

**AAST 2023 Annual Meeting
Pre, Lunch, and Add-On Session Descriptions**

Pre-sessions Tuesday, September 19th 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Laparoscopic Transcystic Common Bile Duct Exploration: A Hands-On Seminar

The participants of this course will review the indications and technique of transcystic common bile duct exploration. In addition to the didactic component, we will also have participants practice on simulators and equipment used commonly at centers.

Faculty: Marc de Moya, MD; Patrick Murphy, MD, MPH, MS; Thomas Carver, MD; Libby Schroeder, MD; Andrew Nunn, MD

Mastery of Trauma Techniques and Practice: The 2023 AAST Continuous Certification Course

The 2023 AAST Continuous Certification Course will focus on modern trauma techniques, concepts, controversies, and recently published landmark scientific papers as selected by the course core faculty. The course will feature three distinct sessions and include topical debates, didactic talks, expert panel case sessions, and discussion of selected landmark papers. Several of the sessions will incorporate a live audience response system as well as an opportunity for audience Q&A to the panel. The three core sessions and content will be:

- I. The Generation Gap: AAST Associate Members versus Fellows (90 minutes): session featuring brief topical debates followed by a rapid-fire expert panel discussion of cases related to the debate topics and pitting associate member faculty versus more senior AAST member faculty.
- II. Phone a Friend: Tips and Tricks for Managing Five Difficult Injuries (105 minutes) session featuring talks by “masters” focused on practical tips, tricks, techniques, and pearls for managing select challenging and difficult injuries, followed by a rapid-fire challenging scenarios panel discussion.
- III. Hot Off the Press! Landmark Papers and Critical Concepts in Trauma (60 minutes) session featuring brief review and discussion of the top landmark papers published within the last three years in the fields of Resuscitation, Truncal Trauma, Head and Neck Injuries, and Trauma Education/Training.

Speakers: Nicole Anne Stassen, MD; Ryan Dumas, MD; Matthew Martin, MD; Joshua Dilday, DO; Martin Schreiber, MD; Brittany K. Bankhead, MD, MS; Shannon Foster, MD; Rachel Appelbaum, MD; Natasha Keric, MD; Elizabeth Benjamin, MD, PhD; Kenji Inaba, MD; Bellal Joseph, MD; Paula Ferrada, MD; Tanya Egodage, MD

Research Symposium - Taking the Next Step: A Comprehensive Approach to Making the Transition to Independent Investigator (Part 1)

Please note the part two Shark Tank will take place on Thursday, September 21st from 1:45 PM - 6:00PM

This innovative two-day course will immerse early career surgeon scientists with the knowledge and skills to begin taking the next steps to becoming independent investigators. The course will begin with a full day of didactic sessions focused on mentoring budding surgeon scientists to develop impactful research questions, surround themselves with the right people to succeed, and lead their teams effectively. The findings of the National Trauma Research Action Plan will be highlighted as a potential source for relevant research questions and the benefits of partnering with the Coalition for National Trauma Research will be considered. Additionally, techniques for writing a successful grant application and funding mechanisms relevant to the trauma and acute care surgeon will be discussed.

Moderators: Jonathan P. Meizoso, MD, MSPH; Brittany K. Bankhead, MD, MS;
Julia R. Coleman, MD, MPH; Ryan P. Dumas, MD

Speakers: Raul Coimbra, MD, PhD; Todd W. Costantini, MD; Rachael A. Callcut, MD, MSPH;
Bellal A. Joseph, MD; Ben Zarzaur, MD, MPH; Elliott R. Haut, MD, PhD; Jamie Coleman, MD;
Rosemary A. Kozar, MD, PhD; Hasan B. Alam, MD; Mitchell J. Cohen, MD; Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH;
John B. Holcomb, MD; Todd E. Rasmussen, MD; Angela M. Ingraham, MD, MS;
Megan L. Brenner, MD, MS; Matthew D. Neal, MD

Lunch Sessions, Wednesday September 20th 12:45-2:00 PM

360 Care of the Older Adult EGS Patient (Collaboration with Geriatric Committee, Palliative Care Committee)

- i. Timing to the OR: When is Aggressive Surgical Care More Appropriate than Watchful Waiting
- ii. Peri-Operative Management Protocols and Delirium Prevention
- iii. Care after Discharge: The Gradual Turn Towards Long-Term Collaborative Care

Speakers: Bellal A. Joseph, MD; Thomas Shoultz, MD; Sasha Adams, MD

Moderators: Tanya Anand, MD and Adam Nelson, MD

Defining the Acute Care Surgeon: FTE's, Compensation and Career Trajectory

Acute Care Surgery is currently engaged in the debate about what defines an FTE and what the career of an acute care surgeon does, and should, look like. The ACS FTE varies from institution to institution and the lack of standardization has become a significant issue in our specialty. In the lunch session, we will discuss how and why to define an FTE, various models in use and how to incorporate non-clinical responsibilities.

- i. Introduction to FTEs – Patrick Murphy, MD, MPH, MS
- ii. Why do we need a definition? - Marc de Moya, MD
- iii. Physiologic definition of an FTE - Jamie Coleman, MD
- iv. Staffing a Division - meeting the clinical and financial demands - Stephanie Bonne, MD
- v. Incorporation of non-clinical work into expectations and compensation - Jeffrey Nahmias, MD, MHPE
- vi. Discussion, Q and A

International Case Conference Session

International Case Conference Session Trauma surgeons from around the world will submit a trauma case they managed and the nuances of care that were involved. Of the cases submitted, the AAST International Relations Committee will choose those best illustrating a trauma patient cared for in their native country in an innovative, unusual or unique way using local resources showing the audience how they managed the care, resuscitation, operative intervention with images and videos. Selected cases will be presented at the lunch session and interrupted by questions to and from the expert panel of 3 senior AAST members, preferably from the US and elsewhere. In the one hour lunch session, three 20 minute cases will be presented and strict control of time (10 minutes presentation 10 minutes discussion per case) will be maintained by the moderators and audience participation will be moderated tightly allowing questions as well.

Panelists: Damian Clarke, MBBCH, MBA, PhD, South Africa; Francisco Collet, MD, Brazil; Christina Gaarder, MD, PhD, Norway; David Feliciano, MD, USA; William Schwab, MD, USA

Leading the Charge: Thriving as an Early- and Mid-Career Surgeon in the AAST

The AAST has long provided a venue for surgeons to collaborate on scholarly activity, provide education, and participate in professional development. Since the inception of the Associate Membership in 2019, junior faculty and trainees have benefited from the mentorship, networking, and educational opportunities offered by the AAST. Involvement and success within the AAST requires dedicated effort and coordination. As Associate Members navigate the transition to Fellow, and as Fellows advance, involvement on committees and maintaining productivity is imperative to success within the organization. In this session, we will offer insights into involvement and success as an early- and mid-career surgeon within the AAST. The AAST Associate Member Category: Past, Present, and Future: Dr. Eileen Bulger conceived the idea of early-career surgeon involvement within the AAST. Her vision came to fruition in 2019 with the inaugural class of Associate Members. It has since grown to approximately 510 members. Dr. Bulger will review the impetus for creation of the Associate Member status, their current role within the organization, and her goals for the future. Navigating the AAST as Early-Career Surgeon, and Transition to Fellow: Dr. Lisa Marie Knowlton, past President of the Associate Member Council (AMC), will discuss the structure of the Associate Member Council, participation as an early-career surgeon, and the transition to Fellow. Participation and Leadership as a Fellow of the AAST: Membership Chair, Dr. Patrick Reilly, will discuss ascending the ranks as a Fellow. He will review commitment to active participation, and advice for rising to leadership positions, including committee chairs, task force leaders, and Board of Directors. Networking and Mentorship as Early- and Mid-Career Surgeons Within the AAST: Dr. David Spain will provide approaches to networking, and receiving and providing mentorship, allowing for growth within the organization.

Speakers: Eileen Bulger, MD; Lisa Knowlton, MD, MPH; Patrick Reilly, MD; David Spain, MD

On-Call with NextGen Masters in Acute Care Surgery: Navigating Complex Cases

This session will be a twist on “Engage the masters” sessions and instead will focus on current challenges faced by early and mid-career faculty. Four mid-career surgeon panelists will discuss cases presented by Associate Members of the AAST.

Associate Members will present challenging cases they have had while on call. The moderators will lead the discussion and engage four mid-career surgeons for each case and ask them how they would manage these patients. Emphasis will be placed on challenging and controversial management as well as evolving and new technologies.

AAST Associate Member Case Presenters: Amanda Marsh, MD; Roseanna Guzman-Curtis, MD, MPH; Michael Parmley, MD; Milos Buhavac, MD

AAST Mid-Career Panelists: Michael Cripps, MD; Leah Tatebe, MD; Stepheny Berry, MD; Tareq Kheirbek, MD, MSc, MS

Reviewing a Manuscript, Using Multivariate Analysis, and Disclosing Conflicts of Interest: What You Need to Know

1. Using Multivariate Analysis in ACS Research. Why, When, and How? - Tabitha Garwe, PhD
2. Reviewing a Manuscript: Tips and Tricks - Raul Coimbra, MD, PhD, FACS
3. Disclosing Conflicts of Interest: What You Need to Know. - Walter Biffl, MD, FACS

Add-on Sessions, Thursday September 21st 1:45-6:00 PM

The 2023 AAST Neurocritical Care Update and Board Review Course

This session will be a high-level review of modern neurocritical care concepts and practice, as well as a board exam preparation course. Neurocritical care has traditionally been a major component of both medical and surgical critical care practice but has lacked a formal subspecialty certification process that is readily open to surgical intensivists. In 2021, the American Board of Surgery announced a newly established subspecialty certification in Neurocritical Care that is a collaborative effort with the American Board of Anesthesiology and the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. Preparation for this exam requires not only familiarization with standard neurotrauma management, but also knowledge in non-surgical areas such as acute stroke and other neurologic emergencies, neuroanatomy and MRI interpretation, and neuropharmacology. This session will provide an intense focused review covering the core topics and focus areas that will be covered on the Neurocritical Care Exam and topics relevant to Acute Care Surgeons providing neurocritical care services. The format will involve short didactic lectures on high-yield topics as well as case examples with sample question and answer reviews. In addition to the syllabus materials, attendees will also receive a copy of 'The Pocket Guide to Neurocritical Care' which will be included in the registration fee.

Speakers: Joseph Cuschieri, MD; Matthew Martin, MD; Deborah Stein, MD, MPH; Purvi Patel, MD; Tanya Egodage, MD; Bellal Joseph, MD; Krista Kaups, MD, MSc; Sam Tisherman, MD; Carlos Brown, MD; Salina Wydo, MD; Joel Elterman, MD

Taking the Next Step: A Comprehensive Approach to Making the Transition to Independent Investigator (Part 2)

On the second day, participants will have the opportunity to pitch their own research ideas to a group of expert panelists, who will provide feedback in real-time. The group will then be divided into multiple break-out sessions to discuss specific aspects in various research disciplines, including basic and translational science, health services and outcomes research, qualitative research and mixed methods, and others. The two-day course will culminate with a keynote address highlighting the need to expand the current number of surgeon scientists, with an emphasis on trauma, acute care surgery, and surgical critical care.

Moderators: Jonathan P. Meizoso, MD, MSPH; Brittany K. Bankhead, MD, MS; Julia R. Coleman, MD, MPH; Ryan P. Dumas, MD

Speakers: Raul Coimbra, MD, PhD; Todd W. Costantini, MD; Rachael A. Callcut, MD, MSPH; Bellal A. Joseph, MD; Ben Zarzaur, MD, MPH; Elliott R. Haut, MD, PhD; Rosemary A. Kozar, MD, PhD; Hasan B. Alam, MD; Mitchell J. Cohen, MD; Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH; John B. Holcomb, MD; Todd E. Rasmussen, MD; Angela M. Ingraham, MD, MS; Megan L. Brenner, MD, MS; Matthew D. Neal, MD

Lunch Sessions, Friday, September 22nd 12:00 – 1:15 PM

Disaster Surgical Surge: When Mass Trauma Threatens to Overwhelm Your Operating Rooms

When a disaster response includes multiple patients who all need emergent surgical intervention, the system can be stressed in ways not routinely anticipated by standard disaster planning. Mass casualty and disaster drills generally focus on “front of hospital” triage but frequently “end” when a patient is determined to require surgery. Consideration of a disaster plan that fully includes the operating room is often overlooked. This session will discuss DMEP requirements and the new electronic DMEP course as well as focus on the logistics involved when a disaster or mass casualty response includes mobilization of multiple operating rooms at once. The ability to recall extra OR teams at night, the ability to clear operating rooms during the day, the availability of surgical instruments at the end of a long elective day and staffing concerns must all be considered as a response plan is expanded to include the operating room. While each institution is different, this session will help participants to identify gaps and weaknesses in disaster plans that do not specifically address operating room readiness.

Speakers: Katherine Kelley, MD; Jeannette Capella, MD, MEd; Nicole Toscano, MD; Allison McNickle, MD
Moderator: Katherine Kelley, MD

In Pursuit of American College of Surgeons EGS Verification: A Nuts and Bolts Guide to Verification

In September of 2022, the American College of Surgeons launched the verification program for Emergency General Surgery. This program aims to improve care of the EGS patient by defining key components of strong EGS programs with a focus on process improvement, data capture (and hence research) and evolution of care from regional hospitals to large quaternary centers. Though the requirements for verification are readily available on the ACS website, the practicalities of standing up a program and what a site visit entails are not familiar to many. The aim of this lunch session includes:

- a. Key aspects of an EGS program that should be in place for a successful visit
- b. How to engage hospital and departmental leadership in supporting the pursuit of EGS verification
- c. Practical aspects of the site visit and how to get started/proceed/complete a successful visit

Speakers: Stephanie Savage, MD, MS; Gail Tominaga, MD; Catherine Sharoky, MD, MSCE

Management of Pediatric Trauma Patients: Optimal Care in Every Facility

The annual pediatric educational session will showcase collaborations between Adult and Pediatric Trauma Surgeons striving to ensure optimal pediatric care in every facility. An expert panel mixed with both adult and pediatric surgeons will review challenging pediatric cases (trauma or acute care) cared for in adult centers, that may highlight clinical complexities or system challenges. The panel will use the case examples to engage in discussions about the best possible pediatric clinical care, utilization of good collaborations between centers, and considerations for children in local trauma systems of care. This discussion will delve into those uncomfortable moments when a child needs a strong adult trauma center to get good care rapidly and the pediatric partnerships that make ongoing improvement a reality.

Speakers: David Blake, MD, MPH; Diane Wintz, MD; Lillian Liao, MD; Howard Pryor, MD;
Mark Ryan, MD, MPH; Robert Letton, MD
Moderator: Chris Newton, MD

Solutions to Achieving Health Equity and Eliminating Health Care Disparities within Acute Care Surgery

Addressing disparities within Acute Care Surgery is important not only from a social justice and equity standpoint, but also for improving the overall health and economic prosperity of our patients. People of color and other underserved groups experience higher rates of morbidity and mortality. As the population becomes more diverse, with people of color projected to account for over half of the population by 2050, it is increasingly important to address systemic disparities particularly within the field of acute care surgery. Effective January 1, 2023, new and revised requirements to reduce health care disparities will apply to organizations in the Joint Commission ambulatory health care, behavioral health care and human services, critical access hospital, and hospital accreditation programs. The move comes after the Joint Commission originally released an advisory for health care leaders to make health equity a strategic priority in July 2021. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) will also begin tying reimbursement to achieving health equity. How do we as Acute Care Surgeons ensure alignment with the Joint Commission and CMS in achieving health equity and eliminating health disparities for our patients?

Moderator: Cherisse Berry, MD

Speakers: Lisa Knowlton, MD, MPH; Tanya Zakrison, MD, MPH; Lillian S. Kao, MD, MS; Marta L. McCrum, MD, MPH; Kathie-Ann Joseph, MD, MPH

Updates and Tips on Billing for Trauma and Surgical Critical Care

Trauma and Acute Care Surgeons provide care across a wide spectrum of clinical situations and locations using various team structure. Important recent changes have occurred over the past year in CMS rules for coding professional services and operative procedures for hernia repair. This session will review the key changes affecting documentation, coding and billing, provide tips for documentation and coding and explore potential implications of these changes and how teams can utilize available tools including documentation to drive quality targets, organizational revenue and team efficiency.

Talks:

- i. Update on Hernia Repair Coding
- ii. 2023 Updates in Professional Coding: new modifiers, tweaking 99291, overhaul of split/shared visits and other changes.
- iii. Tips My Coders Taught Me.
- iv. Panel discussion / Q&A: Operationalizing billing changes on your service

Speakers: Samir Fakhry, MD; Jordan Kirsch, MD; Andrew Bernard, MD

Moderator: Gail Tominaga, MD

We Have to Talk: Navigating Difficult Discussions and Decisions for Acute Care Surgeons

Acute Care Surgeons are commonly required to have difficult discussions or guide patients and their families through challenging decisions under urgent or emergent conditions. Although end-of-life and palliative care are commonly discussed, there are numerous other scenarios that require expertise, compassion, and a well thought out approach to foster trust and acceptance. This session will present current best practices and advice for four common scenarios as listed below. This will be followed by a moderated session involving real-life scenarios presented to the panel of speakers, as well as an interactive audience response system. The outline of the session is as follows:

1. We Regret to Inform You: Compassionate and Effective Death Notifications - Vanessa Ho, MD, MPH
2. Unfortunately, Your Results Show...: Delivering Bad News for Acute Care Surgeons – Kathleen O’Connell, MD
3. Should I Stay or Should I Go?: The Best Case/Worst Case Approach for Guiding Decisions on High Risk Surgery - Matthew Martin, MD
4. Every Parent’s Worst Nightmare: Considerations for Difficult Discussions in the Pediatric Patient – Romeo Ignacio, MD
5. Scenarios and interactive audience response (20 minutes)