



THE WARREN H. COLE SOCIETY

The Alumni Association of the University of Illinois Department of Surgery

-AND-

The Department of Surgery at the University of Illinois

MAY 2008

President's Update

Throughout my surgical residency, attendings Drs. Humphrey and Jewell told stories of their admiration and love for Dr. Warren Cole. I first met Dr. Cole during my last year of surgical training at the University of Kansas. I expected someone much taller and more intimidating with the gregarious personality of Dr. Zollinger. As he talked to me and my fellow residents, I felt his personal attention and concern. While other trainees may respect their Chairs for high achievement and standards, my experience has been that Cole trainees speak of their mentor not only out of respect for his professional accomplishments but also his personal touch and caring. These Cole trainee voices are still vocal with praise for Dr. Cole but their chorus is getting smaller. The March 8, 2008 passing of former Cole Society president, Robert J. Jensik, MD, is a reminder that the Cole Society needs to expand to maintain a viable size. Both Dr. Nyhus and Dr. Abcarian, who followed Dr. Cole as UIC Surgical Head, have influenced many trainees who should continue to maintain the Society. The challenge is how to maintain a unified group and maintain the focus on our Cole roots and the continued support of our Alma Mater.



With the investiture of Dr. Benedetti as the Warren H. Cole Chair in Surgery on April 24 an opportunity exists to increase our efforts for all graduates of UIC surgical training (both Chicago and Peoria) to join the Cole Society. By an increased effort at member recruitment of surgical trainees from all eras, we hope to increase the viability of the Cole Society. It will continue to serve as an organization for UIC surgical alumni but will it be the same viable and dynamic organization? I have given much thought as to how such a group who trained at different time periods with different mentors could become dynamically unified. It would be ideal if unification could occur such as has existed with the surgical trainees hand-picked by Dr. Cole. Unfortunately, I found no single answer to guide me.

When no answer is forthcoming, it is wise to quote others. To state the reason for the continuation of the Cole Society I quote Robert Frost in his poem Reluctance:

Ah, when to the heart of man
Was it ever less than a treason
To go with the drift of things,
To yield with a grace to reason,
And bow and accept the end
Of a love or a season?

I believe we must find a way to continue the Society and maintain the viability that has developed around one man, one mentor, Dr Cole. We must expand our members to fully benefit from the efforts of all surgical training at our University throughout this century.

Perhaps some of the past wisdom from Dr. Cole would serve us well at this time and into the future. In his presidential address to the American Cancer Society in 1960 regarding the fight to control cancer he said:

"..I do feel that the clues leading to the final solution may well be at hand.
What we need is hope, energy and determination. What we need is courage
to mount this attack in a direction and with the force that can only bring success.
As your retiring president, I leave you this challenge."

Likewise, I need your assistance to create a direction for the Cole Society. The Cole Society must honor its past while creating a meaningful future. The Council and I need your hope, energy, determination and advice. Like Dr. Cole, we need to pass this challenge to all UIC associated surgeons. Please contact me with any suggestions that may help to make our Society meaningful to all UIC eligible surgeons and trainees.

- Norm Estes

COUNCIL

NORMAN ESTES

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NANCY HOEKSTRA

Membership Director
Newsletter Editor

UIC DEPARTMENT REPORT

As the new Head of the Department of Surgery, I am particularly proud to share with you the recent achievements of our surgical staff. The Department is blessed with some of the most talented surgeons in the country, in line with a remarkable tradition of excellence.

While all the Divisions of the Department of Surgery have great Faculty and outstanding traditions, I would like to feature two of our truly unique programs:

Robotic Surgery:

With the prestigious recruitment of Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, Lloyd M. Nyhus Professor of Surgery, as Director of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, the Department has taken a leading role in the application to General Surgery of robotic technologies, already widely used in Urology and Gynecology. Currently a true revolution is taken place at UIC. Complex procedures such as hepatectomy, Whipple's, lung resection, mediastinal tumor excision, and gastric resection are routinely done in a minimally invasive fashion thanks to the genius of Professor Giulianotti and the most advanced robotic technology. The opening of the "Advanced Robotic Training Center" will allow Professor Giulianotti and his team to contribute to the robotic training of other Faculties and our Surgical Residents. An impressive number of surgical leaders from USA, Europe and Asia are currently coming to Chicago to learn from the "best" in robotic surgery.

Islet Transplant Program

Under the leadership of Jose' Oberholzer, our islet transplant program has achieved national and international leadership. Currently, three Phase 3 (two sponsored by NIH and the other by our own philanthropic "Chicago Project") and one Phase 2 clinical trials in islet transplantation are ongoing at University of Illinois. Remarkably, the UIC program has achieved cure for several patients affected by labile Type I Diabetes with single donor islet transplant using a novel protocol pioneered at UIC.

It is, also, my great pleasure to inform you of the upcoming first issue of the Department of Surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago Newsletter, "AT THE CUTTING EDGE". As you will go through our Newsletter, you will find out that a lot more is going on in our Department. I look forward to bringing you updates every three months on the work of this impressive group of professionals.

- *Enrico Benedetti*

2007-2008 PGY1's

Following is general information received from some of this year's PGY1's of each campus:

UIC

ANTONIO GANGEMI

Birth Place:	Catanzaro (Italy)
Grew Up In:	Catanzaro (Italy)
Education:	Undergrad: Humanistic Sciences School
	Medical School: University of Catanzaro "Magna Graecia" (Italy)
	Post Graduate: University of Padua
	Sub-specialty training: University of Illinois Islet Transplant Program

Non-medical Experiences/

Accomplishments:

Interests (outside of medicine):

Served in the NATO peace-keeping mission in Kosovo
Martial arts (judo and kendo), scuba diving, Japanese language, outdoor activities, biking

Personal/Professional

Uniqueness:

Previous clinical experience in a different medical system
Basic and clinical science training prior to starting my residency

Personal/Professional

Plans/Goals:

I picture myself as an academic surgeon



ALISHA BHATIA

Birth Place:	Orland Park, Illinois
Grew Up In:	Orland Park, Illinois
Education:	Undergrad: University of Illinois at Chicago
	Medical School: University of Illinois at Chicago

Non-medical Experiences/

Accomplishments:

Interests (outside of medicine):

Personal/Professional

Plans/Goals:

Completed the Chicago Marathon twice!!
Tennis, scrapbooking, traveling

I would like to incorporate service abroad into my future practice.

Photo
Not
Available

2007-2008 PGY1's

Following is general information received from some of this year's PGY1's of each campus:

UIC continued...

ABDUL SAIED CALVINO

Birth Place: Panama, Republic of Panama
Grew Up In: Panama
Education: Medical School: University of Panama where he was elected President of the Panamanian Medical Students Association (the goal of which is to improve the education level of medical graduates) and worked with the National Board of USA and the Ministry of Health of Panama to implement a national uniform standardized test for certification of all medical graduates before entering practice.
Certification: ECFMG
Research Fellow: University of Illinois - Department of Surgery focus was to contribute in defining the molecular mechanism of pancreatic cancer chemoresistance. Following this opportunity he became a PGY1
Interests (outside of medicine): Playing tenor saxophone and listening to favorite jazz players
Personal/Professional Plans/Goals: World class trained surgeon probably back in Panama working as an academic surgeon and contributing with the education and training of the future Panamanian physicians and surgeons



UICOMP

ATIF BAQAI

Birth Place: Karachi, Pakistan
Grew Up In: Chicago, Illinois
Education: Undergrad: Loyola University, Chicago, IL
Medical School: Loyola Stritch School of Medicine
Interests (outside of medicine): Sports (basketball, baseball, football), watching movies, music (all types), dancing (hip-hop)
Personal/Professional Plans/Goals: Operating surgeon at a teaching institution and working with residents and medical students and married with eight kids!



DAVID MATTHEW NEILS

Birth Place: Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Grew Up In: Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Education: Undergrad: University of Chicago
Medical School: Saint Louis University SOM
Residency: UICOMP Neurosurgery
Non-medical Experiences/
Accomplishments: College Varsity football



CHARALAMBOS (BABIS) RAMMOS

Birth Place: Delaware, Pennsylvania
Grew Up In: New York until age of 4, then family moved to Greece where father is a cardiothoracic surgeon
Education: Medical School: Greece where graduated with the grade excellent
Related Experiences/
Accomplishments: Served in the Greek Air Force as a sergeant physician for 14 months and was honored for the services rendered
Interests (outside of medicine): Basketball and watching movies
Personal/Professional Plans/Goals: To do a fellowship, most likely in Plastics and go into private practice



SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

OF THE FEBRUARY 2008 COUNCIL MEETING

President Estes called the meeting, held at the University Club of Chicago, to order and followed with a statement regarding the future of the Society. Overall, the Society will need to re-invent itself to increase membership and reflect the many changes to the University of Illinois, Department of Surgery. Hopefully, the investiture of the newly elected Chairman, Enrico Benedetti, M.D. as the first Cole Chair of Surgery will enhance the relationship between the Society, alumni and active members of the medical staff.

The Council discussed avenues to enhance revenue including an increase in membership dues, increase in membership enrollment, donations, and modification of the bylaws regarding senior membership. The Council approved a motion to delay conversion to Senior Membership if the Active Member remains engaged in the practice of medicine beyond the age of 65 years old. Furthermore, future annual dues letters will provide an opportunity to donate additional funds. Changes to the bylaws will require approval of the membership at the October, 2008 Annual Business Meeting.

Applications of eleven new candidates were reviewed and approved for Active Membership. Updates from the Resident and Medical Student Programs, the UIC and Peoria Departments, the Development Office, and the Advisory Board of the Warren and Clara Cole Foundation were reported. The Society website hyperlink with the newly designed Department of Surgery website will soon be activated. The meeting was adjourned following approval of the next meeting to be held in June 2008.

- William Gunnar

IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Jensik, age 92, passed away on March 8, 2008. He was emeritus Professor of Thoracic Surgery at Rush University and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He was also the 1970-1971 president of the Warren H. Cole Society. A memorial service was held on April 7, 2008 at Rush University Medical Center.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, October 13, 2008 for the Annual Warren H. Cole Society Meeting/Reception/Dinner to be held in San Francisco, California in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons meeting. Our event will be held in the Carnelian Room on the 52nd floor of the Bank of America Center.



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WARREN H. COLE SOCIETY
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