The American College of Surgeons (ACS) held its annual Clinical Congress meeting October 2018 in Boston, MA. The Department’s presence at this event was amazing.

I would like to share with you an incredible list of Department of Surgery’s (DOS) honors and accomplishments.

First, and by far the most significant, was the installation of Dr. Ronald V. Maier, Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor, Vice Chair of Surgery, Surgeon–in–Chief, Harborview Medical Center, Chief, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, as president of the ACS. At the convocation, Dr. Maier provided a thoughtful and inspiring address to the new fellows of the College along with their families and the Officers, Regents, and Governors of the College. We are very proud that he has been selected president and represents us. A fuller report follows, along with a link to the video of his inaugural address.

At the business meeting, new officers were elected to leadership positions and one of our alumni Dr. Valerie Rusch, Vice Chair of Clinical Research and Miner Family Chair in Intrathoracic Cancers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, was elected president elect to follow Dr. Maier. Dr. Rusch will become president at the 2019 ACS Clinical Congress. She is a graduate of the UW general surgery residency program and was on faculty at UW for several years.

ACS has benefited from the substantial leadership of Dr. Nicole Gibran, former Director of the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center, David and Nancy Auth Washington Research Foundation Endowed Chair for Restorative Burn Surgery, and Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery. Dr. Gibran finished her term on the Board of Governors Executive Committee as the Pillar Lead for Advocacy and Health Care Policy and she was recognized for her dedication and commitment to the College and with leading advocacy efforts with intelligence and enthusiasm.

Dr. Mika Sinanan, Professor, Division of General Surgery, was newly elected to the Board of Governors Executive Committee and will assume this important leadership position vacated by Dr. Gibran.

Finally, I believe it is incredibly important to recognize our two officers and leaders of the Harkins Society. Drs. Greta Bernier, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, and Nicole Zern, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, are doing a great job in leading the society that represents the graduates of our program and our faculty. They chose a terrific venue in Legal Harborside for our annual reception at the Clinical Congress. The food was terrific and the chance to see our friends and colleagues from Seattle and those scattered around the country was even better. Thank you Nicole and Greta!

The ACS Clinical Congress gives us a chance to celebrate our department and reflect on the leadership, academics, and commitment to teaching of our faculty and trainees. Not only do we see the burgeoning individual careers, but more importantly we see a community of surgeons that support each other and cumulatively create a great department where we can all be proud to work, be grateful for the opportunities we have, and appreciate the people we count as our colleagues and friends.

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Dr. Ronald Maier, Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor, Vice Chair of Surgery, Surgeon–in–Chief, Harborview Medical Center, Chief, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, was installed as the 99th President of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) during the Convocation ceremony that preceded the opening of the annual ACS Clinical Congress, which is one of the largest international surgical meetings in the world.

Dr. Maier is highly esteemed for his contributions to trauma surgery, surgical research, and surgical education. He has dedicated his surgical career to improving the outcome of the injured and critically ill surgical patient through his research in molecular and cellular biology and the development and improvement of trauma systems and trauma care delivery. In addition to his positions at the UW, he is Director of the Northwest Regional Trauma Center, Surgeon–in–Chief, and co–Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) at Harborview Medical Center.

During his presidential address, “For Our Patients,” Dr. Maier urged the College’s Initiates to never lose their zeal and commitment to their patients. He encouraged them to be involved in the surgical profession and the College as they advocate for patients and their access to care. He told them to be leaders at work and in their communities, to educate elected officials, and to support those who support optimal care for all patients.

A Fellow of the College since 1984, Dr. Maier served in many roles in the ACS as well as leadership positons in other professional associations. His awards, honors and positions reflect his life of service.

This year the College’s Division of Education developed a new recognition of major leaders in surgical education entitled the “Academy of Master Surgeon Educators.” The mission of this group is to provide leadership in advancing the science and practice of education across all surgical specialties. Drs. Carlos A. Pellegrini, Professor Emeritus, and Rob Sweet, Professor of Urology, Medical Director for the UW Medicine Kidney Stone Center at Northwest Hospital, and Executive Director for the WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH) and the Center for Research in Education and Simulation Technology (CREST), were inducted into this very small group of surgical educators.

Dr. Karen Horvath, Professor in the Division of General Surgery, Associate Chair for Education, and Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program, was inducted into this group as an associate member.

Developed under the auspices of the ACS Division of Education, the Academy recognizes surgeon educators who have devoted their careers to surgical education. Individuals are selected as Members or Associate Members following stringent peer review. Academy membership carries an obligation for commitment to the Academy’s goals, which are to identify, recognize, and recruit innovators and thought leaders committed to advancing lifelong surgical education.
translate innovation into actions; offer mentorship to surgeon educators; foster exchange of creative ideas; disseminate advances in surgical education; and positively impact the quality of surgical care and patient safety.

Dr. Pellegrini noted, “I am tremendously proud to have been selected by the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgical Educators as a founding member of the Academy. Beyond the honor of this recognition, the Academy provides a venue to develop new ways and to use state of the art techniques to advance the training and education of the next generation of surgeons, which aligns perfectly well with my own passion. I salute the College for its vision and look forward to actively participating in this new venture!”

“With highest quality patient care through education being the paramount theme of the American College of Surgeons, the establishment of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators is an important new chapter for the ACS, the world’s largest organization for surgeons,” explained L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, DSc(Hon), FACS, past president of the ACS, and co–Chair of the Steering Committee of the Academy.

“This is an important time in medicine for such an accomplished and innovative group of surgeon educators to come together. Underscoring the critical importance of surgical education in a changing health care environment will be one major focus for the work of the Academy,” said ACS Executive Director David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS. “We congratulate and welcome all members and associate members of the inaugural class.”

Only 100 surgeons across all specialties around the world are selected for full or associate membership in this elite Academy. It is remarkable that we have three of these individuals within our department. This indeed represents our culture and commitment to surgical education.

ACS Clinical Congress

Department of Surgery Lectures and Presentations

Dr. Ronald Maier
Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor, Vice Chair of Surgery, Surgeon-in-Chief, Harborview Medical Center, Chief, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

“ACS Presidential Address”
View video >>
“Preside over ACS Opening Ceremony”
“Medical Student Program: Your Surgical Career – How to Make the Best of It”
“Surgery Resident Program: Message from ACS Leadership”
“Annual Young Fellows Association Meeting: Value of Young Surgeons in the ACS”
“Co–Moderator: Improving Parity in Surgery”

Dr. Farhood Farjah
Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Discussant, “The Impact of Hospital Size on National Trends and Outcomes in Open and Video-Assisted Lobectomy for Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer”

Dr. Kari Keys
Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery

“Fireworks Legislation and the Incidence of Severe Fireworks–related Injuries in Washington State”

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Dr. James Park  
Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery  
“SF314 Hepatobiliary and Pancreas IV”

Dr. John Monu  
Research Resident, General Surgery Residency Program  

Dr. Kevin Labadie  
Research Resident, General Surgery Residency Program  
“Techniques in Robotic Surgery: Indocyanine Green (ICG) Fluorescence: An Effective Tool for Parenchymal Sparing Robotic Liver Surgery”

Dr. Bryce Robinson  
Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery  

Dr. Samuel Mandell  
Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery  
“Telemedicine in Outpatient Burns”

Dr. Kate Stadeli  
Research Resident, General Surgery Residency Program  
“Patient Factors Associated with Low Trust in Patients with Surgical Disease”

Dr. Lucas Thornblade  
Chief Resident, General Surgery Residency Program  
“Video: Pledged Pancreaticoduodenectomy for Patients with Soft Pancreas”

Dr. Anne Ehlers  
Fellow, Advanced GI/Minimally Invasive Surgical Fellowship  
“Perioperative Management of Anticoagulants”