

American College of Surgeons' 2017 Clinical Congress

In October 2017, the **American College of Surgeons (ACS)** held their 2017 Clinical Congress in San Diego, California. The Clinical Congress provided surgeons, medical students, surgical residents, and other members of the operating room team with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of educational experiences and to interact with their peers. ACS offered cutting-edge educational opportunities to address the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes necessary for delivery of surgical care of the highest quality for physicians at all stages of their careers.

The 2017 program addressed essential clinical and nonclinical content. An exciting series of **Named Lectures** was delivered by world-renowned experts in their respective fields. **Didactic/Experiential** and **Surgical Skills Courses** focused on acquisition of knowledge and skills through best practices in education and training methods and more than 110 **Panel Sessions** on relevant topics were offered. The **Scientific Forum** included surgical research presentations and posters. New this year, all posters were e-posters and were available for viewing throughout the entire Clinical Congress

and **Video-Based Education Sessions** showcased surgical procedures. **Meet-the-Expert Sessions** and **Town Hall Meetings** offered a more informal learning experience.

The purpose of the Clinical Congress is to keep ACS Members and interested non-Fellow physicians abreast of the current status of the art and science of surgery. To accomplish its purpose, the Clinical Congress offers a highly diversified program of continuing education in all specialties of surgery and in important fields of science, socioeconomics, and medical education. It holds the preeminent place among all College activities designed to raise the standards of surgical practice and improve the care of the surgical patient.

The entire program presented at this meeting includes physicians drawn from various specialties. The sessions are designed to present a variety of viewpoints on matters of particular interest to those for whom the session is primarily intended and to stress the need for understanding and cooperation among the specialties.

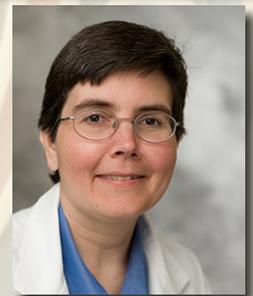
Dr. Ron Maier Elected President-Elect of American College of Surgeons



Dr. **Ron Maier**, Professor & Chief in the Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, was elected to serve as the next president of the ACS at the 2017 ACS Clinical Congress in October in San Diego. The ACS is the largest surgical organization in North America and represents the full spectrum of surgical specialties, and election to President is one of the highest honors that one can achieve in a surgical career. Dr. Maier will step into this role after having also served as President of the **American Surgical Association (ASA)**, another prestigious and highly impactful surgical society. This is an incredible tribute to Dr. Maier and his career-long dedication to excellence in clinical surgery, exceptional mentorship in surgical education, and in his academic contributions. He is not just an extraordinary leader of the surgery services at **Harborview Medical Center**, but plays an important role in trauma and critical care organizations nationally and internationally. The Department of Surgery congratulates Dr. Maier on this incredible recognition.

[Dr. Ron Maier's acceptance speech >>](#)

Dr. Eileen Bulger Named New Chair of American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma



Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor and Chief of Trauma in the Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, was named the new chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) at the ACS Clinical Congress. This committee strives to improve the care of injured patients before, during, and after hospitalization through activities aimed at education, advocacy, professional development, standards of care, and assessment of outcomes. Dr. Bulger is a national leader in trauma and her appointment as committee chair is an acknowledgement of the regard and respect that she has in the trauma community and amongst her surgeon peers.

We asked Dr. Bulger to give us her thoughts on being named Chair of the ACS COT:

"Traumatic injury is the leading cause of death under the age of 44 and therefore the most important public health problem for our children and armed services personnel. The ACS COT

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is a multidisciplinary group of surgeons working to improve injury care around the globe, with 86 members on the committee overseeing a field force of more than 3,500 Fellows working to develop and implement meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas. The committee strives to improve the care of injured patients before, during, and after hospitalization. These activities—aimed at education, advocacy, professional development, standards of care, and assessment of outcomes and quality improvement—are disseminated through a variety of programs and subcommittees. Examples include **Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®)**, **Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP®)**, trauma systems consultation, trauma center verification, injury prevention, and the Stop the Bleed campaign.

I am sincerely honored to be asked to serve as the Chair of this committee for the next four years. This is an incredible opportunity to continue to advance the care of the injured patient with our goal of eliminating preventable death and disability after injury. In addition to all of the programs described above, we have several active initiatives. We are working with several professional organizations and government partners on implementing the recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report on developing a National trauma Care System with enhanced military and civilian integration. We are also working on a goal to train every US citizen in the basics skills of bleeding control and to make bleeding control equipment available in public places to enhance our response to mass casualties and mass shootings. We are focused on building consensus on a public health approach to reducing firearm injury and violence in our society. Finally, we are working on developing a better understanding of the long term functional outcome of patients after severe injury.”

Challenges in the Management of Breast and Thoracic Malignancies Symposium

A two-and-a-half-day symposium held in Seattle, Washington, in October 2017 provided up-to-date scientific information to clinicians involved in the care of patients with breast or thoracic cancers. Speakers were nationally and internationally renowned clinicians and researchers who shared their expertise and fostered discussion of the most recent multidisciplinary advances in screening, pathology, surgery, radiology, medical oncology, chemotherapy, novel targeted therapies, immunotherapies, genetics, and palliative care. Far-ranging areas of consensus and controversy were presented and discussed with the goal that audience members leave with the state-of-the-art knowledge needed to maximize success in treating their patients' breast and thoracic malignancies.



Wood

Dr. **Douglas Wood**, *The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair* and Dr. **Kristine Calhoun**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, were co-chairs for the symposium's thoracic and breast oncological courses. The thoracic portion covered a variety of topics including the role for standard radiation and protons for thoracic malignancies disease; new options for small cell lung cancer; advances in multimodality therapy for pleural mesothelioma; and value-based health care and the impact of payment reform.

The breast portion of the symposium included topics such as therapeutic modalities available for advanced breast cancer, and neoadjuvant therapies in particular; evidence-based recommendations for supportive care and survivorship; cancer outcomes variations in different populations and potential causes; and navigating and interpreting the plethora of available genetic tests and possible results.



Calhoun

Department of Surgery faculty presenters included: Drs. **Ben Anderson**, Professor, Division of General Surgery; **Kathleen Berfield**, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; **David Byrd**, Professor, Division of General Surgery; **Farhood Farjah**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; **Sara Javid**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery; **Mike Mulligan**, Professor and Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Section Chief, Thoracic Surgery; **Hakim Said**, Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery; and **Janelle Sousa**, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery.

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