



## ACADEMY OF MASTER SURGEON EDUCATORS™

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
DIVISION OF EDUCATION

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March 2, 2021

Neil H. Hyman, MD, FACS  
Professor of Surgery, Section Chief, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Co-Director,  
Digestive Diseases Center  
Department of Surgery  
University of Chicago  
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Dear Dr. Hyman,

We are writing this letter to bring to your attention the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Academy of Master Surgeon Educators and to request your help in identifying appropriately qualified surgeon educators for consideration for membership in this Academy.

In 2014, the ACS Division of Education presented a proposal to the ACS Board of Regents to establish the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators, and this proposal was enthusiastically received and unanimously approved by the ACS Board of Regents. Following Regental approval, a Steering Committee composed of preeminent surgeon educators was appointed and charged with the responsibility of creating the model for the Academy and defining the Standards and Criteria for admission. The aim of the Academy is to recognize and engage renowned surgeon educators from across the surgical specialties in innovative projects that advance the field of surgical education and promote the highest levels of achievement in the lifetimes of surgeons. There are three categories of membership: Member; Associate Member; and Affiliate Member. The Member and Associate Member categories are for surgeon educators who are Fellows of the American College of Surgeons. The Affiliate Member category is for non-surgeons from a variety of different backgrounds who are committed to supporting the goals of the Academy. Applications are submitted annually to the ACS Division of Education and are considered by the Steering Committee of the Academy.

The Academy was formally launched in 2017 and the first cohort of Members and Associate Members was selected and inducted in 2018. The second cohort was inducted in 2019 and the third cohort was inducted at a virtual ceremony in 2020. The current membership of the Academy across all three categories is 223.

The Academy is not just an honorific group, but an active working group that has pursued a range of exciting new programs and activities since the Academy was established. In 2019, a Symposium on Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence was organized by the Academy and offered prior to the Annual Induction Ceremony. In 2020, during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, a Special Committee of the Academy was appointed to define the challenges in surgery residency training that have resulted from the pandemic, and harness opportunities to address these challenges through transformational changes in surgery residency training. Highlights of the activities of the Special Committee and its Subcommittees are as follows.

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Founded 2017



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Surveys and focus groups have been conducted during different phases of the pandemic to determine its impact on surgery residents, medical students, surgery faculty, and the training programs. Information from the initial survey was published in an article in a peer-reviewed journal and additional information will be forthcoming. Also, a range of new virtual programs, including Virtual Grand Rounds and Virtual Fireside Chats, have been implemented. The special focus on virtual interviews has resulted in a variety of helpful recommendations that were published in an article in a peer-reviewed journal. Efforts to address engagement of surgery residents in telemedicine have included a survey that will be sent to various constituencies to gather information on current practices. This information will be used in the design of new training models that are linked to telemedicine activities. A new peer-reviewed Educational Resources Webpage has been launched to disseminate important information and to share valuable educational materials. A new Listserv has been launched to facilitate productive exchange of ideas among all members of the Academy. In addition, a Disaster Plan for Education is currently being developed to provide guidance to surgery residency training programs, surgery departments, and institutions. The Disaster Plan should be very helpful in preparing for future challenges resulting from crises of various types.

There has been considerable surgery specialty involvement in the activities of the Academy. The Academy currently includes several preeminent Master Surgeon Educators and leaders from various surgical specialties who serve as Academy Members and a number of surgeon educators who serve as Associate Members. Benefits of membership in the Academy include the following.

- National and international recognition of preeminent Master Surgeon Educators who have made significant contributions to advancing surgical education and have served as mentors for generations of surgeons, surgical trainees, and medical students
- Engagement of Master Surgeon Educators in new and exciting programs and projects of the Academy that will result in a monumental impact, both nationally and internationally
- Provision of guidance and support to surgeon educators who are inducted as Associate Members, to help them make even greater contributions and advance to the level of Member of the Academy
- Advancement of the careers of surgeon educators through mentorship, coaching, and advising of faculty members who are interested in pursuing surgical education as their primary academic focus
- Creation of a vibrant forum for surgeon educators to exchange ideas, pursue innovation, and share effective education and training models and approaches



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- Pursuit of collaborative scholarly work in surgical education to advance this field and publish landmark articles, book chapters, and other significant contributions

We hope you will help us in disseminating information about the Academy and will encourage appropriately qualified individuals from your specialty to submit applications for consideration.

Below is a link to the Webpage of the Academy that provides additional information regarding the Academy and the application process.

<https://www.facs.org/education/academy/instructions>

We would be happy to discuss this matter with you on the telephone if you wish.

With best regards,

L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, DSc(Hon),  
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FRCSEd(Hon), FWACS(Hon),  
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ACS Academy of Master Surgeon  
Educators

Past President  
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