President’s Perspective
- David Livingston, M.D.

About 2700 years ago, Heraclitus wrote, “The only constant in life is change”. More importantly, Benjamin Franklin followed up some 2400 years later with “When you are finished changing, you are finished”. I am certain there are no more fitting words and sentiments for the many transformations we are experiencing within the AAST. I remain honored and humbled to be president of such an amazing group and in my inaugural message I would categorically state the AAST is definitely “not finished”! These past two pandemic years as your president-elect has provided me the extra time to truly understand how vast and complicated our group has become. I pledge to you all to build on the amazing work of the recent past presidents, Drs. Spain, Croce, Rotondo and Coimbra and keep our organization changing and evolving in many positive ways. Some of these changes and success include the following:

In the past two years, our group has pulled off two amazing meetings. The first all virtual meeting in 2020 and the recent hybrid one in Atlanta. These could not have been accomplished without the amazing staff consisting of - Sharon Gautschy, Jermica Smith, Brea Sanders, Afia Jones, Erin Lillis, Bridget Lindbloom, Miguel Gutierrez and especially Rachel Sass. As the AAST has grown over the last decade, the office staff has changed and grown in exponential ways and there is no doubt that none of the committees would be as successful without their help in keeping us all on track.

One only has to look at the current executive committee, Dr. Eileen Bulger (President-elect), Dr. Kimberly Davis (Secretary-Treasurer), Dr. Roxie Albrecht (Vice President), Dr. Karen Brasil (Recorder) and David Spain (Immediate Past President) to realize that leadership is no longer restricted to

Continued on page 7
What an absolutely unforgettable two years we’ve had. Serving as AAST President, especially during these times, was an incredible honor for which I will be eternally grateful. I would like to thank the Board of Managers for all their support. As anyone who’s worked with them can tell you, the staff of the AAST Office are exceptional professionals who are dedicated to our mission. It’s really hard to put into word how lucky we are and how great it is to work with Sharon Gautschi, Jermica Smith, Brea Sanders, Rachael Sass, Afia Jones, Bridget Lindbloom, Erin Lillis, and Miguel Gutierrez. They make everything happen. Most impressive was how they seamlessly pulled off the 2020 virtual meeting on short notice. It was a huge success. Despite all of the changes and uncertainty, along with our Secretary/Treasurer Kimberly Davis, they have managed our finances expertly and we remain in strong financial shape. There are few additional topics worth highlighting.

The Associate Members category has been a huge success. We now have over 350 members. Under the guidance of the Associate Member Council - chair Lisa Knowlton, Vice-Chair Ryan Dumas, Treasurer Matt Strickland and Treasurer Linda Dultz - they are bringing energy and new ideas to our Association.

Dr. Gene Moore completed his 10-year term as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. Along with Associate Editors Drs. David Hoyt, Ron Maier and Steve Shackford, this team did an amazing job increasing submissions, dramatically decreasing time to review and publication, and significantly increasing the impact factor of JTACS. Our journal is great shape due to their dedication and expertise.

After a thorough national search with several outstanding candidates, we were fortunate that Raul Coimbra, MD, PhD accepted the position as our next Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. Dr. Coimbra possesses a unique combination of deep expertise and success in both basic and clinical research, extensive editorial experience, and outstanding organizational skills that made him an ideal person for this position. He has assembled an excellent editorial team to help take our journal to the next levels of success.

We have also initiated the process to identify the successor of Dr. Timothy Fabian as the next Editor-in-Chief of Trauma Surgery and Acute Care Open. Dr. Fabian and his team have wildly surpassed all metrics of success we had outlined for the journal. Most importantly, the journal is now indexed in PubMed and has entered the process of obtaining an Impact Factor, which we anticipate in late 2022 or 2023.

Under the Leadership of Dr. Clay Burlew, our Acute Surgery Fellowship program has grown and matured. Despite the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, our team has kept these fellowships on track and took advantage of unique educational opportunities to enhance our fellowships. We now have 29 AAST-approved programs with 69 fellows enrolled - and several more programs in the pipeline. We are excited to see what comes next under the leadership of Dr. Stephanie Savage.

Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee under the initial leadership of Karen Brasel and now Cherisse Berry has done an incredible job increasing our awareness of these issues and striving to make our organization more inclusive. Just this past week the DEI Committee on behalf of the AAST, the ACS Committee on Trauma, and the Pediatric Trauma Society was selected by the American College of Surgeons Board of Regents Anti-Racism Committee to receive a grant to support their proposal for “A Collaborative Approach to Establishing Pathways to Medicine through Leading Trauma Organizations.” This is great work by the team.
Secretary Treasurer’s Status Update
– Kimberly A. Davis, M.D., M.B.A.

Thanks to all for a highly successful 80th hybrid Annual Meeting. After a year of relative isolation due to the pandemic, it was so incredible to see everyone who was able to attend in Atlanta. I would like to offer congratulations to Sharon Gautschy and her staff (Rachel Sass, Jermaine Smith, Brea Sanders, Afia Jones, Erin Lillis, and Miguel Gutierrez) for overcoming the challenges of combining an in person meeting with a live-streamed event. For those of you who attended virtually, we will be looking forward to your feedback and to see if you found the live stream to be of value. As you know, the content has been archived and is available for viewing through December. Please go back, watch what you missed and remember to request your CME hours.

Our efforts to improve membership engagement as part of the strategic plan have resulted in the addition of 28 Active Fellows, 6 International Fellows, 1 Contributing Scientist and an additional 80 residents, fellows, and junior faculty inducted into the society as Associate Fellows. Please join me in welcoming our new Active, International and Contributing Scientist members and encourage them to get involved by volunteering for an AAST Committee, participating in the monthly Grand Rounds and get involved in MIT studies. Also, please join me in welcoming our youngest members to the Association – and encouraging them to become active and productive. The Associate Member Council is actively engaged and working hard under the leadership of Dr. Lisa Knowlton.

We continue to build on the success of the “Experience AAST” auction. Many wonderful items were auctioned off, including yet another quilt from the amazing Dr. Eileen Bulger, now President-Elect. The auction raised much needed financial support for the Research and Education Fund. If you are looking for an opportunity for end-of-year charitable giving, don’t forget to donate to this vital Fund at any time or during the holiday season, as the fund directly supports our junior faculty research scholarships and funds grants for medical students, residents, and in-training fellows to attend our meetings.

As a reminder, it is not too soon to start working on abstracts and scholarship applications for the spring. Abstracts are due by March 1, 2022.

In keeping with the theme of the opening ceremonies at the meeting in Atlanta, I am thrilled that the AAST is “back”. We are looking forward to continued success as an organization in fostering not only scientific discovery, but friendship and comradery, which I think we all greatly value. Thank you, our membership, for your continued support and active participation. Have a wonderful holiday season!
Memo from the Program Chair-Recorder

– Karen Brasel, M.D., M.P.H.

Thanks to outgoing Program Chair Pat Reilly, the incomparable Rachel Sass, Sharon Gautschy, President Spain, Jermica Smith, Brea Sanders, Afia Jones, and all who generated the science that was presented, the AAST meeting in Atlanta was a huge success! We enjoyed 67 podium presentations, 12 lunch sessions, 137 poster sessions, 25 quickshots, fantastic master surgeon lectures from AAST past presidents Drs. Roczycki and Britt, a moving Fitts oration read by President Livingston in honor of Dr. J. David Richardson using his words and slides, and raised $53,945 for the AAST Research and Education fund! And—many of us were able to be TOGETHER, in person. It was both odd and wonderful to be able to enjoy the camaraderie, back-and-forth discussions, new ideas that bubbled up during hallway conversations, and true friendship that is part of the AAST after a year apart. It is also understandable that many chose and/or were not able to come due to safety concerns or institutional rules. Know that YOU WERE MISSED, and also know that the reach of the meeting on the virtual platform that you hopefully enjoyed presents new opportunities and challenges for upcoming meetings. All of the content of from the meeting remains available for viewing through Innovia at https://events.zenevent.com/Event/fcdff612-9eb4-4282-97c6-336a88738b7c — an option that has not previously been available.

For those that did not attend the business meeting, Dr. Livingston appointed all who volunteered to requested committees. This is an important step in the AAST’s work in diversity, equity, and inclusion. As Program Chair, I want to invite any member interested in being an invited discussant, poster professor, recorder, etc. to volunteer on the AAST website under the “Member Only” section. An email will be sent out soon that will give you the steps on how to volunteer on the website.

And, so it begins again. I hope all are working on the science they plan to submit (the abstract system opens January 1st and closes March 1st) and/or are thinking about lunch and pre-meeting sessions to present at the meeting in... Chicago! Save the date, September 21-24 2022. It is a true honor to serve as your Program Chair—I know I have big shoes to fill!!

Report of the Research and Education Fund Committee

CONGRATULATIONS!

– Andrew Bernard, M.D.

Congratulations on another successful giving season for the Research and Education Fund. Donations to the REF have totaled $98,589 this year, an increase of 18% from last year. The message from over 165 AAST donors is clear: ‘Trauma research and education are vitally important’. Your contributions came in many different forms-monthly and one-time donations, auction items and purchases and even donation of stock. Wow! We owe a great deal of gratitude to Dr. John Armstrong for his leadership and to the service of all the REF Committee members.

But the season of giving to AAST REF isn’t over yet! Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving kicks of our end of the year donation campaign, focusing on fund-raising for the 20for20 Fund, our fund that supports resident and student travel to the annual meeting. The number of travel scholarships depends directly upon your donations. More donations = more future trauma surgeons at the meeting. Again. THANK YOU, for your gifts and your commitment!
Welcome to Winter! The 2021 year is wrapping up and the staff and I are looking forward to 2022. We have some exciting programs to announce including:

**TACS** – Tools for Acute Care Surgeons – this app will be your go-to place for education, calculators, information to assist you every day and a place to connect with surgeons around the globe. It is available now! Look for more information in this newsletter and on the AAST website.

**WITS** – Women in Trauma Surgery – this group is open to ANY surgeon, AAST members and non-members, men and women, everyone. Watch your email for more information on programming and educational offerings!

**Moai Groups** – launched at the AAST Annual Meeting – these groups are open to any AAST member. Currently there are eight groups with all different themes. More groups will be added as interest grows. Please sign up now before the groups fill up! To find more information, go to [www.aast.org](http://www.aast.org), log in to the website in the upper right hand corner, click the down arrow next to “My AAST” and scroll down to “AAST Member-Only Information” and click on Moai Groups.

**Upcoming information:**

- Help AAST reach its goal of $25,000 to benefit the 20forTwenty Fund (sponsors annual meeting scholarships for medical students, residents, in-training fellows)! To help, visit [aast.org/donate](http://aast.org/donate).
- AAST Abstract System is open January 1-March 1, 2022- start working on your abstract now!
- AAST Research Scholarship deadlines is February 1, 2022, to find out more information, go to [www.aast.org](http://www.aast.org), and click on the “Career” tab
- AAST Call for Discussants/Moderators/Recorders and Poster Professors will open in January. Are you interested in participating in the 81st Annual Meeting of AAST and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery? Fill out this form!
- Don’t forget to claim your CME from the Annual Meeting. Deadline is December 31st.

Mark your calendars for the 81st Annual Meeting of AAST and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery in Chicago, IL September 21-24, 2022!

Have a great holiday season!
I am honored to take over as the new Chair of the AAST Multicenter Trials Committee (MITC), and will do my best to fill the big shoes of Todd Costantini, MD as the outgoing lead of the MITC!

We have some great new committee members and some great new initiatives on the horizon for the MITC. As we transition from the online data entry portal developed with Infotech to the routine utilization of REDCap as our primary modality for data collection and study coordination for new research efforts, we are in the process of developing some training modules for those new to this data collection modality. In addition, our committee will be working to develop a basic set of common data elements that can be utilized for future investigations. More on these efforts as they mature soon!

We also have several great new research efforts that will be seeking centers to partner for recruitment:

Michael Truitt and Heather Grossman at Methodist Dallas Medical Center have been approved to proceed with a multicenter prospective observational study examining the role of prophylactic antibiotics in patients with non-operative facial fractures. Despite the high prevalence of facial fractures among trauma patients, prophylactic antibiotics remain a controversial area of clinical implementation. The group at Methodist has a solid plan to help us get useful data to identify optimal practices. All those interested in participating in this study should contact Michale Truitt at MichaelTruitt@mhd.com or Heather Grossman at HeatherGrossmanVerner@mhd.com.

In another pending effort, Dr. Melike Harfouche and the team at R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland are initiating a prospective observational study of hemorrhage management in patients with hypotension following pelvic fracture. Todd Costantini, who is a collaborator on this new effort, did some landmark work in this area through a previous AAST collaboration reported in 2017. At that time, however, the use of pre-peritoneal packing was in its nascent stages and resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA) was not yet well described as a tool for pelvic hemorrhage. The advent of these new adjuncts, along with the results of other studies examining angioembolization practices for pelvic hemorrhage, have highlighted the need for additional study of emergent pelvic hemorrhage management with an expanding trauma tool kit. Anyone interested in participating in this effort, please contact Melike Harfouche at mharfouche@som.umaryland.edu.
President’s Perspective — continued from page 1

men. This is a tremendous line up of incredibly talented surgeons and people. These are also the individuals who will lead the AAST for the next decade and we could not be in more capable hands.

A landmark change was passing the torch to Dr. Raul Coimbra as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. After a decade of service, the AAST owes Dr. Gene Moore much gratitude for his excellent stewardship of JTACS. Stay tuned for the January issue to begin to see all the changes that Dr. Coimbra is embracing!

Another major change, which may have gone a bit unrecognized was not only the number of people who volunteered for committees but that anyone who wanted to work, was put to work! Almost all committees were open and welcome to all. Compared to when I became a member 30 years ago when committee participation was restricted, this is a very welcome and important change. In addition, it allows increased diversity, inclusion and participation throughout the AAST. The leadership of these committees by our established members is tremendous and all one has to do is examine the current chairs and vice-chairs of the various committees to see this change. This increase in participation is definitely driving the exponential work product coming out of our committees.

Led by Drs. Bulger and Forrester and building upon the last AAST retreat, there is increased transparency and clear written guidelines to answer those important questions associate and more mid-career members ask, “How can I get involved?” and “What is the pathway to leadership?” These were introduced at our recent meeting in Atlanta and will be prominently featured on our website.

Another major change was the introduction of the AAST app –

Tools for Acute Care Surgery (TACS). This project spearheaded over the past several years by Dr. Ram Nirula and supported by Ms. Rachel Sass will become the “go to” resource for all things Acute Care Surgery.

The Associate Membership and Council continues to grow and when the data is examined, the new members are over 50% women and 17% underrepresented minorities. While not perfect, again it is so different and so welcome from the AAST I joined.

What has not and will not change is the AAST’s commitment to excellence in research, scholarship and education. The papers, talks and sessions at our 2021 Annual Meeting clearly demonstrates that aspect and I want to thank once again, Pat Reilly for 4 years of outstanding effort to bring the best of science to our meetings. It is these works as well as the products from our committees and our membership that will drive the content on our app and continue to make the AAST the premier scientific Acute Care Surgery organization across the globe. More importantly, it is the membership’s commitment to excellence in supporting the multiple missions of the AAST that makes our organization thrive. To that end and to further enhance our ability to support scholarship, I am imploring all of us to give to the AAST. At the present time less than 20% of the members give. Remember, if you spend $10/week on coffee, that $500 will go a long way to support another resident or student to attend our meeting. A division or two might even give enough for another whole scholarship!

So thank you again for trusting me to help lead and move our organization along. It cannot be done by one individual or even a small group. It takes all of us and I know we are up for that challenge. To a wonderful year together.

Years in review — continued from page 2

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank our Stanford team who supported me every day so that I could devote time and energy to serving the AAST. Drs. Paul Maggio, Kristan Staudenmayer, Tom Weiser, Carla Pugh, Aussama Nassar, Lisa Knowlton, Joe Forrester, Jamie Tung and Ara Ko and our Nurse Practitioners Ya-Chen Lee, Binnara Yoo and Deb Boland who all took amazing care of our patients. Our Trauma Program Manager Shelly Woodfall and PI Nurses Rachelle Rosales and Kris Gallegos who kept our program running and on track with help from our associate trauma director Joe Forrester despite my frequent absence. Lastly our Administrative Assistants Robyn Foote and Catherine Tai who supported me - and all the work I "delegated" to my partners - always with great efficiency and a smile.

I look forward to bigger and better thing with President David Livingston and President-Elect Eileen Bulger.
# NEW MEMBERS

## Associate Members

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NEW MEMBERS

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Congratulations to all of our award winners from the 80th Annual Meeting of AAST!

- **Canizaro Award**: Lucy Kornblith, MD
- **Resident Paper Award**: Marin Chavez, MD
- **Associate Member Paper Award**: M. Victoria Purvis Miles, MD
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award**: Toba Bolaji, DO

- **Critical Care Paper Award**: Diego Vicente, MD
- **International Paper Award**: Christopher Ull, MD
- **Associate Member Quickshot Award**: Jason Brill, MD
- **Associate Member Poster Award**: Dane Scantling, DO, MPH
Scholarship Winners

2021 AAST/AWS Annual Meeting Scholarship
For the seventh year, AAST has partnered with the Association of Women Surgeons to award a scholarship to one of the association's members. Congratulations to:

Sarah Cottrell-Cumber, MD

AAST Military Liaison Committee Annual Scholarship
The AAST Military Liaison Committee offered a scholarship for the fourth time this year to medical students, residents, or in-training fellows within the military. Congratulations to:

Marissa Beiling, MD
John M. Ruggero, DO, FACOS, LCDR, MC USN
Carl Beyer, MD

2021 20forTwenty In-Training Fellow, Resident, and Medical Student Scholarship Recipients

James Zebley, MD
Taylor N. Anderson, MD
Gillian Leigh Hoshal, MD
Rebecca Treffalls, MD
Owen S. Henry, MD
Kovi Bessoff, MD

Brian Cain, MD
Zongyang “Tom” Mou, MD
Ayman Ali, MD
Ahmad Zeindddin, MD
Robert Olmeda Barrientos, MD
Zachary Coles, MD
Contest Winners

In App Game:
Madison Lim, MD

Best of:
Service: CNTR (Coalition for National Trauma Research)
Device: Prytime Medical Devices, Inc.
Equipment: Zimmer Biomet
Technology: Arcos, Inc.
Other: Strategic Operations, Inc.

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The AAST is excited to announce the AAST Connect and Tools for Acute Care Surgery (TACS), a mobile app that puts educational resources and opportunities to network with AAST members at your fingertips. TACS will be available FREE until January 2022.

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2021 Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds take place approximately once a month. Grand Round sessions occur on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 PM CST.

To view the most up-to-date schedule visit, www.aast.org/grand-rounds-webinars.

Date: December 15, 2021

Topic: Experts on the Hot Seat: Challenging Trauma Cases

Can’t make a live Grand Round? No worries – all Grand Rounds are archived and placed on the AAST website for viewing/CME.

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