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International U.S. Surgeon

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Denton A. Cooley and Francis Robicsek to Speak at 70th Annual Conference



On June 5, 2008, our US Section President, Dr. Vijay Mittal, will open the 70th Annual Surgical Update with a very special welcome and the formal introduction of officers, international dignitaries and honored guests. This year we are extremely honored to have ICS Honorary Fellow, Dr. Denton A. Cooley give the key note luncheon lecture on Thursday, June 5. Dr. Cooley was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of ICS in 1973. Having performed the first successful human heart transplant in the United States, and the first to implant an artificial heart, this world renowned surgeon and founder of the Texas Heart Institute will speak on **Cardiac Surgery in the 20th Century**.

Also headlining in this year's luncheon lecture series will be 1998 Honorary Fellow, Dr. Francis Robicsek, who will present **A Farewell to Professors**, as he shares his philosophies and explores the changes in today's surgical training arena. One of the most eminent surgeons in the US, Dr. Robicsek has presented over 400 lectures on the national and international level.

Offering 24 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits, this three day conference will address the advancing technologies and current state of today's changing healthcare, starting with our opening session on *Hospitalized Patient Care*. This year's *Trauma*, offering will include medical aspects and conditions of the Iraq war, and the *Future of Healthcare*, of concern for both the patient and the treating physician, will cover topics from both the physician's and administrator's views. *Medical Innovations and Minimally Invasive Surgery*, will cover an array of categories that will include *Natural Orifice Transdermal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES)*, *Genetics*, *Stem Cell Transplant*, and *Robotics*.

ALL 14 surgical specialties will be represented through these intense and extensive lectures, symposia, and hands-on workshops, including the cadaveric lab for *Laparoscopic Colectomy*. For more information about the programs listed here and the additional programs being presented in Reno, please visit our website for more information and check back often for periodic updates.



In Memorium

PAST PRESIDENT J.C. SERRATO, JR., MD



Jose Carlos Serrato, Jr., MD, FICS, United States Section President in 2005, passed away on Friday January 25, 2008. Dr. Serrato was born on April 16, 1921, and grew up in Monterrey Nuevo Leon, Mexico. He attended medical school at the University of Nuevo Leon, in Monterrey and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics, in 1944. He served his residency in surgery and basic science at the University Hospital of Monterrey. Through a special agreement between the medical school of Monterrey and the city of San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Serrato traveled to the United States, where he served six months with the Public Health Service at the Robert B. Green Memorial Hospital in San Antonio, during World War II.

Dr. Serrato's military service as an Orthopaedic Specialist began during World War II and continued through the Korean War. He served in Fort Sam Houston, TX, and in Osaka, Japan. He was also Assistant Chief of Orthopaedic Service, at the 24th Evacuation and 171st Evacuation Hospitals in Pusan and Taejon South Korea. He was Assistant Chief of Orthopaedic Service, Fort Jackson Army Hospital, in South Carolina prior to receiving an Honorable Discharge and transferring to the US Army Reserves, Chief of Surgery, Army Hospital, US Reserves General Hospital, in Columbus, Georgia, where he practiced and resided until his passing.

During his career he lectured as a physician, surgeon, and Honorary Visiting Professor at over 25 hospitals and medical institutions around the globe. Dr. Serrato was active in over 63 medical and academic associations, including the International College of Surgeons, where he became a Fellow in 1997. By 1999, Dr. Serrato was a member of the Executive Council, prior to his nomination to the Executive Committee as Treasurer in 2001. As a member of the Board of Directors of the International Museum of Surgical Science, Dr. Serrato was responsible for the Spine Exhibit that opened in June 2004.

Dr. Serrato had family ties to the Marquez of Valle Ameno, Duke of Salazar, and the count of Nava. Most recently he was made a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Dr. Serrato was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Frances Strickland Serrato, who passed away in 1992. He is survived by his seven children including ICS Fellow Daniel Serrato and eight grandchildren.

PRESIDENT'S DESK



Vijay Mittal, MD, FICS

"Leaders are made they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile." (Vince Lombardi)

It is my immense privilege to serve as the 55th President of the United States Section of the International College of Surgeons. Making this honor even more special is that my term coincides with the Section's 70th anniversary. Having been a Fellow of the College for over fifteen of those 70 years, I feel that its greatest assets are its internationality, inclusiveness and the independence of its National Sections and their members.

The current Executive Committee members are among the best of the best physicians, leaders and human beings in their respective specialties. They are committed and ready to work tirelessly for the progress of the College. As I begin my term as president, I have made a commitment to move the College forward to the next level and improve its image. This will be accomplished through the diligent efforts of the Executive Committee and all the Fellows of the College.

Healthcare is changing rapidly and the Section will adjust to these changes according to the expectations of the membership. Together we have new choices to make and new adventures to experience. With commitment and a concentrated effort, we can and we will succeed.

Overall, my long-range plan includes the addition of other subspecialties into the College and also to improve our overall financial position. We will also focus on the younger generation of surgeons. They are after all the future of our profession and the College. This will be accomplished through adequate representation of residents, our Junior Fellows, in leadership positions. I will also be communicating on a regular basis with the Specialty Group Chairs, Vice Presidents, Regents and the members of the Executive Committee. We will be transparent and we will improve our image with a renewed commitment to excellence, trust and credibility by our leadership.

On the eve of the 70th anniversary celebration of the United States Section, I encourage all members of the Section to become active in as many aspects of the College as possible. Volunteer to become a Regent or for another related position within the newly reorganized Board of Regents. Your assistance in spreading the word about ICS is the greatest thing that you can do for your organization. I would also like everyone to consider how they might contribute to our missionary partner the World Surgical Foundation. Several trips are planned each year and the opportunity exists for an entire team from ICS to join along. Giving back is after all what this organization is about.

I would like to see the members of the College take ownership and make it self-sufficient and academically excellent. I encourage every fellow and members of various committees to join me in the numerous opportunities and events scheduled for this year.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." (Henry Ford)

I hope to see you in Reno at our 70th anniversary celebration.

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ICS and World Surgical Foundation Mission Update

For one week this past January a team of 17 medical professionals traveled to Hyderabad, India and the Khrisna Institute of Medical Sciences under the auspices of our missionary partner, the World Surgical Foundation (WSF). The team consisted of 6 surgeons (including WSF Founder and ICS Fellow Domingo Alvear from the US and one ICS General Surgeon from Bulgaria), 2 Senior Surgical Residents and 5 Anesthesia Providers (4 MD's and 1 CRNA) 2 OR Nurses and 2 PACU Nurses.

During the period of January 7th to the 12th the team performed 95 procedures on adults and children. These procedures included a renal transplant, the repair of an anorectal malformation and hypospadias repairs. The Plastic Surgeon on the team performed cleft lip/palate procedures and ear reconstructions for congenital deformities. The General Surgeons performed Laparoscopic Cholecystectomies, esophagomyotomy for Achalasia, ventral hernia repairs, inguinal hernia and hydroceles just to name a few.

The US Section is proud to be associated with the World Surgical Foundation and the worthwhile and important work that it provides to those who might not otherwise have access to basic surgical care. In an effort to pursue our mutual humanitarian goals, ICS Fellows are encouraged to contact the WSF to sign-up for future missions and teams. Currently plans are underway to take a team to Honduras in September and to Ethiopia next February. Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world and has an estimated 80 million residents with only about 200 surgeons mostly in the more populated areas.

To learn more about the World Surgical Foundation you may visit: www.worldsurgicalfoundation.org or call Nancy Cohen at (717) 232-1404 to sign up for a mission and don't forget to mention that you are an ICS Fellow.

A Ceremony 70 Years in the Making

An integral part of every United States Section Annual Conference is our Convocation. At this event, new members of the College are formally inducted into the society. This pageantry filled ceremony will be rich and brimming with seventy years of tradition.

This event will be held on the evening of Friday, June 6. Invitations have been sent out to all newly elected Fellows who have yet to participate in this stellar occasion. Past, present and future College officers will be recognized alongside one extraordinary physician and one generous entrepreneur, both who are extremely deserving of College accolades' for their notable contributions to the medical and surgical communities.

If you have not yet participated in this ceremony and would like to, please contact Mr. Paul Pancer in Chicago at (312) 787-6274, Ext. 3126 or via email at ppancer@ameritech.net. This is your opportunity to experience the genuine camaraderie of ICS Fellowship and share an amazing moment in your professional career with your families and guests, your physician colleagues across the nation and around the globe.

Looking for a new associate?

Searching for a new position?

FICS Online Career Services Available Now!

At the FICS Online Career Center we provide career services, resources and a networking community for US Section Fellows. In our NEW online career center you will find a bank of job postings to which you may add openings for your group practice along with resumes, career resources, career coaching and advice services and much more!

Visit the member's only portal on FICS Online today and click on Career Services to check out this NEW and informative service. Post your position opening, CV or resume today!

Please note that certain services require a fee, while others are complimentary.

Is It Possible to Get a Free Lunch Anymore?

YES! If you take part in this year's Annual Surgical Update. Plans for the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the United States Section's Annual Surgical Update are well under way. Special events and guest speakers are being finalized and a significant amount of work has been undertaken by Dr. Mittal, the organizing committee and staff to supplement the normal revenues of the meeting.

Through the development of several symposia and workshops we are pleased to announce that this year, lunch will be provided on a complimentary basis to all attendees who are officially registered for the meeting. In general, what this means is that if you pay the normal \$400 registration fee (no increase from the past few years) you also get daily lunch at no extra cost. Sorry, the registration fee can't be discounted if you don't want lunch as this fee covers other costs associated with the development of a meeting.

While registered participants will have lunch provided at no cost, it is important to note that spouses and guests will still need to buy a ticket. At this time we anticipate that lunch tickets will sell for \$30 per day, which is 25% less than what they have been for years and basically covers the cost of hotel food.

We hope that you are planning to attend our conference in Reno this June and help us celebrate 70 years of ICS and the US Section.

Member In the News



Chicago Ophthalmologist and ICS World Governor, **John H. Fournier, MD** was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University Ricardo Palma of Peru on October 3, 2007 in Lima. The award was presented during a meeting of the Peru Section of the College that was organized jointly with the Faculty of Medicine of the University Ricardo Palma. Presenting the award were Professor Manuel Huaman Guerrero, ICS Latin American Federation Secretary and Professor Elio Ivan Rodriguez Chavez representing the University.

70TH ANNUAL SURGICAL UPDATE

WITH SO MANY ROOM TYPES AND RATES, THERE IS AN OPTION
THAT WILL FIT ANY PREFERENCE!

ROOM TYPE	SINGLE/DOUBLE	RATE
TOWER GUESTROOMS		\$99
CONCIERGE GUESTROOMS		\$162
TOWER SUITE		\$199
ATRIUM PARADISE SUITE		\$399

ATLANTIS HOTEL, RENO, NV

JUNE 4–7, 2008



OUR 2008 MEETING PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE RENO AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER, AS WELL AS THE GORGEOUS LAKE TAHOE AREA, JUST A SHORT 45 MINUTE DRIVE FROM THE CONFERENCE HOTEL. SPEND A MORNING RAFTING DOWN RENO'S TRUCKEE RIVER THEN HEAD TO TAHOE OR EXPLORE SURROUNDING TOWNS THAT HAVE RETAINED THEIR OLD WEST FLAVOR AND EXPERIENCES.

Noteworthy Congresses

June 4-7, 2008
70th United States Section Annual Meeting
Atlantis Hotel and Casino, Reno, Nevada

October 31st – November 2, 2008
American Society of Abdominal Surgeons, Inc.
31st Hepato-Biliary Symposium

Dr. Blaise F. Alfano Conference & Banquet Center, Tampa, Florida

December 2008
36th ICS World Congress
Vienna, Austria

May 27-30, 2009
71st United States Section Annual Meeting and
41st North American Federation Congress
Hotel Omni Mount Royal, Montreal, Canada