



As Vice Chair of the BoG, along with Chair Steven Stain and Secretary Ronald Weigel, we are privileged to attend the BoR meetings. Below is a summary of the Top 10 items we heard discussed at the June 2019 meeting. We encourage you to share the PDF report with your Chapter/Society.

JUNE 2019 BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING TOP 10 LIST

1. **ACS Finances** remain strong. The proposed 2020 budget was reviewed and found to be fiscally responsible and supportive of the ACS mission. It was approved.
2. An **ACS Statement on Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination** was approved. The statement was developed by the Women in Surgery Committee and provides a framework for surgical departments and practices to create a work environment free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination. The Statement is available online and will be published in the *Bulletin* later this summer.
3. A revised **ACS Statement on Patient Safety Principles for Office-Based Surgery Utilizing Moderate Sedation/Analgesia** was approved. The revision by the BoG Surgical Care Delivery Workgroup reflects the ACS' mission to improve the care of the surgical patient and to safeguard standards of care in an optimal and ethical practice environment. The Statement will be available online and in the *Bulletin* later this summer.
4. A revised **ACS Statement on Older Adult Falls and Falls Prevention** was approved. The Committee on Trauma, through its Subcommittee on Injury Prevention and Control, developed the statement to educate surgeons and other medical professionals on the significance of older falls and evidenced based prevention activities. The Statement will be available online and in the *Bulletin* later this summer.
5. **Advocacy:** ACS has identified 43 healthy policy and advocacy issues that are important to surgeons. Sixteen of the 43 issues are the focus of the advocacy team as identified by the current legislative proposals.

2019 – Issues

1. Administrative Burdens and Regulations	26. Price Transparency
2. Affordable Care Act/ Market Stabilization	27. Prior Authorization
3. Burnout	28. Redbook Verification
4. Cancer Advocacy	29. Reduction in Surgical Payments
A. Colorectal Cancer Screening Bill	A. Primary care physician increases
B. Access to Cancer Care	B. Accountable Care Organizations
C. Cancer Research Funding	C. Globals
D. Palliative Care/End of Life	D. Bundles
5. Episode Grouper for Medicare (EGM)	E. Mis-valued Codes
6. Electronic Health Records	30. Scope of Practice
7. Evaluation and Management Documentation Guidelines	31. Sequestration
8. Firearms	32. Single Payor/Medicare for All
9. Graduate Medical Education Reform	33. Site Neutral
10. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act /Privacy	34. Social Issues
11. Interoperability	A. Immigration
12. Joint Contract Negotiations	B. Transgender
13. Measuring Surgical Value	C. Violence Against Women Act
14. Medicaid Reform	D. Abortion
15. Medical Liability Reform	35. Stark/Anti-Kickback
16. Medicare Physician Payment: Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs)	36. Student Loan Repayment
17. Medicare Reform	37. Surprise Billing
18. Mergers within the Healthcare System	38. Telemedicine
19. Maintenance of Certification	39. Third Party Payers
20. Opioids	40. Trauma Advocacy
21. Pediatric	A. Systems and Centers
A. Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act	B. Stop the Bleed
B. Emergency Medical Services for Children	C. Mission Zero Act
22. Performance Measurement/Patient Reportable Outcomes	D. Violence and Injury Prevention
23. Practice Management Manuals	E. Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAI)
24. Prescription Drug Pricing	41. Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act
25. Prevention/Screenings	42. Veterans Affairs
	43. Workforce

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- The ACS advocacy team has already submitted more than 140 pages of written feedback to the Department of Health and Human Services this year
- ACS representatives have already attended more than 130 meet and greet events with legislators this year
 - 10 of these events were hosted at the ACS Office in Washington, DC
- Billing for E/M codes is likely to increase based on advocacy of primary care physicians. This could result in cuts in non-E/M services. The ACS advocacy team is monitoring the situation as a proposed rule is likely to come out this summer. Fellows may be asked to reach out to their elected representatives on this issue.
- Multiple "[Surprise Billing](#)" bills have been proposed. The ACS advocacy team has already reached out to Fellows urging them to contact their elected representatives about this issue.

6. Board of Governors Report

As Chair of the Board of Governors, Dr. Steven Stain reported on the progress of the Governors' workgroups. The Executive Committee recently approved a new Governor for the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (to be effective after Clinical Congress 2019). He also outlined the three goals of the Board of Governors for 2018-19:

- Help Chapters Grow Membership
- Increase Collaboration between ACS Board of Governors, Board of Regents, and Advisory Councils
- Strengthen Communication Efforts Across the ACS

7. Dr. Stain also gave an update on the **Joint Session with the Board of Regents** at Clinical Congress 2019 in San Francisco, to be held October 27 during the **Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Governors**. The session will focus on *The Future of the ACS* and speakers will represent a variety of perspectives from Regents to YFA members. The Regents are all very supportive of the activities of the Governors and plan to attend the meeting. The Regents also reassured the Officers of the Board of Governors that they are 1) supportive of the efforts of the Governors, and 2) listening to the Governors and Fellows as they work to lead the ACS. *(As a personal aside, I want to reassure my fellow Governors that each and every Regent with whom I have conversed has conveyed that they not only want input from Fellows and Governors – they NEED it to guide them in their leadership role. This underscores the importance of the Governors in our role as the mechanism for bidirectional communication with the Regents.)*

8. The addition of an **ACS Chapter in Iraq** with a seat on the Board of Governors was approved.

9. The **Division of Education** continues to make major contributions on multiple levels:

- In May, meetings were hosted by ACS for the Future of Surgical Training and the Future of General Surgery Training.
- The Transition to Practice Program has been rebranded as the [Mastery in General Surgery](#) program. There are currently 33 sites.
- Development and implementation of the [ACS Introduction to Simulation-Based Teaching Course](#) for senior surgeons. The course was held in Chapel Hill and was oversubscribed (similar to previous courses).
- SESAP 17 will be released in October and [SESAP 16](#) will be retired at that time.
- The [ACS Comprehensive General Surgery Review Course](#) will be held November 14-17, 2019.



10. Clinical Congress 2019: **Nina Totenberg, Legal Affairs Correspondent for National Public Radio, will give the [Martin Memorial Lecture](#) on *The Health of the Supreme Court*.**

