

# ASGS Newsletter



September 2011



Dear fellow surgeon and ASGS member,

At the annual meeting of the American Society of General Surgeons held this past weekend in Denver, Colorado, a new set of officers and board members were elected. The current make up of your ASGS leadership is as follows:

President - Robert Sewell, MD - Southlake, TX  
President Elect - Edwin Shearburn III, MD - Sellersville, PA  
Secretary/Treasurer - Jarrod Kaufman, MD - Freehold, NJ  
Immediate Past-President - Guy Nicastrì, MD - Pawtucket, RI

#### Board Members:

Jay Gregory, MD, Muskogee, OK  
David Kitts, MD - Truckee, CA  
Albert Kwan, MD - Clovis, NM  
Dan Lister, MD - Heber Springs, AR  
Chris Smith, MD - Albany, GA



Robert Sewell, MD, FACS and Guy Nicastrì, MD, FACS

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## **ASGS accomplishments over the Past Two Years:**

**1. Introduction of Resolution 204 at the AMA House of Delegates (A-09) which called for the AMA to write its own Federal legislative bill calling for a new physician payment option within Medicare. That resolution passed the AMA House 72%-28% and resulted in the AMA authoring "The Medicare Patient Empowerment Act." That bill has subsequently been introduced into Congress as HR 1700 and SR 1042. (I offer a brief summary in the following blog post from May 2011 - <http://www.spiritofhealthcare.com/?p=35>)**

**2. The ASGS has been working within the Coalition of State Medical and National Specialty Societies, a conservative group within the AMA in an attempt to make your voice heard in opposition to many of the recent political stances taken by the AMA Board and Leadership.**

**3. The recently concluded single issue meeting entitled: Current Trends in the Evaluation & Surgical Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease - A Practical Guide for the General Surgeon Specialist. This meeting represents our first in what we anticipate will be an annual scientific meeting run solely by the ASGS on this important topic.**

**4. The ASGS also sponsors the Annual Rocky Mountain Advanced Surgical Symposium every year in February in Vail, Colorado. Next meeting is the 20th such meeting and will be held February 4-7, 2012.**

**5. The ASGS have signed on to several letters to Congress in support of the repeal of the SGR, and continues to advocate for the passage of the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act allowing for a free market option through the renewed ability for patient and physicians to privately contract for healthcare services.**

**In the coming months I will be sending out periodic updates on what the ASGS is doing on behalf of practicing General Surgeon Specialists. I invite your input and encourage you to recruit your colleagues to join our ranks and increase the power of our message. Membership is only \$125/year. Please contact Carol Goddard at 1-800-998-8322 or by e-mail at [carol@theasgs.org](mailto:carol@theasgs.org). I also invite you to visit our web site at [www.theasgs.org](http://www.theasgs.org) and feel free to make recommendations as to how it can better serve your needs.**

**Sincerely,  
Robert Sewell, MD, FACS  
President - ASGS**