



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENDOCRINE SURGEONS

AAES Newsletter

Summer 2020 Edition

Message from the President

Allan Siperstein, MD

I appreciate the collective effort from our leadership and members at producing our recent statement condemning racism and discrimination in all forms. It is time to dig deeply within our souls and commit to change. Going beyond condemnation, we felt it important to take action by forming a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to address issues within our organization and better serve our patients. AAES leadership felt so strongly that we voted to make the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group a standing committee of the organization that is charged with assessing our organization and more importantly driving change, both internally and in our patient outreach. The scope of this committee will be far reaching. All committees have a member of the Council that serves as a liaison so they may have direct communication and the ear of our leadership. Given the importance of this initiative, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will report directly to the President and Secretary.



I look forward to your ongoing support, participation and council in this most serious of times.

Message from the Secretary

James Lee, MD

They say that crisis reveals character so it's no surprise that our members have displayed grace, compassion, engagement, and generosity through these sterner times. We thank all of our members who have self-nominated for the AAES' Diversity, Equity, and

2020 Annual Dues

Have you paid your 2020 annual dues? [Click here to login](#) to the AAES website and renew today.

Not sure if you are current on your AAES dues or not? Contact Margaret Cloyd in Association Administration by clicking [clicking here](#).

Save The Date

2021 Annual Meeting

Birmingham, AL
April 24-26, 2021
Local Arrangements Co-Chairs: John Porterfield, MD
Brenessa Lindeman, MD

2022 Annual Meeting

Cleveland, OH
May 22-24, 2022
Local Arrangements Chair:
Vikram Krishnamurthy, MD

2023 Annual Meeting

New Orleans, LA
Dates TBD
Local Arrangements Chair:
Emad Kandil, MD

Donate to the AAES Foundation

Inclusion Committee. The AAES leadership pledges to self-educate, listen, learn, and, act.

We know how disappointed everyone was to not be able to see one another in Birmingham this year and greatly appreciate your understanding as we strive to keep the safety and health of our members first. I wanted to thank our management team AMR for their tremendous work during those tough weeks. Lauren Santangelo (our Executive Director) and her team put in countless hours as the pandemic was evolving to help us make timely and fiscally sound decisions. As we plan for next year, we are looking at a number of options for providing virtual components to the meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone in Birmingham, but if that is not possible, we will be ready to carry on.



The wisdom of our forebears in setting up the governance of our organization remains as relevant as ever. However, the pandemic showed us that our processes need an update. For that reason, the AAES leadership has undertaken a refresh of the Bylaws of the AAES. While the spirit of the bylaws remains intact, the new version modernizes the Bylaws and will allow us to react more nimbly to the future. We will have the Bylaws ready for review by the Membership prior to the 2021 meeting.

The AAES has seen unprecedented growth over the past 40 years and has become the society that 1) defines the state of the art and standards of care, 2) advocates for the recognition of endocrine surgeons with patients, institutions, and the infrastructure of healthcare, 3) drives fundamental advances in education and research, and 4) trains the next generation of experts. Over the past year, Allan and I have undertaken a significant reorganization of our committees' goals to clarify their missions and foster deeper collaboration between them. Please visit our website

(<https://www.endocrinesurgery.org/committee-descriptions>) to learn about the AAES committees. If you are not currently serving on a committee and would like to, the self-nomination process will open up around our 2021 meeting. Please use these committee descriptions to help guide your selection. As always, we will do our best to match you with one of your top choices as positions are available.

I cannot wait to see everyone again.

Message from the Vice President

Richard Hodin, MD

It is such a privilege for me to be serving as Vice-President of the AAES. These challenging and unusual times can sometimes bring the best out of people and that is absolutely what I have witnessed from the AAES leadership as they have worked so hard to guide us through this crisis. We are all of course disappointed that the 2020 meeting had to be canceled, but I think we are now seeing that it



SIGNUP HERE

was the right decision and that in the end the AAES will be stronger for it. In the meantime, the important work of the society continues throughout the year and I'm sure everyone is like me anticipating a wonderful meeting next year in Alabama. Hopefully, by the Spring of 2021, we will be back to something that looks and feels more normal. I can't wait to see all of you in person at next year's AAES meeting!



Message from the Treasurer

Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH

While the past few months have been sobering, I would like to start this update with a bit of good news. As you all know, in 2018, the AAES Foundation launched the 40th Anniversary Campaign: AAES at 40 – Honoring the Past and Building the Future, a capital campaign designed to celebrate the scientific achievement and clinical excellence of the society and its membership. As of the end of the official campaign in 2019, the Foundation had received nearly \$290,000 in donations and another \$142,000 in pledges, towards the goal of \$400,000. This is an amazing testament to the generosity and dedication of all of our members.



Over the past year, as part of my transition to Treasurer, I continued the work of Dr. Sareh Parangi in working to ensure our continued fiscal security. As a result of the excellent financial stewardship of our society management company and previous Officers, the AAES had operational funds (“cash on hand”) that were in excess of what is insured by the FDIC. These funds are utilized both for ongoing activities of the AAES and to provide a financial cushion, in the case of an unexpected event. Earlier this year, the Executive Council approved a plan to formalize an investment policy for operational funds and to transfer a portion of these funds to an investment portfolio, in conjunction with MEDIQUS Asset Advisors.

And the unexpected definitely happened! With the disappointing news of the cancellation of this year's Annual Meeting in Birmingham, AL, came the task of minimizing the financial impact on our society. Thanks to excellent guidance by AMR, we were able to negotiate a favorable contract for deferral of the meeting and transitioned many of our upfront costs to the 2021 meeting. Still, there were time and costs already applied to the 2020 meeting that are financial losses to the society. Some of this loss was mitigated by the >\$16,000 in already paid 2020 registration fees that were generously donated by AAES members to the operational funds of the AAES. We are incredibly grateful to the members who were able to do so.

Despite this setback, the AAES remains in good financial standing and we look to continue to provide services that will enhance your clinical practice and professional development. To do this, we remain reliant on revenue generated by our members' annual dues. We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous financial impact on many of our institutions, resulting in the restriction of discretionary funds and non-essential travel. We hope that you will continue to support our mission and find value in your membership in the AAES.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me (tswang@mcw.edu) with any questions, concerns, or ideas related to our society's goals and financial security.

Office of the Recorder

Paul Gauger, MD

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the AAES as your Recorder and look forward to doing so for another year. While we were all disappointed that the meeting could not be safely held this year, we are very fortunate that the timely submission of manuscripts for the podium presentations will still allow us to publish our January 2021 issue of SURGERY on schedule. The issue will be somewhat different than usual since we had no transcribed live discussions and no Presidential address. Nonetheless, we are fortunate to still have the opportunity to feature the excellent scientific work of our authors. One unintended benefit of not having to wait for the additional editing of transcribed discussions is that the accepted manuscripts will progress more quickly to e-publication.



I'm very grateful to the 97 experts from 67 institutions who served as reviewers for the 34 podium manuscripts. We continue to expand and diversify the reviewer pool to harness the broad expertise in our association. Most of the initial submissions received at least 3 distinct reviews and this year it took a median of 21 days for initial decision and feedback to the authors. For those papers already formally accepted by SURGERY (21 so far), the median total time for all revisions and re-reviews was 65 days. Thank you very much to all of you who helped make this possible through your timeliness and responsiveness.

Analysis of social media impact for SURGERY last year highlights a major presence for the AAES manuscripts. The credit for this goes to both the Information Technology Committee (for promoting the work during the meeting and again with the January issue) and to our savvy members that retweet, like, and comment on the work to further promote it. We do see an increase in views and impressions for many of the manuscripts that created visual abstracts so we will again offer that opportunity to authors who wish to pursue it.

Our working relationship with the SURGERY Editors and the publisher, Elsevier, remains excellent. We are grateful that the journal continues to be supportive of a dedicated full issue to serve as the proceedings of our annual meeting. We have successfully negotiated a new 3 year contract which incrementally improves the financial support and allows some of the other academic products of the meeting to find other avenues to be published. Importantly, we will have an increased number of "extra pages" throughout the year which are typically used for ads and announcements. Through the initiative and guidance of the Research Committee, we will use many of these pages to bring additional high-value useful work to our members as well as additional visibility of AAES outside of the January issue alone. This year, keep an eye out for excellent manuscripts such as "Genetic Testing in Endocrine Surgery: Opportunities for Precision Surgery" by Wilson Alobuia, MD, Justin Annes, MD, PhD, and Electron Kebebew, MD and "The Current Status of Remote Access Thyroidectomy in the United States" by Claire Graves, MD and Insoo Suh, MD. I am grateful to these invited authors for their excellent work and to the reviewers who provided additional feedback and expertise. If you have an idea for a high-value and practical endocrine surgical topic, please feel free to send your suggestions to Carrie Lubitz, MD, MPH and me.

I look forward to next year's meeting and all of the great scientific contributions which will benefit our patients and the AAES! It will be wonderful to be together again!

Fellowship Committee Report

Melanie Lyden, MD

We are very grateful to our AAES Fellowship institutions that have not canceled any fellowship positions for 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 because of COVID-19. On August 1, 2020 we will be welcoming 25 fellows into 23 AAES accredited

programs. There were a total of 35 applicants (35 in 2018), of which 31 submitted rank lists. The 2019 match rate was 74% for those that submitted rank lists (79% match rate in 2018). Congratulations to the fellows and programs for a very successful match.

With the tremendous help of Lauren Santangelo and team, we have implemented SurveyMonkey Apply as the new platform for our Fellowship Match Portal.

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, July 13, 2020: Online ranking site opens for Applicants at 9:00 AM CDT.

Tuesday, July 20, 2020: Applicant rank lists due by 11:59 PM PDT.

Wednesday, July 21, 2020: Online ranking site opens for Programs at 9:00 AM CDT.

Tuesday, July 28, 2020: Program rank lists due by 11:59 PM PDT.

Thursday, July 30, 2020: Any unmatched programs will be notified by 5:00 PM CDT. They will be provided with a list of unmatched candidates and their CVs. (Unmatched programs are NOT to reach out to applicants until Monday at Noon CDT).

Sunday, August 2, 2020: Unmatched programs who want to participate in a secondary match must notify the Fellowship Chair or Designee before Noon CDT.

Monday, August 3, 2020: Unmatched candidates will be notified via email at 9:00 AM CDT. If unmatched programs chose to participate in a secondary match the programs and candidates will be allowed to contact each other to fill any available fellowship position at Noon CDT.

Monday, August 3, 2020: Secondary match site opens at Noon CDT.

Thursday, August 6, 2020: Secondary match site closes at Noon CDT.

Friday, August 7, 2020: Match results announced.

Additional match information can be found at www.endocrinesurgery.org, emailing the AAES Headquarters Office (match@endocrinesurgery.org) or emailing Melanie Lyden (lyden.melanie@mayo.edu).

Thanks for all you help in teaching, mentoring and supporting our future leaders in endocrine surgery.



Information & Technology Committee Report

Geeta Lal, MD

The IT Committee continues to work hard for AAES members across all our social media platforms.

We have adopted a standard format for the awareness months to include daily informational posts across all our social media platforms and a signature event in collaboration with various patient support groups. To this end, we hosted tweet chats with GDATF (in December 2019) and NADF (in April 2020). Both these events have been highly successful, and the latter represents a NEW collaboration. Many thanks to all our members who participated in the social media campaigns for these months.

In January 2020, we highlighted all the papers presented at the AAES 2019 Annual Meeting and published in *Surgery* via daily posts. Many authors provided visual abstracts for these publications and these were very well received. Since the AAES 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19, we plan to post about the accepted papers as they are completed and published.



The IT committee was also very proud to have hosted the first AAES "Virtual Lounge" in April 2020 via Zoom. This served as an excellent forum for panelists to share their experiences with our membership regarding the guidelines for endocrine surgery case triaging during the pandemic and how endocrine surgeons had been re-deployed at various academic and private-practice institutions. A second Virtual Lounge was held on June 9, 2020 and addressed the topics of wellness and productivity for our members in the current era. This forum has been much appreciated as a way to try to re-create the camaraderie and interactions that are a hallmark of our annual meeting.

Our committee has been working on revamping the member side of the website and should have it unveiled this summer. Educational materials and curricula for the Endocrine Surgery fellowships will also be featured on the new member website.

We continue to maintain the Facebook page for Parathyroid Disease and Awareness (PDS&A) by posting high quality resources regarding primary hyperparathyroidism and other parathyroid disorders.

We look forward to continuing to serve our fellow AAES members over the next year. Please contact us with suggestions or concerns. Find us under the 'About Us' tab in the 'Governance' section of the AAES website. We wish you and your families well and hope to see you in Birmingham in 2021!

2021 Local Arrangements Co-Chairs

John Porterfield, MD & Brenessa Lindeman MD, MEHP

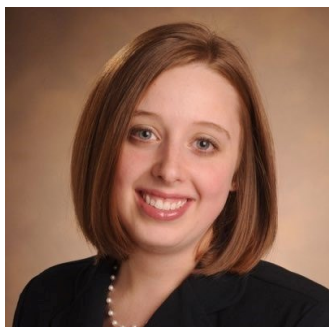
Dear Friends,

I trust that this note finds you well during the challenging times this novel virus has created. Here in Birmingham, Alabama, we are fortunate to be strategically navigating our re-opening with wisely implemented safeguards. It has been a welcome relief for our local businesses and particularly our award winning casual and fine dining scene to re-open. To give you an idea of our progress, Dr. Chen and I are pleased to be hosting a dinner for our graduating chief residents and their significant others at a local restaurant in June. Needless to say, we are confident Alabama will be as open, warm and welcoming as ever long before the rescheduled 2021 AAES meeting, April 24-26, 2021.

We planned a great local experience for 2020 and you can expect this to be even better and more cost conscious the second time around in 2021 as Dr. Brenessa Lindeman and I coordinate the local arrangements to compliment the spectacular educational agenda planned by Dr. Carrie Lubitz. For those who may be making their first trip to Birmingham, it is the centerpiece of a thriving region that has embraced its history and has an infectious spirit of inclusion, innovation, progress, and growth. It is known for its unique quality of life and we will have dining recommendations along with opportunities to experience fun cultural events and unique ways to explore the Magic City!

See you in Birmingham,

Brenessa and John



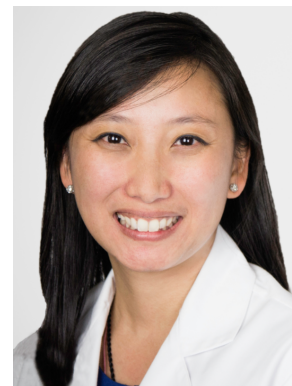
Endocrine Surgery Identity Committee Report

Jennifer Kuo, MD

Dear Colleagues,

Although we were disappointed not to have the opportunity to gather together in Birmingham this year, the Endocrine Surgery Identity Committee looks forward to continuing our work to highlight your contributions and expertise as Endocrine Surgeons.

During this past year we finished our marketing campaigns for our four Awareness Months and our patient education handouts on thyroid nodules, primary hyperparathyroidism, adrenal incidentaloma, and hyperthyroidism—in English, Spanish, and French (special shout-out to David Velazques-Fernandez who provided the translations). In addition, Lindsay Kuo created a beautiful brochure about the AAES for use at meetings of other medical societies and patient advocacy groups as well as a postcard which will be used to highlight our annual meeting in Birmingham in 2021.



We are also continuing our efforts to establish collaborative relationships with new organizations. Evandro Vasconcelos and Jen Rosen are coordinating our collaboration with the Brazilian Society of Endocrinologists for their EndoSul meeting, now rescheduled to March 2021, where a panel of five AAES experts will lead a half-day symposium at their meeting. Peter DiPasco is spearheading our collaborative effort with the American Academy of Family Physicians that we hope will lead to more opportunities for AAES members to showcase their expertise with this group.

We continue to make great progress in expanding the professional recognition of Endocrine Surgeons. Peter DiPasco wrote a Guide for establishing a new Endocrine Surgery Practice in the Community available for our young endocrine surgeons, and James Lee and I completed a White Paper for Departmental Chairs and Health Systems that summarize the benefits of having an Endocrine Surgeon on staff. A special focus of the committee this year will be a critical review of CPT codes, RVU assignments, and productivity benchmarks. To start, a sub-committee led by Mark Cohen will assess currently available and missing CPT codes that are frequently used by our members. We hope to consolidate and support usage of current CPTs that are appropriately used for some contended indications, and apply to the AMA for new CPT codes for procedures that we perform and are not adequately represented by any existing codes. In addition, we will be sending out a survey of current RVU assignments and productivity benchmarks to help devise the best strategy to assist our members, an effort led by Feibi Zhang, Meredith Sorensen, and Nicole Zern.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Chair of this committee. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any concerns or questions. I wish everyone good health and safety in these challenging times.

Program Committee Report

Carrie Lubitz, MD, MPH

We were all deeply disappointed that we could not meet in person this Spring. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Program Committee members and my co-chair, Peter Mazzaglia in what was surely going to be an outstanding program. Through the tremendous efforts of our leadership and AMR led by Lauren Santangelo, we have secured our place for the 2021 AAES Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama on April 24-26, 2021. (Save the date!) This year has

taught us many lessons and has reframed not only how we practice our craft, but also our worldview. In addition to our historically strong scientific program, we will focus our first post-pandemic meeting on these important discussions and initiatives.

We will keep you all abreast of things as the year progresses. As of now, we are planning for an in-person meeting and hope to see everyone there. However, the past year has taught us that we should have a number of contingency plans. We are also thinking carefully about how to offer content virtually should the need arise.

Lastly, Peter and I are honored to serve as your Program Committee co-chairs over the next year. We are excited to have Brenessa Lindeman join John Porterfield on our local arrangements team! We will see you in April one way or another!



Fellowship Accreditation Committee Update

Brian Saunders, MD

The Fellowship Accreditation Committee, like the rest of the family that is the AAES, sorely missed the in-person meetings and camaraderie of the planned Birmingham gathering. We hope all are safe, and we thank all who have been active in patient care and support during these difficult times. The fellowship accreditation committee did have a busy late-winter and spring, reviewing individual program and graduate accreditation reports. We are happy to announce that all 23 programs remain fully accredited at this time. The fellowship accreditation committee continues to look at several new fellowship program opportunities, at the same time as working alongside the Fellowship Committee to understand best practices for determining the optimal number of comprehensive endocrine surgery training programs. The committee continues to refine and define the standards and expectations for a fellowship program such that the learning environment for our trainees is optimized, and the processes for our new and existing program directors are clear and explicit. Please continue to direct questions about fellowship program accreditation or any major programmatic changes in currently accredited fellowships to bsaunders@pennstatehealth.psu.edu. Stay safe and healthy.



CESQIP Committee Update

David Schneider, MD & Jennifer Rosen, MD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CESQIP held our second virtual session on May 18th in lieu of our regular in-person sessions we have traditionally held at the AAES meetings. We heard and discussed two fantastic research presentations: "Factors predicting hypocalcemia after total thyroidectomy. The CESQIP experience" presented by Eva Fuentes and colleagues from Massachusetts General Hospital and "Diabetes Mellitus is Associated with Inferior Oncologic Outcome in Adrenocortical Carcinoma: A CESQIP Analysis" Presented by Sean Wrenn and colleagues from Brigham and Women's Hospital. We also discussed several potential research and Collaborative Project Module proposals. The committee plans to continue to host virtual quality sessions for the entire CESQIP and AAES community each winter, and we look forward to returning to our in-person session at the AAES meeting next year!

As we have done in years past, we have opened up submissions for research proposals using aggregate CESQIP data. This year, we are also accepting proposals for our new Collaborative Project Modules (CPMs). CPMs are an opportunity for the CESQIP community to add new variables to the

platform around a particular research or quality improvement project. You can learn more about CPMs or research proposals [here](#). We are excited to expand CESQIP's capability for high-impact, collaborative research!

Another new development is the use of the CESQIP platform for fellowship case logs. The committee has been working with the Fellowship Committee to create a mechanism for fellows to log and track their cases using CESQIP. We hope this eliminates extra work and provides real-time tracking information for fellows and program directors. Look for more details coming later this summer. The committee is also hard at work with projects to validate CESQIP data against other national registries, overhauling the neuroendocrine modules, expanding our CMS QCDR measures, and updating the website.

Each of these items will add value to CESQIP participating sites and the entire AAES community. CESQIP's success depends on participation of the Endocrine Surgery community. If your institution currently does not participate in CESQIP, please consider joining. Learn more about the benefits of CESQIP participation [here](#). If you have questions about CESQIP participation or new ideas, please reach out to Dave Schneider, Jen Rosen, or any of the CESQIP committee members.



AAES Foundation Report

Geoffrey B. Thompson, MD

After the successful 40th Anniversary fundraising effort, our total donations and pledges for the Foundation exceeded the \$400,000 mark, pushing our total pledges and donations over the \$1,000,000 mark. In addition, we now have greater than 40 Norman Thompson fellows—each of which have pledged or donated \$10,000 or more. The Foundation continues to support many research and education activities including the three named lectureships, the Paul LoGerfo research grants, funding for the best papers and posters at the Annual Meeting, as well as ongoing support for Endocrine Surgery University. Our hope is to be able to expand our funding in the future, particularly in the area of the research grants. This will require member completion of their pledges going forward. This has been a challenging year for raising money given the economic downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic. We do hope that despite these events, members will continue to step up and support the worthy efforts of the Foundation.



I should note that thanks to the wise investment strategy by our Vice Chair, Dr. Jack Monchik, we have come through this year far better off than most. One of our accounts that contain only short-term treasuries has a performance YTD of +7.65%, versus the S&P 500 index performance of -9.29%. Our other investment account-- which is about 50% equities and the remainder in cash, cash equivalents, or bonds-- had a YTD performance of -5.61%, versus the performance of the S&P 500 index of -9.29%. We are forever grateful to Dr. Monchik for his wise investing of the Foundation funds.

As noted in the most recent newsletter, I had intended to step down as chair of the Foundation at the Birmingham meeting. You are all aware of the challenges that we face and the disappointment we experienced cancelling the Annual Meeting for 2020. It was a decision of the AAES Council and

nominating committee to maintain the leadership presently in place for the upcoming year. Dr. Siperstein has asked me to stay on as Chair of the Foundation for one more year, to which I am happy to comply. I'll look forward to working with the membership and Council during the upcoming year and hope that you will continue to support the Foundation activities to the best of your abilities during these difficult times.

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.

Make Your Contribution to the Campaign Today



Update from the Thyroidectomy Guidelines Task Force

Sally E. Carty, MD, FACS & Kepal N. Patel, MD, FACS

We are happy to announce that the [AAES Guidelines for the Definitive Surgical Management of Thyroid Disease in Adults](#) was published in the March issue of Annals of Surgery! This was accompanied by an [Executive Summary](#) and a wonderful [editorial by Dr. Orlo Clark](#). All three of these are currently available free of charge from the Annals of Surgery website.

Future AAES Guidelines on Secondary/Tertiary HPT are underway from co-chairs Allan Siperstein and Herb Chen. Future AAES Guidelines on Adrenalectomy are underway from co-chairs Quan Duh and Nancy Perrier. It's been our complete pleasure and honor to serve in this process. AAES continues to innovate and educate in our field on behalf of patients. Go AAES!



Update from the Patient Advocacy Committee

Kepal N. Patel, MD, FACS

The Patient Advocacy Committee continues to be busy! We are continuing to build new relationships and optimizing our collaboration with patient advocacy groups. We have partnered with most patient support groups to identify a) the

educational needs of patients and b) programs that AAES can develop to meet their needs.

Along with the IT Committee we have held and plan to hold several tweet chats and webinars with groups such as ThyCa, Paratroupers, GDATF, VHL Alliance, CCF, and AMEN Support. We were unable to hold our webinar in April with NADF but stay tuned for an announcement in the near future. We have established a dedicated patient advocacy group panel to occur each year at our annual meeting.

Our goal is to establish enduring and productive relationships with patient advocacy groups allowing the AAES to serve the needs for endocrine surgical patients. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work.



Education Committee Report

Roy Phitayakorn, MD & Dawn Eifenbein, MD

The AAES Education Committee is pleased to report that we have completed ten AAES patient education brochures with the members of the Mission Birmingham Task Force. These brochures cover the topics of: Adrenal incidentaloma, anaplastic thyroid cancer, Graves', Hashimoto's thyroiditis, MNG, MTC, primary HPT, PTC/FTC, thyroid nodules, and thyrotoxicosis.

We are also working with the AAES Fellowship committee to update the AAES Fellowship curriculum's goals and learning objectives. We hope to have the revised curriculum ready for this upcoming Fellowship class with the aim to have measurable entrustable professional activities soon.

Finally, we have completed a pilot video-based education module on laparoscopic adrenalectomy for medical students and junior resident physicians. We hope to use this module as a basis for other procedural videos in the future. Please let us know if there are any other projects you are interested in working on together!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dawn Eifenbein, MD FACS
Education Committee Vice-Chair

Dr. Roy Phitayakorn, MD MHPE (MEd) FACS
Education Committee Chair



ACS Board of Governors

Carmen Solorzano, MD

These are unprecedented and challenging times for all. In response to the pandemic the ACS developed *The Bulletin: ACS COVID-19 Updates* which served many of us well during the early phase of the ongoing pandemic (<https://www.facs.org/covid-19>). On May 14 the ACS launched a new publication called the *Bulletin Brief* which will become the latest e-newsletter (<https://www.facs.org/publications/bulletin-brief/>). I believe that now more than ever there is significant benefit to be a fellow of the College. The ACS provides crucial and timely information/communication, treatment guidance, education, assistance/wellbeing (<https://www.facs.org/covid-19/well-being>) and advocacy for all stakeholders. Furthermore, the ACS and its cancer programs continue to provide invaluable guidance to surgeons as we grapple with the triage of non-emergent procedures and in many places the resumption of elective surgery. (<https://www.facs.org/covid-19/clinical-guidance>). Please be sure to access the extensive information that the College provides to practicing surgeons via its website and actively participate in surgical communities.



Many surgeon practices, hospitals and health systems have been affected by the current economic downturn. The ACS has provided financial guidance for surgical practices during these hard times. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is implementing a new Physician Fee Schedule rule going into effect on January 1, 2021 that would change how much surgeons are paid for their work. Under the rule, surgeons will be paid less for the post-operative appointments they have with patients than other specialties. It is estimated that the rule change that boosts payments for E&M visits and primary care through lower payments to surgeons by an estimated four to six percent will lower revenue as a result. The ACS is working on advocacy and on educating the public regarding what surgeons do and how important we are for the health of the community. Please get involved, help advocate for what you do and make your voice heard. As your Governor I am your representative to the ACS leadership. Please let me know how I can support you.

Career and Leadership Development Committee

John I. Lew, MD and Fiemu Nwariaku, MD

Although we share the disappointment in not getting to see everyone at the AAES this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we nevertheless look forward to the rescheduled AAES Annual Meeting to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, April 24-26, 2021. The AAES Career and Leadership Development Committee has continued to set an agenda for the upcoming year. Along with the Professional & Leadership Development lunch time session planned for the AAES 2021 Annual Conference in Birmingham, AL, the committee has plans to establish an AAES mentorship program for mid- and early career faculty as well as surgical trainees. Additionally, we hope the program will provide AAES members with a venue to find national speaking engagements and committee membership to other societies for future career growth and leadership opportunities. With such endeavors, the AAES Career and Leadership Development Committee strives to meet the goal of fostering and nurturing the careers of our members and advancing the cause of Endocrine Surgery overall. Despite the current situation, we look forward to an exciting year of new initiatives to promote career and leadership for our AAES members. We would like to again thank all members of the committee for their input and hard work. We hope that you'll be able to join us in Birmingham 2021 and enjoy the outstanding Career & Leadership Development Program and speakers that our committee put together scheduled for this year. We hope that you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe!



Global Surgery Task Force

Kristin Long, MD, MPH, FACS

Since our last update, we have all come to appreciate the world of “global” surgery more than ever. Our connectedness, to patients, colleagues, friends, and family, has forcefully evolved to include an online presence of telehealth options and endless “Zoom” meetings. In the last few months, we have all seen patients unable to access care or dealt with situations of resource utilization/allocation to varying degrees. While this is uncommon in the United States, these are familiar scenarios to global surgeons and global communities.



The AAES Global Surgery Task Force recently completed an initial survey of our membership to assess prior experience and current interest in global surgical work. We are in the process of collecting more detailed secondary data from those respondents who were willing to share more information, and hope to have this completed soon.

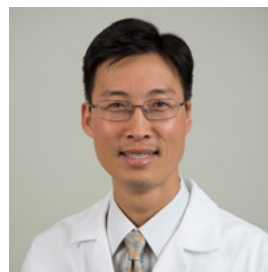
Additionally, we plan to continue compiling literature and resources for best practices in global surgery. While we are uncertain when travel restrictions will lift to allow further international surgical outreach, we hope to capitalize on many of the “virtual” options for expanding global partnerships and relationships. Although we are all physically apart these days, we certainly have come to realize that we are all in this together.

Liaison to the American Thyroid Association

Michael Yeh, MD

The American Thyroid Association Spring 2020 Satellite Symposium, "Personalized Approach to Thyroid Disorders," has been moved to a virtual format. The webinars will be released for viewing on a paid bases starting May 29, 2020 and are available here:

<https://www.thyroid.org/2020-virtual-program-library/available-programming/>



The ATA has begun work on two new updated consensus guideline documents regarding the management of thyroid nodules and the management of differentiated thyroid cancer. Also, the Centennial Task Force has recently launched and will explore how best to celebrate and commemorate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the ATA.

The ATA Fall 2020 meeting has been cancelled because of the pandemic.

The ATA has appointed a new executive director, Amanda Perl. Ms. Perl succeeds Bobbi Smith, who is retiring after 24 years of dedicated service.

Donate to the AAES Foundation While you Shop on Smile.Amazon.com

**Support
American Association of
Endocrine Surgeons
Foundation.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Did you know you can support the AAES Foundation while you shop on Amazon? The AAES Foundation participates in AmazonSmile, a simple and automatic way for you to support the AAES Foundation every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

On your first visit to [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We hope you'll choose to support the AAES Foundation! Amazon will

remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

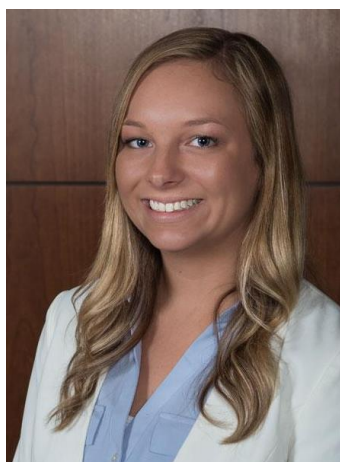
AAES Job Board

Please visit <https://www.endocrinesurgery.org/job-board> today to post a job opening or peruse the current listings.

Meet Your AAES Staff from AMR Management Services



Lauren Santangelo
Executive Director



Ashley Peter
Project Coordinator

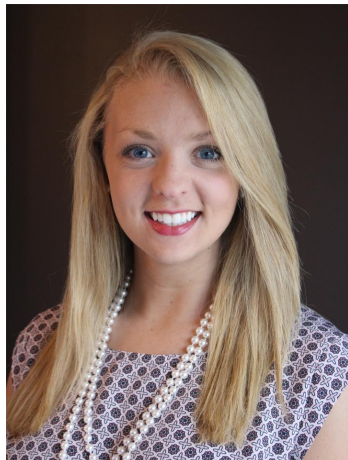


Margaret Cloyd
Association Administrator

Shared Services Team:



Delphine Tanner, CMP
Conference & Events Manager



Catie Parsley
Senior Accountant



Mike Cooke
Web Experience Manager



Liz Fossett
Member Services Director



Will Engle, CMP
Conference & Events Director



Cody Embry, CPA
Assistant Controller



Kevin Becknell
Technology Director



Julie Pelstring
Designer



American Association of Endocrine Surgeons

www.endocrinesurgery.org

Stay Connected



American Association of Endocrine Surgeons | 201 East Main Street, Suite 1405, Lexington, KY 40507

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by info@endocrinesurgery.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!