

John Jones Surgical Society NEWSLETTER

Alumni News of the Columbia Presbyterian Department of Surgery



1999 Reception and Dinner Held in San Francisco

On the evening of October 12, 1999, eighty-four members of the John Jones Surgical Society and the P & S Alumni Association and their spouses enjoyed a joint reception at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco on the occasion of the annual Fall Congress of the American College of Surgeons. Words of welcome were spoken by Dr Eric A. Rose, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Dr Kenneth A. Forde, President of the Society, and Dr Marianne Wolff of the P & S Alumni Association.

Following the reception, a dinner was held by the John Jones Surgical Society with an address by Dr Jean Emond, Surgical Director of the Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation, on the development of the liver transplant program at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

—John N. Schullinger, MD



Above: William D. Spotnitz from Virginia (L.) and Alan J. Spotnitz of New Jersey, brothers of Henry M. Spotnitz, MD, Vice Chairman for Research and Information Systems, enjoyed the John Jones Surgical Society reception.

Below: Two generations attended the John Jones Surgical Society 1999 Reception and Dinner at the ACS Clinical Congress in San Francisco, October 12, 1999. Left to right: Mrs Helen Feind, Carl Feind Jr., MD, Carl R. Feind, MD, and friend Joy Leighton.



IN THIS ISSUE

Into the Future

Dr Spencer E. Amory explores the role of today's general surgeon in the academic medical center setting.

New Resource Center

Plans to refurbish the Surgical Residents Resource Center are well underway.

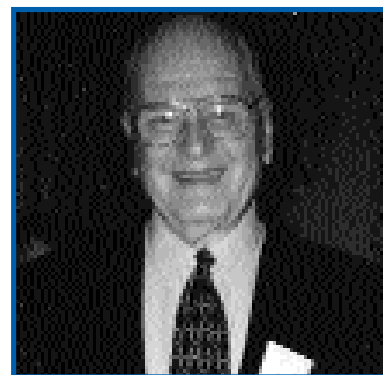
In Memoriam

We mourn the passing and celebrate the achievements of Robert Gongaware, MD.

Mark Your Calendar

The P & S Alumni Weekend will be held May 11th through the 13th, 2000. The JJSS program will be held on Thursday, 5/11.

Below: Julius H. Jacobson, MD was one of the guests at the JJSS reception and dinner at the ACS. Dr Jacobson, together with JJSS members Drs Philip Weidel and Alfred Jaretzki III, has contributed generously to funding the renovation of the Surgical Residents Resource Center.



In Memoriam—

Robert Gongaware, M.D. (1938–1999)

Dr Robert Gongaware passed away in Savannah, Georgia, on February 18, 1999, after a long illness. Bob was 61 years old at the time of his death.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Bob earned his undergraduate degree at Princeton University, and received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. During his residency in general surgery at Presbyterian Hospital, he met Theodora Lippitt, known to her friends simply as “T,” who was training at P & S in internal medicine.

T and Bob left P & S and settled down in Savannah, T’s home town. Right from the start, as T recalls, Bob became a “real Savannahian.” He loved the warm weather, the warm people, the warm golf courses ...and hunting quail. During the season, Bob and his friends hunted the birds every week.

Bob and T raised two sons and a daughter, who warmly recall his advice to them at “Dr. Bob’s Charm School,” always open for business following their unacceptable behavior.

Gongaware served as Director of Surgical Education at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah from 1975 to 1988. He was in practice as a general and pediatric surgeon there and at the St. Joseph/Cander Health Systems for the bulk of his medical career. He held academic appointments at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and Mercer Medical School in Macon.

Bob actively participated in ten surgical organizations, and still found time to serve on the Boards of the Savannah Symphony Society and the Savannah Country Day School.

—Dr David W. Kinne

INTO THE FUTURE


What is the role of the surgical generalist in modern academic medicine? What unique insights and abilities does he or she offer to patients, students and colleagues at the dawn of the new millennium? Dr Spencer E. Amory, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Allen General Surgery Division, responds with this essay:

Opportunities for the General Surgeon in the Academic Medical Center

The individual pursuing a 5-year residency in general surgery has many opportunities available. Fellowship training in many certifiable and non-certifiable subspecialties exists and the career opportunities are obvious. Is fellowship training in a subspecialty a requirement to a career at a major academic center? Do such departments of surgery need only a group of subspecialists in general surgery? I submit that a cadre of broad-based general surgeons is also required to meet all of the patient care needs and the educational needs of the students and residents in training.

There is general agreement that broadly competent surgeons are invaluable in many areas of surgery, including emergency, trauma, and critical care. Are they equally valuable in the non-acute setting? I believe that they are essential.

The vast majority of patients referred to a subspecialist have already been evaluated and triaged. Further evaluation is highly focused. Who then will handle the diagnostic dilemmas? Who will be the specialist in evaluating a complaint, in creating a complete list of potential diagnoses, and in generating an appropriate diagnostic and treatment plan? Who will teach our trainees to do the same? These are important roles of the general surgeon. It would be a mistake to surrender these roles entirely to non-surgeons.

The broadly based academic general surgeon needs to maintain a current knowledge base and technical expertise in a relatively large field. He or she evaluates and treats a particular problem less frequently. A different talent becomes necessary—one that enables the individual to maintain competence with less repetition. A general surgical practice in a major academic setting presents a unique opportunity to continuously challenge ones intellect and expertise that the more talented young surgeon will find appealing. 

The John Jones Surgical Society is excited about the upcoming renovation of the Surgical Residents Resource Center. The goal of the renovated library is to provide residents with not only current textbooks covering all aspects of surgery, but also major journal subscriptions. The library is conveniently located in the Milstein Hospital Building to allow the residents easy access during their daytime duties and encourage frequent use. Several generous contributions to the library by members of the John Jones Surgical Society have already been received including donations by Drs Julius Jacobson, Philip Wiedel, and Alfred Jaretzki III. Dr Jonathan M. Chen, our recently-appointed Chief Resident, has this to say regarding the library:

Surgical Residents Resource Center

The advent of the new surgical library has been a long overdue addition to the Department and represents an invaluable resource for the housestaff. Centrally located adjacent to the General Surgery Offices on the seventh floor, and opened in

JJSS Welcomes Alumni Correspondence


We strive to maintain contact with all our alumni to better preserve the history of the surgical service so future generations can benefit from the example of their distinguished forebears.

We welcome news and anecdotes from all alumni members and would like to learn of the whereabouts of the following alumni:

late Spring, 1999, the library now serves as the primary resource for most resident conferences, extensive resident self-education and the exploration of many preliminary research opportunities.

At present, the library contains a quorum of the main Surgery textbooks and atlases, with a particular focus on general surgery. In addition, its holdings contain a collection of surgical journals donated from the attendings' and residents' personal collections; these are far from complete. Dr. Forde has additionally donated his collection of ACS instructional video tapes on major abdominal procedures, and has also kindly donated his slide maker for housestaff use. Although they have been purchased, three new computers have not yet arrived, which will render the library Internet (and thus, Medline) accessible.

Our goals over the next two years are: (1) to further expand the textbook collection to include specialty atlases and references for the transplant, hepatobiliary, vascular, pediatric and surgical oncology subspecialties, (2) to obtain a VCR and monitor and to expand the instructional video tape collection, and (3) relatedly to have, at least temporarily, a laparoscopic surgery 'practice' station available for residents to hone their laparoscopic skills outside of the operating room.

I encourage all alumni to consider visiting the library on the 7th floor, and to join us for Grand Rounds on Thursdays. The walls approaching the library space have been adorned by Dr. Forde's Office of External Affairs with 'classic' photographs of the Department and Presbyterian personalities from the turn of the century through the present, and surely will be an attraction for all. 

<i>Mohamed Abedipour, MD</i>	<i>G. I. Getrajdman, MD</i>	<i>Michael O'Boyle, MD</i>
<i>John Alden, MD</i>	<i>Martin L. Gimovsky, MD</i>	<i>Ralph A. Olson, MD</i>
<i>Mark P. Altman, MD</i>	<i>George M. Glantz, MD</i>	<i>Edwardo L. Parodi, MD</i>
<i>Jeffrey Askanazi, MD</i>	<i>Marc Goldstein, MD</i>	<i>Robert S. Perry, MD</i>
<i>Robert M. Auburn, MD</i>	<i>Leslie J. Green, MD</i>	<i>R. J. Pimpinella, MD</i>
<i>V. Y. Bakamjian, MD</i>	<i>Price Gripekoven, MD</i>	<i>Paolo Pepino, MD</i>
<i>Carl M. Barlow, MD</i>	<i>Hans A. Gritsch, MD</i>	<i>Philip Peter, MD</i>
<i>J.T. Barmakian, MD</i>	<i>Harold F. Haase, MD</i>	<i>J. V. Poblete, MD</i>
<i>Konrad N. Barth, MD</i>	<i>Stephen P. Hardy, MD</i>	<i>J. B. Priestly Jr., MD</i>
<i>Robert L. Bassett, MD</i>	<i>Matthew D. Hepler, MD</i>	<i>Frederic F. Primich, MDP</i>
<i>Gene Bauman, MD</i>	<i>Walter L. Herrmann, MD</i>	<i>Robin M. Rankow, MD</i>
<i>Andrew N. Bazos, MD</i>	<i>Barry Hicks, MD</i>	<i>Zharry Rappaport, MD</i>
<i>P. Maynard Beach, MD</i>	<i>Nathan B. Hill Jr., MD</i>	<i>Henry D. Severn, MD</i>
<i>Harold T. Brew, MD</i>	<i>Lovic W. Hobby, MD</i>	<i>Hervey S. Sicherman, MD</i>
<i>Gina M. Brown, MD</i>	<i>S. Sverre Houkom, MD</i>	<i>John D. Siegal, MD</i>
<i>John S. Bucchieri, MD</i>	<i>Paul P. Huang, MD</i>	<i>Arthur E. Sherman, MD</i>
<i>Theodora S. Budnik, MD</i>	<i>Lloyd A. Hurley, MD</i>	<i>Robert B. Sirkin, MD</i>
<i>Byron C. Butler, MD</i>	<i>Martin F. Ill, MD</i>	<i>Richard S. Smega, MD</i>
<i>William H. Call, MD</i>	<i>Bruce J. Innes, MD</i>	<i>Laurie B. Solomon, MD</i>
<i>M. B. Chancellor, MD</i>	<i>A. Dean Jabs, MD</i>	<i>Enricco J. Stazzone, MD</i>
<i>Mark E. Chodoff, MD</i>	<i>Jeffrey P. Johnson, MD</i>	<i>Ward Wm. Stevens, MD</i>
<i>Tim Chuter, MD</i>	<i>Lawrence Katz, MD</i>	<i>Paul B. Sullivan, MD</i>
<i>James Z. Cinberg, MD</i>	<i>Bernadette Keefe, MD</i>	<i>David N. Tornberg, MD</i>
<i>William W. Colman, MD</i>	<i>Diane J. Krauss, MD</i>	<i>Roland A. Torres, MD</i>
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<i>Sophia Drosinos, MD</i>	<i>James F. McAndrews, MD</i>	<i>Donna R. Weymann, MD</i>
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<i>Robert L. Fisher, MD</i>	<i>Richard K. Murphy, MD</i>	<i>Barbara A. Winkler, MD</i>
<i>Wm. K. Funkhouser, MD</i>	<i>Stephen L. Nemerofsky, MD</i>	<i>Emil Wirostko, MD</i>
<i>M. E. Galantowicz, MD</i>	<i>Peter M. Newton, MD</i>	<i>William Z. Yahr, MD</i>
<i>Richard N. Gates, MD</i>	<i>David H. Niver, MD</i>	

If you have information that can lead to reconnecting with these past colleagues, please contact Trisha J. Hargaden by calling (212) 305-2735, faxing to (212) 305-3236, or e-mailing her at: hargade@cmail-am.cis.columbia.edu. Mailing address is, John Jones Surgical Society, Columbia Presbyterian Dept. of Surgery, MHB-7SK, 177 Ft. Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10032-3784.

ANNUAL PROGRAM AND RECEPTION HELD

In May of this year, the John Jones Surgical Society sponsored a Program and Reception during the College of Physicians and Surgeons' Annual Alumni Weekend.

The theme of the program was "Challenges to Surgical Residency Training in the New Millennium," and encompassed all aspects of general surgery residency training, including academic, research, life-style, motivational and financial issues.

Dr Mark A. Hardy, the Residency Program Director spoke about selection criteria for new residents as well as the overall goals of the residency program during the five years of surgical training. Dr Paul Starker, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery and Director of Surgical Education at Overbrook Hospital, emphasized the importance of the community hospital setting in training and encouraging residents to pursue a career in general surgery.

The resident's perspective regarding training and completing a surgical residency was provided by the Department of Surgery's Chief Resident, Dr Joseph DeRose. Finally, Dr Spencer Amory, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery and Director of Allen General Surgery, reviewed strategies for training the general surgeon. Excerpts from Dr Amory's talk are reported within.



**John Jones
Surgical Society**

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A publication of the
Columbia Presbyterian Department of Surgery

Editor: Beth Ann Ditkoff, M.D.

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Program Panelists: Left to right , Kenneth A. Forde, MD, (moderator); Mark Hardy, MD, Residency Program Director; Eric A. Rose, MD, Chairman, Dept. of Surgery; Paul M. Starker, MD, Director of Surgical Education at Overbrook Hospital; Joseph DeRose, MD, Chief Resident; and Spencer E. Amory, MD, Director of Allen General Surgery.

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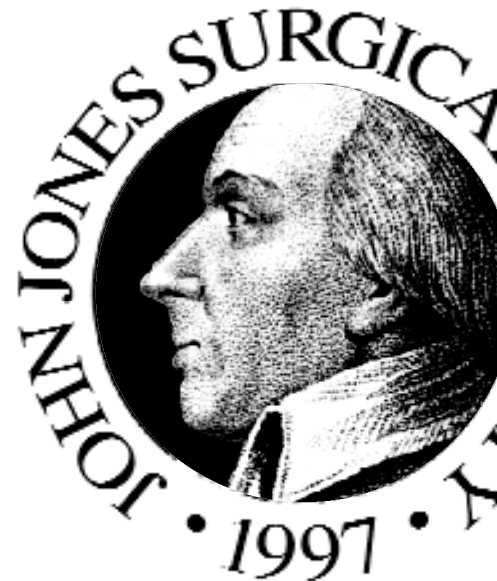
*can make a world of difference to the surgical residents
now following in your footsteps!*

Your generous donation to the John Jones Surgical Society's

Surgical Residents Library Fund

at any level, can help us reach our goal of providing superior educational support to our busy residents. May we suggest some donation levels:

- \$100 *Provides funding for one journal subscription.*
- \$250 *Provides funding for surgical textbooks and atlases.*
- \$1,000 - 3,000 *Provides funding for computer hardware and software, and copier equipment.*
- \$5,000 - 10,000 *Provides funding for construction and fixtures.*
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