Members in the News section of the website. We all do amazing things and our colleagues want to know about them.

I hope to see you in Atlanta and thank you for taking the time to read my message!

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Welcome to the transformation, Hyatt Regency Atlanta's recent renovation, will be completed just before our arrival. Step into the shimmering 22-story Atlanta hotel atrium lobby and you'll understand the difference between a hotel and a Hyatt. This award-winning Hyatt Atlanta hotel places the treasures of the city at your feet.

Stroll to top local downtown Atlanta attractions including Peachtree Center Mall, Georgia Aquarium, Georgia World Congress Center, AmericasMart, CNN Center, Phillips Arena and Georgia Dome.

Treat yourself - to true southern hospitality in a luxurious hotel boasting 1,260 newly renovated guestrooms; making this the second-largest hotel in Atlanta. Fall in love with Savannah Shrimp with grits, or Cream of Georgia Pecan Soup at Sway, an eclectic new dining establishment serving traditional southern dishes with a modern twist. Discover signature service, popular restaurants and a prime location at Hyatt Regency Atlanta; truly a rare gem among downtown Atlanta luxury hotels.

DONT FORGET!

In order to keep you informed of Section news & business. We need your e-mail address. Just send an e-mail to info@ficsonline.org today. We'll add you to our database, or call 312.787.6274.

Noteworthy Congresses

74th Annual Surgical Update
United States Section
June 6-9, 2012
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

38th ICS World Congress
November 7-10, 2012
Brisbane, Australia