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International U.S. Surgeon

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

2009 ICS-US Executive Council



President

Wickii Vigneswaran, MD
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Vigneswaran is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Chicago and is the Associate Chief of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, as well as the Director of Lung and Heart-Lung Transplantation. He is a native of Srilanka and was born in the city of Jaffna. Graduating medical school in 1978 from the University of Peradeniya in Srilanka he undertook his postgraduate medical education and training in the UK and the USA in Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery studying at such prestigious institutions as the University of Glasgow, the University of Edinburgh and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Dr. Vigneswaran has held numerous positions within the US Section including Chair of the Council of Specialty Groups and Secretary. He is also very active in organized medicine representing the Section in the AMA House of Delegates. He enjoys spending his spare time with his family, traveling and volunteering for medical missions to developing countries.

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Voluntary Thanks

The United States Section sent out a solicitation for its Annual Fund Drive in September in an effort to balance the 2008 budget. The regrettable fact remains that dues revenue is no longer adequate to cover all the normal operating expenses of the Section and the generosity of our members is relied upon to make up the difference in lieu of a dues increase.

It is our pleasure to report that at the time this article was written, many dedicated ICS members had already donated almost \$15,000 towards this end. While this campaign is considered a success, everyone's ongoing support is still necessary. Our goal is \$20,000 and every donation will go a long way to achieving our target for 2008. Don't think it's too late to send in your contribution- every little bit helps.

As part of this year's fund raising project donors were entered into a raffle based on the amount of their contribution. Receiving the Grand Prize of a \$500 MasterCard gift card was Dr. Fayez F. Chahfe of Utica, New York. For a list of all the winners and a comprehensive list of all the donors, you can visit the website and check the Annual Fund Drive page.

Dues Reminder

The 2009 Annual Dues notice was mailed at the end of November to most ICS-US members. The billing cycle for the Section is split into two periods, one at the end of the year and one in the middle. By the time you read this you will have already received the notice and possibly paid your dues. If you haven't received your dues invoice by December 10th and are normally billed at the end of the year, please contact staff in Chicago. Paying your dues on a timely basis allows the US Section to function more efficiently and leaves more of your dues dollar to be spent on programs and services.

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK



Vijay Mittal, MD, FICS

It seems as if it was only yesterday that I assumed the position of President of the United States Section of ICS and now I find myself writing a farewell message. Time seems to move faster with every passing year and the past 12 months have truly proven this to me.

Of course, my duties as your President began well before January 1st as planning for the Annual Surgical Update in Reno occupied much of my time in the final months of 2007. Throughout the beginning of this year countless hours were spent on finalizing the program and working with the organizing committee and staff to ensure that our 70th Anniversary was a complete success. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone from the organizing committee and staff to the members of the Alliance for helping make it one of the finest meetings I can remember. I believe that a model has now been provided for the future leaders of the Section that will allow us to prosper and rebuild based on the opportunities provided at our annual meetings.

As we all know, the healthcare system in America is in great jeopardy and this has undoubtedly impacted ICS as well as other organizations such as ours. While membership continues to be a concern, it is obvious that there is still a need for organizations like ICS and the challenge to overcome these issues will fall squarely on my successor Dr. Wickii Vigneswaran and the other members of the 2009 Executive Council. Cooperation between ICS and the corporate sector will be an important aspect to our future success. If we work together we can make a difference for ourselves, our patients and the College.

As we continue to work on improving our image and increasing the quality of our educational programming, the Section's leaders must continually take our message to their colleagues. We must all introduce others to the unique nature of ICS and the inclusiveness of our organization. This inclusiveness was demonstrated during the past year by a change in how your leadership will be chosen in the future with the implementation of new procedures that provide for more transparency and access for all no matter what their background.

The coming year will bring a variety of challenges and our Section will stand ready to address them. Through projects such as our Surgical Team to Ethiopia where humanitarian ideals are met, to the meeting in Montreal where we will provide our members an opportunity to expand their knowledge from various segments of the medical community, from administrators to paramedical personnel, everyone's input is valuable and must be sought to ensure the most comprehensive healthcare in the world.

I wish each and every member of the United States Section of the International College of Surgeons a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President.

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HEADQUARTERS

International College of Surgeons
United States Section
1516 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60610-1694

Telephone: (800) 766-FICS or
(312) 787-6274
Facsimile: (312) 787-9289

Web site: www.ficsonline.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Nick Rebel
Extension 3127
E-mail: nickrebel@ameritech.net

DIRECTOR
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION
Paul A. Pancer
Extension 3126
E-mail: ppancer@ameritech.net

MEETING AND PUBLICATIONS MANAGER
Maggie Kearney
Extension 3129
E-mail: maggiek@ameritech.net

International U.S. Surgeon is the
official newsletter of the United States Section
of the International College of Surgeons.

A Case For Collaboration

The 41st North American Federation Congress and Annual Meeting of the United States Section will focus on the alpha and omega of the surgical patient. The cooperation among multiple medical, social, civil and public entities will identify and explore "A Case For Collaboration." As continuing medical education criteria change both on the national and international level, a need has been created for the inclusion of non-medical personnel in education activities that support the entire healthcare profession and our teaching hospitals. Our surgical and cultural diversities require that we create a mutual understanding between physicians and the healthcare system, and an understanding between physicians and patients.

To provide the best possible education programming, the Scientific Organizers have determined that the topics to be presented represent the greatest changes and challenges taking place in general surgery and ALL specialty fields today.

Providing attendees with 37 Category 1 AMA PRA credit hours (some courses will run concurrent) topics for presentation include: Perioperative Management of the Pediatric and Geriatric Patient; Surgical Management of Age Related Disease; Age Related Management of Anesthesia; Age Related Medical/Ethical Decisions; Age Related Post-Operative Pain Control; Age Related Pharmacologic Management and Considerations; Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures; Pediatric and Geriatric Trauma; Avoiding Pitfalls in Obese/Bariatric Surgery; Age Related Management of Portal Hypertension, Bile Duct Injury and Renal Artery Stenosis; Management of Benign and Malignant Pancreatic Lesions; Humanitarian Ideals and Experiences and Disaster Relief.

Adding to this already extensive program, participants will also have the opportunity to participate in three mini-symposia that will address New Technologies in Tumor Ablation/Resection, The Management of Malignant and Benign Pancreatic Lesions, and Ultrasound Guidance in Vascular Access and Nerve Blocks. A lecture and porcine lab series will also be presented offering general surgeons and colorectal specialists the latest in Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery and Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic Surgery.

An additional 12 hours of credit will be available for Orthopaedic and Neurological Specialists as the American Academy of Neurological and Orthopaedic Surgeons will be holding their Annual Scientific Meeting in conjunction with this congress. Topics of interests for these specialties will

include: 3D Neuro-Anatomical Microsurgery; Dynamic Complex Spine Techniques; Orthopaedic Pediatric and Trauma; Open Reduction Fractures; Vertebroplasty; Stereotactic Neurosurgical, Radiosurgical, Neuro-Robotic Approaches, Awake Craniotomies and International Neurological and Orthopaedic Surgical Experiences, to name just a few.

Of course, adding to the entire program will be the presentation of "free papers," and "clinical cases," for all surgical specialties. This wouldn't be an ICS meeting without renowned faculty from the nation, the North American Federation, and from around the globe.



The backdrop for our 41st NAF Congress, Montreal offers attendees everything from modern skyscrapers and old world charm to mountain vistas. Truly a unique destination. We hope you will join us.

Our Canadian destination is a North American "European Treasure," definitely unique, definitely French, offering amazing architecture, fabulous dining and shopping, an exciting nightlife, and much more, allowing you to balance your learning with leisure. You will definitely enjoy your stay in the heart of Montreal at the Hotel Omni Mont Royal, our conference headquarter hotel.

We hope you will mark your calendars now and join us in Montreal, May 27-30, 2009. Abstracts are being accepted through February 16th, 2009 if you would like to share your knowledge with what promises to be a truly international audience. For more information on the submission process or for meeting updates, visit our website at www.ficsonline.org.

REMEMBER THESE DATES!

**Call for Presentations Deadline:
February 16, 2009**

VISIT: WWW.FICSONLINE.ORG OR CALL (312) 787-6274 EXT. 3126
FOR MORE INFORMATION

**41st North American
Federation Congress**

CALL HOTEL OMNI MONT-ROYAL AT (514) 284-1110 FOR RESERVATIONS
RATES: \$205 CAD

May 27-30, 2009

International College of Surgeons – United States Section
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