



# INDIANA CHAPTER

## American College of Surgeons

### NEWSLETTER

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Scherer, III

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President Robert Pennington congratulates  
Immediate Past-President Gordon Gutmann

Photo by Carolyn Downing

#### New Officers Elected

Dr. Robert Pennington took office as President at the Annual Meeting, and Dr. Gordon Gutmann became Immediate Past-president. Dr. A. Michael Sadove was elected President-elect and Dr. L. R. "Tres" Scherer, III elected Secretary-Treasurer. Councilors for 1998-2001 are Drs. RoseMarie Jones and Dolores F. Cikrit of Indianapolis, Dr. Wayne E. Moore of LaPorte and Dr. Inder K. Seekri of Kokomo.

#### The Indiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting

The Indiana Chapter met for its Annual Meeting in Clarksville, IN on May 7-9, 1998. Our hosts for the meeting were Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Gutmann of Jeffersonville. They and the program committee put on an excellent meeting.

There were twenty-five original papers, a report from the College by John Lynch, and the Shumacker Oration by Dr. Hiram Polk of Louisville. A Documentation and Coding Update was informative, and audience participation indicated this was a timely and appropriate subject.

The Gatch Award went to Dr. Glen Carlos, the Ensminger Award went to Dr. Charles Hyire and the McCaskey Award went to Dr. Harold Burkhart. The first Bolman Award went to Dr. Mustafa Kabeer.

The Poster Presentations were entirely new this year. Dr. Vince Scavo presented his work in three of these, in addition to a paper.

The Presidential Address, "Vietnam - A Generation Ago", by Dr. Gutmann recalled the devastation to persons by high velocity missiles in wartime. "A Current Summary of Refractive Surgery," was presented by Dr. Ralph Stewart. Dr. Stewart is an ophthalmologist who is a member of the Board of Councilors.

The spouses visited the Howard Steamboat Museum, the Falls of the Ohio State Park and the Jenny Lind Tearoom. A visit to the Louisville Slugger Museum included a tour, meal and a talk by Dr. Polk about racehorses. An afternoon at Churchill Downs as guests of the Gutmanns followed the Annual Business Luncheon. It was a very good meeting and a lot of Southern Indiana Hospitality.

## Joseph B. Davis, MD FACS

Joseph B. Davis of Marion, Indiana died April 5, 1998. He had been active in the Indiana Chapter and in the American College of Surgeons on a national level. He was president of the Indiana Chapter 1965-66, and Governor at Large from 1970-1975. On the Board of Governors he was quite active in professional liability issues, and became recognized as an expert in the field. He was elected to the Board of Regents and served in that capacity from 1975 to 1985. At that time he was the only member of the board not in academic medicine, and he always wondered at this. He continued his emphasis on professional liability and encouraged other states to adopt laws similar to the Indiana Compensation Act for Patients. He served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Regents from 1982-1984.

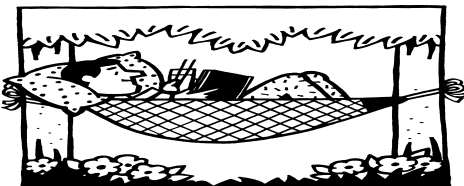
Dr. Davis was a founder of the Davis Clinic in Marion, Indiana, with his father, Merrill, and brother, Richard. He was an active member of "The Surgical Society", a group founded in 1923 by Dr. Harold Caylor of Bluffton, consisting of surgeons in northern and central Indiana. He was a general surgeon of note. He was a family man. His son, Chad Davis, MD FACS, is a surgeon in Indianapolis, and his daughter, Tracy Lester, lives in Marion. His wife Margaret survives him.

We will miss you Joe.

## www.INfacs.org

The Indiana website is now in its twentieth month and the third month at its present address. Three pages have been revised since the Annual Meeting. The number of hits are down since the change to "INfacs.org" in late March, but are increasing each month. There were 188 page hits in April, 287 page hits in May and 363 page hits in June. This compares with 455 in January and 413 in February at the old address. The total number of hits on the website since it was started is 14623. The site continues to receive a small but consistent number of international visitors from all over the world.

The College website has undergone a complete face lift, and is worth a review.



## Coming Events

**October 25-30, 1998** - A.C.S. Clinical Congress, Orlando, FL.

**November 20, 1998** - Fall Quarterly Meeting: Samuel Wells, MD FACS, Director of the American College of Surgeons.

**February 19, 1999** - Winter Quarterly Meeting: Ronald Tompkins, MD FACS, Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital.

**May 6-8, 1999** - Annual Meeting, Indpls.

## From the Regents Meeting

The Committee on Emerging Surgical Technology recently published standards for approval of hands-on courses in new technology, and will publish the verification process for a basic course in the use of ultrasound in June 1998. The committee sponsors courses in ultrasound for general surgeons and image-guided breast biopsy. A new course in sentinel node biopsy will be developed and offered for the 1998 Clinical Congress. This course will use telemedicine technology instead of wet laboratory experience.

The American College of Surgeons Oncology Group has been established to administer the ACS clinical trials program. The College has received an annual grant of \$3.7 million from the National Cancer Institute to conduct the program. Initial trials will include thoracic oncology, breast oncology, and malignant melanoma.

A notice of proposed rulemaking about resource-based practice expense relative value units (RVUS) was published in the *Federal Register* on June 5. It would make significant changes in the methodology HCFA originally proposed to use to develop the new practice expense RVUS. It appears that aggregate payment reductions for most surgical specialties will be considerably less severe than those expected to result under earlier proposals. The College has proposed that: 1) HCFA develop safeguards to insure that inadvertent coding and documentation errors do not constitute fraud and abuse; 2) any revisions be pilot tested; 3) the requirements for conducting a comprehensive patient history be eased in cases involving intubated, incoherent, or unconscious patients; 4) a single organ system exam be developed for the gastrointestinal system; and 5) the guidelines be presented in a more comprehensive manner.