

Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, Installed as 94th President of the American College of Surgeons

Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS, FRCSI (Hon.), *The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair*, Department of Surgery, University of Washington, was installed as the 94th President of the [American College of Surgeons \(ACS\)](#) during the Convocation ceremony that preceded the opening of the 2013 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Washington, DC on Sunday, October 6th.

Dr. Pellegrini is an esteemed world leader in the field of minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery. He led the way in the use of videoendoscopy for the surgical treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease and developed the initial techniques for the minimally invasive treatment of esophageal motility disorders.

A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) since 1982, Dr. Pellegrini began serving on the ACS Board of Regents in 2001. He served as Vice-Chair of the Board from 2009-2010, and as Chair from 2010-2011. Dr. Pellegrini has also served on a number of ACS committees, often assuming a leadership role. He was Chair of the Committee for the Accreditation Review of Education Institutes (2009-2013); Chair of the Board of Regents Finance Committee (2010-2011); Central Judiciary Committee (2003-2009); Medical Motion Pictures Committee (1993-1994); and International Guest Scholarship Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee (1988-1989). In addition, Dr. Pellegrini was Co-Chair of the 2012 Surgeons as Leaders Course and served as President of the ACS Northern California Chapter (1990-1991).

In addition to the ACS Presidency, his current ACS involvement includes serving on the Steering Committee on Simulation-Based Surgical Education, the Task Force on the Resident 80-Hour Work Week, and the Health Policy and Advocacy Group.

Dr. Pellegrini's leadership contributions to the surgical profession extend well beyond his work with ACS. He served as a member of the board of directors of the [American Board of Surgery](#) (2003-2009), and as the president of several surgical societies: the [World Organization for Specialized Studies on Diseases of the Esophagus](#) (2010-2012); the [Society of Surgical Chairs](#) (2007-2008); the [American Surgical Association](#) (2005-2006); and the [International Society of Digestive Surgery](#) (2000-2002).

Dr. Pellegrini has devoted a large part of his academic career to teaching and training the next generation of surgeons. His teaching interests lie in determining what tools work best, how to use simulation to advance patient safety, and how to introduce new techniques safely into surgical practice.

Dr. Pellegrini explains his teaching and learning philosophy, saying, "I believe in training residents to become 'total' physicians, not just technicians. In fact, I view learning as a lifelong process for all surgeons, and I myself endeavor to maintain the highest degree of professional competence as a surgeon."



Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS, FRCSI (Hon.)

Dr. Pellegrini publishes regularly in the field of minimally invasive surgery for upper gastrointestinal diseases, esophageal cancer, and related areas, as well as in the field of training and new technologies for preparing surgeons in this discipline. His prolific bibliography lists more than 300 articles, chapters, editorials, and books, as well as 11 surgical videos and movies. He also serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including the *Journal of Laparoendoscopic Surgery and Advanced Surgical Techniques*, *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, *Surgery*, and *Annals of Surgery*.

He speaks four languages: English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

Dr. Pellegrini and his wife, Kelly Yamaichi, enjoy spending time with their two sons, Michael and John, their wives,

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“Another – very true – anecdote was that the residents referred to the two places to get food as ‘proximal’ and “‘distal.’ We found it very ironic in the late 90’s/early 2000’s that ‘distal’ was a Burger King... We loved seeing our patients standing out front in the afternoon with a cigarette in one hand and a Whopper in the other...”

–Erik Van Eaton, MD

“Hub Radke, MD was Chief of Surgery at the VA during my training [1975-1980]. He was a great educator and a wealth of surgical experience... His language could be very colorful at times. There is a story about him assisting a resident with a difficult common duct exploration. He said ‘be bold young man’ shortly followed by ‘oh *\$%*! You cut the duct.’” –Robert L. Howisey, MD

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Kristine and Julie, and twin grandchildren who all live in San Francisco. Their two Golden Retriever siblings, Pancho and Melba, bring additional joy to their lives.

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Save the Dates

20TH ANNUAL SCHILLING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & LECTURE

Friday, January 31, 2014, 4:00pm

Timothy R. Billiar, MD
George Vance Foster
Professor & Chair
Department of Surgery
University of Pittsburgh

“Of Men and Mice:
An Iterative Strategy to Dissect the
Immune Response to Trauma”

Location: Magnuson Health Sciences
Building, Hogness Auditorium

A reception will be held in the 3rd floor
Magnuson Health Sciences Building
lobby at 5:00pm
(immediately following Dr. Billiar’s lecture)

Please see the
Department of Surgery’s
monthly Grand Rounds
schedule under
[Special Events](#) on our website:
www.uwsurgery.org