The 64th Annual Strauss Lecture was held on Friday, October 18, 2013. Thomas Russell, MD, FACS, Former Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) was the invited lecturer. His topic was “Better Health; Better Care; Lower Cost.” He emphasized that the medical community must be constructive participants in helping to reach this triple aim.

Currently Dr. Russell is a Clinical Professor of Surgery at UCSF; previously he was a private practice general surgeon specializing in colon and rectal surgery. Dr. Russell was the Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) from January 2000 to January 2010. With its 74,000 members, this is the largest surgical organization in the world. He was charged with administration of the ACS’s numerous activities. In the middle of his residency training, he was called to service in Vietnam, where he was a Lieutenant Commander and US Navy Flight Surgeon. He is an active participant in the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery and the Residency Review Committee for Colon and Rectal Surgery. Dr. Russell has published extensively on topics related to educational and scientific colon and rectal surgery topics.

The Strauss Lecture is supported by the Alfred A. Strauss MD, Endowed Lectureship in Surgery established by the estate of Mrs. Margery Friedlander, daughter of Dr. Strauss. Dr. Strauss possessed a rare combination of skill, vision and drive. The lectureship carries on the visions and traditions of this inspiring man.

Preceding the Strauss Lecture was the Harkins Surgical Symposium for Resident Education. Presenters at this year’s Symposium were:

- John Meehan, MD, Division of Pediatric General Surgery: “Pediatric Robotic Surgery”
- Jason Ko, MD, Division of Plastic Surgery: “Targeted Muscle Re-innervation: Concepts, Techniques and Future Directions”
- Grant O’Keefe, MD, Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Medicine: “Nutrition in the ICU and Beyond”
- James Perkins, MD, Division of Transplant Surgery: “The Liver Transplant Model and Genomics of Metastatic Hepatocellular Carcinoma”
- David Byrd, MD, Division of General Surgery; Section of Surgical Oncology: “Precision Medicine in Cancer Care”
- David Flam, MD, General Surgery; Director of SORCE: “Using QI Databases to Improve Your Clinical Care”
- Jensen Poon, MBBS, MS, “Hong Kong University Experience with Robotic Rectal Surgery”
- Thomas Russell, MD, UCSF: “Joys of a Surgical Career”
- Nahush Mokadam, MD, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery: “Improving Patient Safety for High-Acuity Procedures: Simulation in Cardiac Surgery”
- Jason Smith, MD, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery: “The Breadth and Depth of Mechanical Circulatory Support: A Device for Every Surgeon and Every Patient”
- Jack Sun, MD, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery: “Emerging Valvular Therapies and Training the Hybrid Cardiovascular Surgeon”
- Farhood Farjah, MD, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery: “‘ProvenCare’ Lung Cancer: Surgeons Leading Quality Initiatives”
- Aaron Cheng, MD, Cardiothoracic Surgery: “Birth of a Specialty: Cardiothoracic ICU”
- D. Michael McMullan, MD, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: “Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation: A Step Beyond CPR”