



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRANIOFACIAL SURGEONS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The ASCFS officers and council have had a productive and rewarding past year. We are preparing for our annual meeting held in conjunction with ACPA in Palm Springs, CA from May 6-10. We hope that you enjoyed the fall newsletter and aim to provide you with updates on ASCFS initiatives and committee work through this spring newsletter.

We have passed revisions to the ASCFS bylaws to make the society more inclusive to our current and future craniofacial surgeons and to provide better continuity of leadership to the society. The criteria for active membership were modified to reflect the evolving specialty of craniofacial surgery in North America. Electronic vote for membership additions was implemented twice a year in addition to voting in person at the annual meeting business luncheon. We formed a membership committee, led by Ray Harshbarger, and a young craniofacial surgeons committee, led by Stacey Francis. Both committees have been successful in involving younger members of our society and engaging in future initiatives. Additionally, the membership voted to extend the President and President-Elect terms to two years, consistent with the other officer terms.

Our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook continues to be active and gain viewership with the goals of highlighting the Society's activities and to educate the public about craniofacial surgery.

On August 15-16, 2025, ASCFS will hold the 16th Annual Craniofacial Fellows Course in Phoenix, AZ, hosted by me and Dr. Stephen Beals, past ASCFS president. We have a stellar faculty this year: Lisa David, Roberto Flores, Michael Golinko, Peter Lorenz, Davinder Singh, and Christian Vercler. We hope your Craniofacial Fellows will attend this course and find it as rewarding as past fellows.

Joe Williams leads the Craniofacial Fellowship Committee, one of the 2024-2025 key ASCFS initiatives. The new Craniofacial Fellowship website, [ASCFS Fellowship - Home \(wildapricot.org\)](http://ASCFS_Fellowship-Home(wildapricot.org)), was launched and successfully used by residents applying for fellowship for 2025-2026.

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DAVINDER SINGH, MD

President's Message *(continued from page one)*

Joe has also spearheaded a tri-society endorsement of a CAQ exam for Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery Fellows to be administered June 2025. This newsletter contains a detailed update from Joe, and I applaud him and the committee members on their work. We look forward to further discussion during the annual program directors meeting on Friday, May 9th, 3-5pm at the annual meeting in Palm Springs.

ASCFS continues to partner with ASMS in supporting our society journal, *FACE*, through SAGE publications. 2025 marks the fifth anniversary of the journal *FACE*. John van Aalst serves as Editor and has worked tirelessly to establish and grow the editorial board and the readership over the past five years. We encourage all of you to submit to *FACE* and to become peer reviewers.

We are excited for our annual meeting at The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa. It has been an honor to serve our society, and I look forward to seeing you all in Palm Springs!

Respectfully,

Davinder J. Singh, MD

FROM THE SECRETARY

RAYMOND HARSHBARGER, MD

Not unlike other aspects of our society, attention to membership has been enhanced in the last year. The nascent membership committee has begun to meet and perform a deeper dive into the membership and dues. One of the challenges of membership is maintaining accurate communications with members over a span of years. We are now updating our registry with personal emails for all members, to preserve ability to effectively reach out when required for society business. In terms of membership numbers, our ranks in the various categories have been consistent over the last few years, as seen in the provided table (pg. 10), apart from resident/fellow members. One of our first priorities was to create an accurate list of members, especially regarding resident members. This corpulent list of names has been culled to more accurately reflect our resident/fellow member core.

About enhancing membership, we are making a specific effort in this area. Our craniofacial fellows are being encouraged to officially join the society as associate members upon completing their training, which formerly has lagged with a low rate of fellow to associate member transition. The last 3 cycles of fellows will be targeted for membership, as well as an intentional effort for current and future trainees. We are also directly communicating with associate members to upgrade where possible to active membership. As was presented in an early societal communication, several society bylaws changes were approved this year, which streamline the process for membership application in the associate and active member categories, hopefully leading to increased numbers of applicants due to a less onerous process regarding case collection number and type. Finally, membership applications will now be officially reviewed twice per year, to improve our applicant to member transition.

In terms of society dues, we are striving to maintain on time payments (partly why we are focusing on accurate communication methods). Those who are in arrears regarding society dues are receiving directed communications to make current their payments. Society dues in arrears more than one cycle are reflected in the included table (pg. 10), based on membership category. We are also working with our colleagues at PRRI to obtain dues collections for those in arrears at our yearly meeting in conjunction with the ACPA.

In conclusion, our membership is stable, with great potential to grow as we are more intentional about recruitment and sustainability amongst craniofacial surgeons. A more comprehensive definition of craniofacial surgery, as reflected in our by-laws changes with should help to increase our ranks. And finally, we are currently accepting motivated individuals to join the membership committee, as a way of contributing to this strengthening society.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee

ALBERT OH, MD

AWARDS

The ASCFS Awards Committee accords special recognition in honor of 3 distinct pioneers in the field of cleft and craniofacial surgery. Recipients of these awards are chosen by general membership, then evaluated by committee consensus, to grant recognition to the individual who best represent the values of the eponymous award.

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce that we have received a record number of applications for the 2025 J.G. McCarthy Visiting Scholar Award. A total of 12 highly qualified craniofacial surgeons in their 1st – 4th years of practice have submitted competitive proposals for the \$10,000 award. Committee members are currently in the challenging process of evaluating these 12 applications. The winner will be announced at the upcoming ASCFS meeting in May of 2025.

ERAS

The Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) Committee for 2024 – 2025, under the guidance of ASCFS President Davinder Singh, MD, continues to build on the progress of last year’s group.

ERAS protocols for primary cleft lip and primary cleft palate reconstruction, as well as for secondary improvement of VPI, have been previously published.¹⁻⁴ Updates on ERAS protocols for alveolar bone graft and craniosynostosis are nearly complete and ready for submission according to Kant Lin, MD and Daniel Cho, MD, respectively. The topic of ERAS after orthognathic surgery has been submitted to FACE by Niyant Patel, MD. The ERAS Committee of the ASCFS will continue to update the membership on the best and latest research on this important topic.

References

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- Hush SE, Chen JT, Brady CM, Soldanska M, Nusz DJ, Rhinehart DL, Heiss K, Crowley C, Williams JK. Implementation of a Modified Enhanced Recovery Protocol in Cleft Palate Repairs. *J Craniofac Surg*. 2019 Oct;30(7):2154-2158.
- Hush SE, Brady C, Soldanska M, Williams JK. Expanded Analysis of a Modified Enhanced Recovery Protocol in Cleft Palatoplasty. *Cleft Palate Craniofac J*. 2020 Oct;57(10):1190-1196.
- Tashima AD, Payne SH, Williams JK, Brady, CM. Implementation of a Modified Enhanced Recovery Protocol in the Surgical Management of Pediatric Velopharyngeal Insufficiency. *FACE*. 2023;4(1):9-14.

Social Media

NATALIYA BISKUP, MD

This summer, ASCFS launched both an Instagram and Facebook PAGE where you can catch the latest society updates, news, and events! This page is also intended to educate the public about the field of craniofacial surgery and conditions treated by craniofacial surgeons.

We also invite members to share any pertinent updates/information/photos with other members! If you have some you'd like to share, please DM @ascfsurgeons or email nataliya.biskup@gmail.com

Give us a follow @ascfsurgeons!

ascfsurgeons ▾ •

10 posts 164 followers 317 following

ASCFSurgeons

Professional dashboard
New tools are now available.

Edit profile

Share profile



Education/Program Committee

DAVINDER SINGH, MD & LISA DAVID, MD

The education and program committee are excited to announce the program for the upcoming Annual ASCFS meeting. We hope you will all be able to join us May 8-10 in Palm Springs, California for this exciting time together. The ASCFS program for the ACPA meeting in Palm Springs California includes the following highlights:

- **Whitaker Lecture:** David Chong, MD
- **ASCFS Invited Lecture:** Scott Bartlett, MD
- **PANEL:** Looking at Craniosynostosis Through a Different Lens: Highlighting Emerging Approaches to Craniosynostosis Care
- **ASCFS POST-CONFERENCE PANEL:** Global Craniofacial Surgery: Programs, Pitfalls, and Progress



Whitaker Lecture

Dr. David Chong: His Topic will be **Changing Faces with a Smile.**

Associate Professor David Chong is a Cleft and Craniofacial Surgeon based in Melbourne, Australia where he co-leads the Craniofacial Fellowship at the Royal Children's Hospital. As a young doctor in 1996, David became enchanted with the realm of Global Health, while volunteering on the Mercy Ships in Madagascar. Inspired with this early exposure, he decided on Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as his chosen field of specialty, and after his residency, moved to Dallas for a Craniofacial Fellowship with Ken Salyer, followed by 2 years in Toronto at Hospital for Sick Children.

Since that time, he has done over fifty surgical programs with groups such as Operation Smile, Operation Rainbow and Mercy Ships. He has pioneered the craniofacial program on the Africa Mercy since 2015. He will talk about life lessons learnt during the pursuit of his career, combining his passion for Global Surgery and the gift of our specialty to restore the sense of belonging.



ASCFS Invited Lecture

Dr. Scott Bartlett who will be speaking on **Developing a Craniofacial Program in Eastern Europe: A 38 Year Odyssey**

Establishing a sustainable craniofacial program in low- or middle-income countries presents challenges far more than those for the more common Oro-facial clefts. In addition to having locally available surgeons and anesthesiologists who have expertise in the management of these oftentimes medically complex patients, a tertiary care institution with appropriate capabilities (e.g. blood bank, rapid laboratory analysis, ICU, advanced imaging etc.) is a requisite. In this introductory lecture the author will recount his experience in developing such

a program over the past 38 years at University Children's Hospital (formerly the Polish American Children's Hospital) in Krakow, Poland.

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Education/Program Committee *(continued from page 4)*

PANELS

Looking at Craniosynostosis Through a Different Lens: Highlighting Emerging Approaches to Craniosynostosis Care

Moderators:

Laura Humphries, *University of Mississippi Medical Center*
Ian Hoppe, *University of Mississippi Medical Center*

Panelists:

Amanda Gosman, *University of California San Diego*
Christopher Runyan, *Wake Forest University*
Davinder Singh, *Phoenix Children's Hospital*

Focus: The panelists will present their approaches to a variety of craniosynostosis patterns using springs with or without distractors. Specifically, panelists will discuss their approach to:

- Dynamic, minimally invasive expansion for single suture synostosis (excluding sagittal suture) (springs with or without distraction);
- Minimally invasive management of multi-suture synostosis outside of posterior cranial vault distraction osteogenesis (PVDO) with semi-buried distractors using springs with or without distraction;
- Use of springs in older children for cranial expansion.

ASCFS POST-CONFERENCE PANEL: Global Craniofacial Surgery: Programs, Pitfalls, and Progress

Moderators:

Phuong Nguyen, *Children's Hospital Colorado*
Catey Garland, *University of Wisconsin – Madison*

Panelists:

David Chong, *Royal Children's Melbourne*
Amanda Gosman, *University of California San Diego*
Ray Harshbarger, *Dell Children's Hospital*
Nataliya Biskup, *University of Kansas*

Focus: The panelists will each present their unique experience with implementing a craniofacial surgery program in a global setting. Each will discuss care in different regions of the world and different resource challenges. In the panel we will discuss the requirements for safe and high-quality surgery in the global setting, preoperative evaluation of and preparation for surgery, and models for follow up. Each panelist will discuss lessons learned in the implementation of their program, and address challenges and opportunities for capacity building in global craniofacial surgery.

In addition, it will be a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with our fellows and residents at the annual member breakfast on Friday morning. We will also have a member only business meeting that same day and look forward to seeing each of you there for that. Please register for the business lunch as it will require a registration prior to the lunch. Hope to see you in May!

Fellowship Committee

JOSEPH WILLIAMS, MD

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our craniofacial programs and program directors for being supportive of our initiatives this year. We have asked for your trust as we have made demands of you and your team. Know that your commitment to the process is greatly appreciated and has reflected in a very successful transition cycle.

Our goal during this process has been inclusivity of all established programs. We recognize that there are certain challenges that may have been difficult to overcome in a single cycle. These problem areas may include inadequate case log numbers or elements of the application and have been designated as type 1 or type 2 deficiencies. We also recognize programs who found it difficult to provide case logs for 2023-2024. We have asked these programs to utilize current case logs for 2024-2025 to meet criteria. Programs who carry type 1 or 2 deficiencies on April 30 will be recognized by the fellowship committee as having a “provisional accreditation” with a grace period of 6 months to complete the deficiencies. However, the official directory will list these programs as accredited for the upcoming fellowship interview cycle.

Of the 31 established programs, 14 programs have achieved full accreditation. Twelve currently have the designation as ‘provisional’ for the upcoming cycle -a total of 26 programs are currently accredited. Five programs carry a “non-accreditation” status (type 3 deficiency – no application or dues). Again, the final designation deadline for the upcoming cycle is April 30.

I am delighted to say that we have added three new programs for the upcoming cycle.

- Oregon -OHSU (PD -Erik Wolfswinkel)
- University of Colorado (PD – Brooke French)
- UCSF (PD - Jason Pomerantz)

These programs have successfully completed their applications and will be listed as preliminary accredited programs for the upcoming cycle. Congratulations.

The most exciting accomplishment over the last several months has been the decision to partner with the American Association of Pediatric Plastic Surgeons (AAPPS) and the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgery (ASMS) as co-endorsers of our fellowship program. Through the incredibly generous work of Arun Gosain (AAPPS) and Anand Kumar (ASMS), a much stronger entity will now stand behind our fellows and their accomplishments. Our three organizations truly represent the three elements of our fellowship training – transcranial procedures, maxillofacial surgery and soft tissue procedures including clefts. We are excited about how this will shape our fellowship identity moving forward. ASCFS is still charged with the final oversight of our training programs through this fellowship committee

Specific to the tri-society endorsement, each society is represented as part of a CAQ committee within the Fellowship Committee to create the annual CAQ exam. We are very excited to announce that the first exam will be given in June of 2025 with expectations for our fellows to receive a CAQ after passing the exam and completing their fellowship. We feel that this will also add weight to our identity outside of our professional circle. Information regarding the CAQ test will be sent to Program Directors and Fellows.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2025

3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Rancho Mirage Room

The Westin Rancho Mirage

Palm Springs, California

During the ASCFS & ACPA Annual Meetings

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Fellowship Committee *(continued from page 6)*

There is much that we have learned from your queries as we have moved through our first transition year. I am confident in saying that the Fellowship Committee will be reviewing our current criteria as we continue to refine the structure. Your concerns have been heard and we will do our best to address them. It is important that each of you continue to communicate through our fellowship committee members, Stef Hush or join us at the Program Directors meeting on May 9th from 3-5pm at the annual ACPA meeting.

A note of thanks to my fellow committee members who carry much of the ongoing work in this endeavor – Pete Lorenz, Ian Hoppe, Colin Brady, Sanjay Naran, Davinder Singh, Ray Harshbarger- and Taylor Baumgartner our administrative assistant.

A special thanks to Stef Hush our Fellowship Coordinator executive coordinator. We simply would not be here without her efforts and talents.

<https://ascfsfellowship.org>

Thank you

Joe Williams

Young Surgeons Committee

STACEY FRANCIS, MD

As the newly formed Young Surgeons Committee, we are pleased to share the work that we have been doing over the past few months. While the list of things we would like to accomplish to increase visibility and grow impact among young surgeons is long, we have focused on two items to this point:

1. We are excited to announce an Inaugural Young Surgeons Event at the Annual Meeting in partnership with Synthese/Johnson & Johnson MedTech. The purpose of this meeting is two-fold: first to introduce the committee and discuss goals and agenda items. Second, to discuss cases in a casual, collaborative and unimimidating format. Case discussion will be the main focus of the meeting. We have opened a call for cases, though they may be brought onsite, too. RSVP is suggested but not required to attend.

2. The committee is piloting an app called Sapi3nt which is a HIPPA compliant platform for medical professionals to share cases and request feedback from colleagues. The committee is working with Sapi3nt to develop an ASCFS channel to further narrow down the audience for any posts along with testing a few cases internally. We hope to share a positive review of a new tool with you soon!.

INAGURAL YOUNG SURGEONS EVENT AT ASCFS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2025

3:30 pm-5:00 pm

Room: Ambassador 6

The Westin Rancho Mirage

Palm Springs, California

During the ASCFS & ACPA Annual Meetings

RSVP NOW

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2025 ASCFS Annual Meeting

May 6-10, 2025

during the ACPA Annual Meeting
The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa
Palm Springs, California
More Information: <https://ascfs.org/meeting/>



16th Annual ASCFS Fellows Course

August 15-16, 2025

Phoenix Children's Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Care
Barrow Neurological Institute
Phoenix, Arizona

The 16th annual American Society of Craniofacial Surgeons: Essential Training for Craniofacial Fellows Course, also known as "Bootcamp", will be hosted at Phoenix Children's Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Care/ Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, AZ on August 15-16, 2025. It will be co-hosted by Stephen Beals, MD and Davinder J. Singh, MD, who will also serve as faculty in addition to Lisa David, MD, MBA, Roberto Flores, MD, Michael Golinko, MD, Peter Lorenz, MD, and Christian Vercler, MD.

The course consists of a two-day program with lectures followed by cadaver lab dissection for all major craniofacial osteotomies, virtual surgical planning, and facial nerve dissection. The course is organized into the following modules:

- Module 1: Craniosynostosis: Anterior Cranial Vault Remodeling
- Module 2: LFIII/Monobloc
- Module 3: Facial Nerve and TMJ Exposure
- Module 4: Hypertelorism/Facial Bipartition/Trans nasal Wiring
- Module 5: LeFort I
- Module 6: Mandibular Osteotomy/ Genioplasty
- Module 7: Application of Distraction Devices

We will also have a "dry lab" in which 3D models are used to simulate the anterior cranial vault osteotomies and reconstruction and a "dry lab" for cranial spring placement, using infant skull 3D models. Additionally, we will hold small group discussions on Friday evening to encourage more discussion and mentorship.



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Fellows Course *(continued from page 8)*



All participants are invited to enjoy social events on both evenings to get an opportunity to interact with one another and faculty. KLS Martin will support the course, and both KLS Martin and Bien Air will provide equipment for the lab. We look forward meeting and getting to know the 2025-2026 Class of Craniofacial Fellows!

We are incredibly grateful to be able to meet all our incoming fellows and colleagues, and value our time together to teach and learn from each other.

FACE in 2025

In 2025, FACE, the journal of the ASCFS, reached the distinction of being 5 years old. This is a significant milestone for a journal (many do not survive the first 5 years). In June of this year, FACE will be indexed in Medicus and receive an Impact Factor. Later this year, PubMed's review of FACE will also be completed. As you read FACE, you will notice that the scope of published articles has broadened significantly since the journal's inception in 2020. In addition to a broader scope, submissions from major institutions in North America have increased. So too have submissions from around the globe. FACE now consistently publishes articles from every continents.

As FACE continues to grow, we look forward to deeper partnerships with a global readership, with international societies committed to the care of patients with craniomaxillofacial conditions, and to build relationships with business partners that will eventually make FACE a revenue generator for the ASCFS.

One of our top goals for FACE in 2025 is to become revenue neutral. This will mean an increase in advertising through the journal. We are creating relationships with international cleft and craniofacial non-profits, with international societies that desire a platform to publish abstracts from their annual meetings; with start-up companies, and with our traditional partners. Importantly, we do not want to simply rely on our usual partners. We need to think bigger and broader in our partnerships to reach revenue neutrality.

What can you do to help? Here are some simple suggestions:

- **Call the librarian** at your institution and request that FACE be added to the package of journals available at your library. There is no additional cost to do this. Institutions generally buy packages of journals. It is an easy ask to add FACE to your institution's package.
- **Read the journal.** You have access to FACE through the ASCFS site. The March issue was recently published. The June issue will celebrate FACE's 5th anniversary, similar to the celebratory issues published for the ASCFS 25th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of ASMS.
- **Consider publishing** in FACE. The promise from our editorial board is that we will give rapid and fair responses to your work.

Be available to review manuscripts. The importance of this availability cannot be overstated. If a random selection of editors were asked (and they have been) to describe the most difficult aspect of being a journal editor, their answers would read something like this: "finding reviewers for articles is the most difficult and frustrating aspect of the job." Given this consensus, we need reviewers. Let anyone on the editorial board know that you are willing to review manuscripts. We will call on you.

Enjoy your journal. Read FACE.

John van Aalst
Russell Reid



2024-2025 ASCFS Committees

Awards Committee

Albert Oh, MD, Chair
 Joseph Williams, MD
 Jonathan Black, MD
 Renata Maricevich, MD
 Chris Runyan, MD
 Shetty Anil, MD
 Jordan Swanson, MD

Membership

Ray Harshbarger, MD, Chair
 Jon Black, MD
 Chrisitan Vercler, MD
 Brian Pan, MD
 Noopur Gangopadhyay, MD
 Fancesco Gargano, MD

Program Committee

Davinder Singh, MD, Co-Chair
 Lisa David, MD, Co-Chair
 Catharine Garland, MD
 Ian Hoppe, MD
 Michael Lypka, MD
 Laura Humphries, MD
 Phuong Nguyen, MD

Fellowship Committee

Joseph William, MD, Chair
 Ian Hoppe, MD
 Davinder Singh, MD

Young Surgeons Committee

Stacey Francis, MD, Chair
 Nicole Kurnik, MD
 Dan Cho, MD

ASCFS Membership

Category	Members	Dues Owed (2024/2023)
Active	113	28
Associate	60	31
Honorary	5	N/A
Life	19	N/A
Resident	140	N/A