

## Minutes of the May 14, 2018 Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council convened for its dinner meeting at the Capital Grill in Chestnut Hill on May 14, 2018. Attending were members Susan Briggs, Mark Callery, Gerard Doherty, Robert Driscoll, Richard Ehrlichman, Donald Hess, Pardon Kenney, William Mackey, David McAneny, Kevin McCarthy, Frederick Millham, and Marc Rubin, and Administrative Director Ms. Kristen Boyer.

Dr. Callery called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. As always, the surgeons were punctual, and a sumptuous dinner ensued. Naturally, this was a working dinner, dedicated to the topics below and to plans for the 2018-2019 season. Dr. Callery extended his great appreciation to Ms. Boyer for her unwavering dedication to the Council and to the Boston Surgical Society.

The Society has been working with Digital Artisans to enhance its internet presence. Ms. Tracey Green, creative director, and Anthony Wilson, VP project management, provided a comprehensive review of the work that they have already conducted with Dr. Callery, along with the expertise of Dr. Jaisa Olasky, who attended this portion of the meeting as well. We discussed the current state of the website and how it might be improved to provide a contemporary perspective of the BSS. We hope to portray a collegial, convivial image of the Society, including presentation slides from meetings, photographs of events, pictures and biosketches of Council members, minutes and proceedings of meetings, archives of special events such as Bigelow Medal recipients and ceremonies, and an online publication of the "Red Book." We decided to defer the production of a "Members Only" section until the fundamentals of the new web page are established. The group discussed image schemes and colors to best capture the heritage and promise of our august Society. Following formal presentations by the Digital Artisans representatives, the Council discussed and debated the merits and costs of the proposal. Dr. Callery moved for the acceptance of Digital Artisan's proposal and was seconded, and the Council unanimously voted to proceed with the construction of the new website. Drs. Olasky and Callery will regularly meet with the Digital Artisans creative team and keep the Council posted on the progress of this exciting project that we anticipate will be functioning for the 2018-2019 season.

Dr. Callery next reported on the Northeast Surgical Meeting that was held in concert with the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the New York Surgical Society, and the Boston Surgical Society on Friday, April 27, 2018. This had formerly been known as the "Tripartite" meeting. Dr. Callery recounted an outstanding program in the stunning Lincoln Memorial Room at the Union League of Philadelphia, featuring a strong attendance of at least 100 surgeons. Dr. Henry Pitt welcomed the group, and resident surgeons from Cooper University Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University, Mainline Health, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple University Hospital, and the University of Pennsylvania provided scientific presentations. Drs. Callery and Jennifer Tseng participated in debates with Dr. Pitt and Dr. Thomas Fahey regarding intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms and resident work hours, respectively. Dr. Benjamin Braslow and Dr. Richard "Larry" Whelan also argued the role of bowel resection in profound colitis caused by *Clostridium difficile*. Following an unforgettable reception and dinner in the historic setting, Dr. Clyde Barker regaled the audience with stories of "Philadelphia Surgeons: Famous, Infamous and Forgotten." The Boston guests universally praised the event and eagerly anticipated matching the moment on our home court.

The BSS Executive Council considered when we might host the Northeast Surgical Meeting. Dr. Kenney proposed that we wait two more years before welcoming the Philadelphia and New York surgeons to Boston. This should allow time to secure financial support and to develop proposals for a structured session. (It is estimated that the meeting in Philadelphia was supported by about \$15,000-\$18,000 in external sponsorship.) The New York Surgical Society had hosted the event at the Penn Club in 2017, and we hope that they may be able to do so again in 2019. We believe that a meeting in Boston in two years will include Friday afternoon and evening programs but should not extend into the weekend. The Council unanimously accepted the proposal to defer hosting the Northeast Surgical Meeting until 2020.

The Council reviewed last year's successful meetings, as outlined in previous minutes. It was stressed during the Treasurer's Report that each meeting is actually subsidized by the Society's annual dues assets, in that dinner costs typically exceed generated revenue. The Bigelow Medal presentation to Dr. Lenworth Jacobs was certainly a highlight of the 2017-2018 season. We also congratulated Dr. Donald Hess for coordinating the resident Case of the Year presentations. He did an outstanding job, and we proposed that this remain a role for future Vice Presidents of the Society.

Treasurer Marc Rubin provided a thorough review of the Society's finances. The combined assets in the checking and savings accounts are \$68,682.78. Revenues during the 2017-2018 season were \$77,050, of which \$36,550 derived from member's dues and \$40,500 from dinner charges. The expenses of dinners totaled \$64,169.81, and additional expenses (tax preparation, mailings, certificates, various fees, travel reimbursements, Case of the Year prize money, deposits for future meetings, and striking the Bigelow Medal) were \$19,852.34. As a result, total expenses were \$84,022.15, reflecting a net loss for the season of \$6,972.15. A discussion ensued about the scale of dinner costs and the number of attendees. The Council considered the locations of meetings, again with a goal of reducing expenses as much as possible, as well as approaching industry representatives to gauge interest in sponsorship of meetings. Of course, this will be a function of the presentation topics. The Council has not yet countenanced industry support, but Treasurer Rubin will assess this prospect. The Council engaged in a vigorous debate about increasing annual dues to \$295. After weighing this measure, the motion to raise dues was made and seconded. The committee voted 8-4 to increase the dues for the upcoming 2018-2019 season. The Council tabled consideration of an increase in the dinner charge; it will remain \$100 per guest during the upcoming season.

Dr. Briggs presented the Nominating Committee Report. She and Drs. Kenney and Mackey proposed Dr. Richard Ehrlichman (Massachusetts General Hospital) for President-elect, Dr. Dimitry Nepomnayshy (Lahey Clinic Medical Center) for Vice President-elect, Dr. James Yoo (Tufts Medical Center) for Dinner Chairman, and Dr. Jennifer Tseng (Boston Medical Center) for Councilor, replacing Dr. Doherty. No other nominations were entered, and a call for vote was offered and seconded. The vote for all nominees carried unanimously, and these nominations will become effective as of the business meeting in December, 2018. Current Officers include President Callery, Vice President Hess, President-elect Millham, Secretary McAneny, Treasurer Rubin, and Councilors Peter Burke, Doherty, Claire Cronin, Driscoll, and McCarthy. The Council emphasized the importance of all officers being in good standing, and all nominees and current Officers certainly meet this standard.

The Council entertained ideas for the 2018-2019 season. When possible, the Society will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month. We would also like to preserve the tradition of hosting the Annual Meeting and Presidential Address at the Harvard Club (on December 3,

2018). We shall likely have two events at the Double Tree Hotel on Soldiers Field Road, and two dinners at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Memorial Drive in Cambridge, as both of those venues have previously been quite attractive and popular. Potential speakers next season are John Halamka, MD, MS, the Chief Information Officer at BIDMC (informatics discussion on November 5, 2018), President-elect Millham, who may moderate a program on acute care surgery centers, perhaps with George Velamahas, MD, PhD (February 4, 2019), Matthew J. Carty, MD, an expert in limb salvage techniques (March 4, 2019), and the two-year-old tradition of Case of the Year presentations by residents and fellows on April 1, 2019. The Northeast Surgical Meeting will likely be in late April, 2019.

This was a highly productive meeting, and the BSS Executive Council adjourned at 9:20 pm, invigorated by the prospects of another successful season in 2018-2019.

Respectfully submitted,



David McAneny, MD

Despite a cold, raw evening, 44 members and guests of the Boston Surgical Society braved the elements and gathered at the Boston-Cambridge Double Tree Hotel on November 5, 2018 to open the 2018-2019 season. Their warm spirit filled the room during a lovely reception, and President Mark Callery fondly reminisced that we had bestowed the Bigelow Medal upon Dr. Lenworth Jacobs just one year earlier in this same venue. Dr. Callery also signaled a new era of the Society with a brief demonstration of its updated web page, a prelude to his Presidential Address in December. All then enjoyed artisanal salad, roast chicken breast with truffle butter, seasonal vegetable medley and roasted fingerling potatoes, topped off with tasty peach and blueberry cobbler. President Callery introduced his colleague and friend, Dr. John Halamka, Chief Information Officer at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and International Healthcare Innovation Professor at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Halamka engaged the audience with an energetic style that engendered lively interaction throughout the lecture, “What’s new in healthcare IT?” He focused upon the value of information technology in challenges such as aging societies with greater longevity, lower birth rates, and increased mental health burdens, especially considering the global lack of physicians. Dr. Halamka presented fascinating ideas about non-integrated IT systems and observations that can be drawn about cultures based upon data. His concept of the future of medicine included: 1) Machine learning (e.g., a Google catalogue of millions of retinal scans); 2) the “Internet of Things” (interconnectivity of devices that measure health parameters such as weight, sleep habits, salt intake, and so much more); 3) Big Data/Interoperability (an ecosystem of innovation that enables data of the past to inform care of patients in the future); 4) Telemedicine and Telecare (with vast potential applications); and 5) Blockchain technology (the one-way mathematical transformation of data). Dr. Halamka acknowledged that electronic medical records have so far posed considerable burden for little gain, although he believes that this investment will soon give way to bold opportunities and

rewards. The audience was thrilled by this self-proclaimed “virtualist” and eagerly looked forward to another exciting year for the Society.

Respectfully submitted,



David McAneny, MD

The Harvard Club of Boston (Back Bay) hosted the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Boston Surgical Society on December 3, 2018. Seasonal garlands and poinsettias adorned Harvard Hall Foyer for the reception and welcomed 86 members and guests. The mild evening belied the approaching winter, although it may have allowed exercise conducive to fitting into tuxedos for one more year. The joyous group munched hors d’oeuvres (cremini mushrooms stuffed with roasted tomato, spinach, and parmesan cheese, sea scallops wrapped in apple wood smoked bacon, and mini-beef Wellington with mushroom duxelle in puff pastry) and sipped beverages before rushing to claim tables in Harvard Hall. Between the bright fireplaces and beneath the Christmas trees, Dr. Mark Callery rose to the podium and called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm, formally greeting all and plotting the evening’s events.

The chef rose to the occasion as well, serving Caprese salad with vine ripened tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, crispy shallots, and baby arugula. The main feature included petite filet mignon, red wine demi-glace, and garlic grilled shrimp with smoked tomato butter. For those who had not overindulged on appetizers, Tahitian vanilla crème brûlée and fresh berries remained to be devoured.

As dessert cleared, President Callery provided a brief President’s Report that emphasized timely dues payment via the new web page, and he encouraged attendance at the Northeast Surgical Meeting in the Spring. He then introduced Dr. David McAneny for the Secretary’s Report. The Society boasted 385 members and eagerly anticipated the induction of 10 new members that night. All stood to honor Drs. Christos A. Hasiotis and David J. Sugarbaker, both of whom had recently died. Secretary McAneny also reviewed upcoming meetings during the Spring 2019 season, especially the popular Case of the Year presentations. The following slate of candidates was approved with cheers that filled the hall, and there was no voice of dissent.

Candidate	Institution	Subspecialty	Sponsors
Cristina Carpio	South Shore	Critical Care	Froio/Millham
W. Darrin Clouse	MGH	Vascular	Briggs/Lillemoie
F. Thurston Drake	BMC	General	McAneny/Tseng
Scharukh Jalisi	BIDMC	Otolaryngology	Callery/Chaikof
Benjamin James	BIDMC	Surgical Oncology	Callery/Chaikof
Antonio Lassaletta	Tufts	Thoracic	Cooper/Mackey
Evangelos Messaris	BIDMC	Colorectal	Callery/Chaikof
Charles Parsons	BIDMC	Critical Care	Callery/Cook

Vivian Sanchez  
Assad Taha

VA  
Lahey

General  
Acute Care

Itani/Tseng  
Birkett/Brams

President-elect Frederick Millham ably substituted for Dr. Marc Rubin and provided the Treasurer's Report, proving that this calling lies deep within his being. He reviewed expenses for 2016-2017 (\$69,905), 2017-2018 (\$69,965), and the 2018-2019 season to date (\$22,894), as opposed to income (member dues, contributions, and dinner fees) of \$80,315, \$79,800, and \$23,790, respectively. The Society's assets total \$82,615. Dr. Millham posted names of those who had already modeled timely dues-paying etiquette for all to admire.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Chair Susan Briggs proposed Drs. Richard Ehrlichman (President-elect), Dmitry Nepomnayshy (Vice President), James Yoo (Dinner Chair), and Jennifer Tseng (Councilor). All selections were loudly approved and unanimously accepted. Dr. Briggs also expressed fond appreciation to Drs. Donald Hess and Peter Burke for their tremendous contributions to the Executive Council.

Dr. Hess dispatched the Vice President's duties with characteristic grace and charm, introducing Dr. Callery for the Presidential Address, "Purpose and Pace." Dr. Callery first expressed gratitude to the Society and especially to his family, including his wife Angela and daughters Leah, Jacqueline, and Brooke. Dr. Callery continued with typical modesty, asking "Why me" upon consideration of the giants who had preceded him in this office. It soon became clear indeed why he stood at the podium. President Callery posed a lighthearted question about which seven Boston Surgical Society presidential terms coincided with eight Red Sox World Series rings (see answers below) but then gave way to weightier reflections. He invoked Jack Welch's admonition to "Change, before you have to" in challenging the Society to keep pace with the times and, in fact, lead. Recognizing that surgeons have so many competing demands and that habits of the past are often barriers to the future, our President urged members to engage the gears of change to preserve the heritage of the Society as they create its future. Pace is predicated upon priorities, plans, and execution, while Purpose requires an embrace of change, adaptation, and reinvigoration. A movie presentation shared an endearing story of Boston's traditions, grit, heart, culture, and promise through the faces of heroes who have graced the city. Dr. Callery then led the audience on a tour of the rejuvenated web page that reveals the legacy and vibrancy of the Boston Surgical Society to the world.

Once the standing ovation had settled, Dr. Callery passed the gavel to Dr. Millham, who assumed the Presidency and adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm, although many lingered in the historic hall for photos (including Angela Callery, Jacquie Callery and family friends), toasts, and the telling of tall tales.

Vide supra: Seven surgeons had the good fortune to serve as Presidents of the Boston Surgical Society during the years when eight Boston Red Sox teams were victorious in the World Series. They were Drs. Frank Lahey (1912), George Monks (1915 and 1916), Charles Scudder (1918), Thomas O'Donnell (2004), Desmond Birkett (2007), Russell Nauta (2013), and Mark Callery (2018).

Respectfully submitted,



David McAneny, MD

The previous week's polar vortex and its sub-zero temperatures in New England and the Northern Plains gave way to a glorious 60-degree day, particularly in the afterglow of a trifecta of Sunday victories by the Boston Bruins (1-0), Boston Celtics (134-129), and New England Patriots (13-3) - just another Super Bowl trophy that the entire nation surely must be celebrating with our community. Even the World Champion Boston Red Sox joined the act as their truck departed for Spring training in Fort Myers, Florida. The Boston-Cambridge Double Tree Hotel welcomed 58 jubilant surgeons and guests on February 4, 2019. A hearty reception preceded a wonderful winter salad with greens, dried cranberries and candied walnuts, roast chicken breast with truffle butter, a seasonal vegetable medley and fingerling potatoes, and a rich flourless chocolate torte smothered in raspberry coulis, fresh mint, and whipped cream.

In his second official duty since accepting the gavel from predecessor Dr. Mark Callery, President Frederick Millham called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm and set the stage for the Pub Debate to follow. It was resolved: "Acute care surgery should be regionalized." Dr. Noelle Saillant, of Massachusetts General Hospital, presented the affirmative argument that the trauma center model is best for Emergency General Surgery. She outlined the annual need for EGS among at least 3 million patients, imparting greater chances of death, complications, and hospital readmission than occur after elective operations. Dr. Saillant put forth a cogent argument for centralized care providing better outcomes, although she acknowledged that the current system is not as mature as it is for trauma care nor is it as nimble in the triage of patients. She presented data that favor EGS conducted at special centers, but better outcomes may actually be associated with older (more experienced) surgeons, who often practice in the community setting. Dr. Saillant's worthy opponent, Dr. Robert Driscoll, from the South Shore Hospital and the Brigham and Women's Hospital faculty, took the negative position that distributed care will improve access and outcomes. He proclaimed the nobility of being a general surgeon and argued that EGS is an essential component of General Surgery that is not quite identical to trauma care. In addition, he pointed out an inherent bias in American Association for the Surgery of Trauma proclamations regarding EGS, given its modest community hospital representation. While reviewing conflicting data and conclusions in publications, Dr. Driscoll also considered the "downstream" burden of care, including later operations and psychosocial support that may be rendered best near home. At Dr. Millham's exhortation, the audience peppered the opponents with questions, including whether crowded academic medical centers could really manage all patients who require emergency operations. This factor actually favors the maintenance of a robust system that can locally handle many of these challenging patients.

The discussants did verbal joust, and the jury of peers declared a preference for broader access to EGS among trained general surgeons rather than widespread transfers to urban centers. This delightful debate format will undoubtedly be reprised in seasons to come. There being no other business at hand, Dr. Millham adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm so that all could get plenty of rest before the next day's duck boat parade for the six-time Super Bowl winners.



Drs. Robert Driscoll, Frederick Millham, and Noelle Saillant.

Respectfully submitted,

David McAneny, MD

Not even a foot of snow could keep 23 of the city's most stalwart attending and resident surgeons from convening at the March 5, 2019 meeting of the Boston Surgical Society. On the eve of the close of Mardi Gras season, the Boston-Cambridge Double Tree Hotel hosted an evening of bonhomie. The reception featured a wonderful assortment of fromage et fruit frais. Of course, guests saved room for a three-course meal of New England greens tossed with sun-

dried cranberries and goat cheese, stuffed herbed chicken breast paired with sautéed mushrooms and roasted potatoes, and a homemade peach cobbler served à la mode. Très bien!

President Frederick Millham whistled the start of the parade at 7:20 pm and introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Matthew J. Carty of Brigham and Women's Hospital. In the lecture, "Reinventing Amputation in the Era of Functional Limb Restoration," Dr. Carty presented his group's pioneering collaborations with Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists to re-engineer limb amputations and improve usage of bionic prostheses. Inspired by Giuliano Vanghetti's turn-of-the-(20<sup>th</sup>) century cineplastic techniques, whereby external tendinous loops were constructed to transmit movement to artificial limbs, Dr. Carty developed an internalized version of the technique in the Ewing trans-tibial amputation. Named after the patient who first underwent this operation after suffering a debilitating ankle injury while rock climbing in the Cayman Islands, the Ewing operation creates tendon pulleys over the tibia to link opposing muscles. The configuration preserves the agonist-antagonist myoneural interface that is disrupted by traditional amputation, enabling proprioceptive feedback from next-generation prostheses. Kinematic results in the first cohort of patients are promising and suggest enhanced prosthetic control and location awareness. Furthermore, perioperative complications, primarily involving cellulitis and impaired wound healing, have been limited. While Dr. Carty acknowledged that further efficacy studies are necessary before there can be widespread adoption, he argued to promote amputation from a "last resort" to part of an overall limb salvage strategy.

During a thoughtful exchange with the audience, Dr. Carty explained an algorithm by which the technique may be implemented after acute amputations; in fact, he recently received a grant to train military surgeons. To date, the operation has been performed in patients with healthy distal tissues. However, a two-stage Ewing amputation in animal models using regenerative muscle grafts suggests that the concept may be practical in the setting of acute tissue loss, such as traumatic or revision amputations. The robotic prostheses are currently restricted to participants in the study at MIT and BWH and are not yet commercially available. Furthermore, much of the cost of this program is borne via grant funding, and cost-effectiveness analysis is ongoing. Future studies may evaluate outcomes of this technique in other types of amputations.

Dr. Carty demonstrated the enormous potential of cooperation among creative minds in surgery and in technology to improve patients' quality of life. He closed with a poignant video of Jim Ewing scaling a cliff in the Cayman Islands with a bionic limb. After hearty applause, Dr. Millham adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm so that all could get plenty of rest before Fat Tuesday.



President Frederick Millham introduces guest speaker Dr. Matthew J. Carty.



Dr. Matthew J. Carty reviews the history of techniques in limb reconstruction.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David McAneny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David McAneny, MD

A welcome cold front chased away the weekend's warm mist and delivered a crisp evening on April 1, 2019, as the Boston Surgical Society brought down the curtain on another acclaimed season. A gorgeous sunset danced on the Charles River during a reception at the Boston-Cambridge Double Tree Hotel that featured special libations and an artisanal cheese display. The 62 members and guests devoured spinach and frisee salad and then chicken saltimbocca with prosciutto, provolone, and marsala mushroom sauce, accompanied by a seasonal vegetable medley and roasted fingerling potatoes.

President Frederick Millham commanded the attention of the audience with just one tap of the glass and called the meeting to order at 7:29 pm, as peach and blueberry cobblers were served. He reminded all about upcoming Northeast Surgical Meeting in New York City. Boston Surgical Society members will join colleagues from the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery and the New York Surgical Society at the Cornell Club (6 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street) on Friday, May 3, 2019. Speakers from our delegation will be Drs. Jason Hall, Millham, Pardon Kenney, Mark Callery, and David McAneny.

Dr. Millham introduced Vice President Dmitry Nepomnayshy, the master of ceremonies for the third annual Case of the Year Presentations (see program below). Young surgeons enlightened the group with outstanding discussions about rare diagnoses and imaginative techniques; the audio-visual productions were truly professional. Judges from all presenting institutions scored the presentations (naturally not rating their own residents). Drs. Millham and Nepomnayshy drew upon advanced statistical methods to rank the trainees, and they announced the prizes after lengthy deliberation: Drs. Somala Mohammed (First), Thomas Ward (Second), and Praveen Sridhar (Third). This fun format will surely be repeated for years to come. Dr. Millham adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm, wishing all members well until we convene again in November.

Sayuri Jinadasa, MD (PGY 4) "And it's a..."  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Praveen Sridhar, MD (PGY-3) "Staged endovascular exclusion and open resection of aberrant pulmonary artery aneurysm due to pulmonary sequestration"  
Boston Medical Center

Peter Najjar, MD (PGY-5) "'Cavatomy' to cure a Cushingoid conscientious objector"  
Brigham & Women's Hospital

Somala Mohammed, MD (fellow) "Midaortic syndrome: treating life-threatening pediatric hypertension in a MAGICAL way"  
Boston Children's Hospital

Alhasan Sedeeq, MD (PGY-5) "Laparoscopic release of median arcuate ligament"  
Lahey Hospital & Medical Center

Thomas Ward, MD (PGY-3) "69 year-old male with weight loss and ascites"  
Massachusetts General Hospital

Tina Tian, MD (PGY-1) "Debranching of the aortic arch"

Tufts Medical Center



President Millham and Vice President Nepomnayshy greet the presenters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David McAneny".

David McAneny, MD

## Minutes of the Northeast Surgical Meeting

The New York Surgical Society hosted the Northeast Surgical Meeting at the Cornell Club in Midtown Manhattan on Friday, May 3, 2019. The dreary afternoon did little to dampen the high spirits of the gathering as the New Yorkers welcomed colleagues from the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery and the Boston Surgical Society.

The day began with polished podium presentations by residents, each followed by comments from a learned professor.

- 1) “Promotion of metastasis by surgical excision of the primary tumor reflects changes in the lung immune microenvironment.” Michelle Kallis, MD (Cohen Children’s Medical Center and Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Northwell Health)
- 2) “20 year prospective longitudinal study of perceptions of women in surgical training programs” Young Lee, MD, MSc (The Brooklyn Hospital Center and Marietta Ohio Memorial Health System)
- 3) “The use of hepatitis C virus (HCV)-positive donors in HCV-negative organ transplant recipients” Hiroshi Sogawa, MD (Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College)”
- 4) “Does the ATA risk stratification apply to patients with papillary thyroid microcarcinoma?” Dessislava Stefanova, MD (New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center)
- 5) “The ability of trauma activation criteria to predict the need for trauma team response” Frederique Pinto, MD (Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center)

The residents’ session set the table for Dr. H. Leon Pachter, Chair of the Department of Surgery at NYU Langone Health. He offered perspectives about human behavior and interactions in contemporary surgery during the lecture, “Professionalism for the Millennials”. This message certainly appealed to both seasoned and young members of the audience.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to panel discussions that featured representatives of each of the surgical societies. Dr. Marc Sher (NYSS Past-President) moderated “Controversies in the Management of Colorectal Malignancies.” Dr. Jason Hall (BSS) addressed the efficacy and role of the robot in operations for colorectal cancer. Dr. Joshua Bleier (PAS) considered the merits of watchful waiting after neoadjuvant therapy for distal rectal cancers, and Dr. R. Larry Whelan (NYSS) analyzed the value of PIPAC (pressurized intraperitoneal aerosol chemotherapy).

Dr. Frederick Millham (BSS President) served as moderator of the panel, “Controversies in Surgical Education.” Dr. Michael Leitman (NYSS Treasurer) weighed the prudence and validity of simulation training, while Dr. Pardon Kenney (BSS Past-President) critically examined the challenges of training general surgeons to satisfy future demands.

Dr. Mark Callery (BSS immediate Past-President) moderated “Controversies in the Treatment of Pancreatic Neoplasms.” Dr. Gary Gecelter (NYSS) spoke about the management of pancreas lesions among elderly patients, conveying the frequently indolent natural history of intraductal pancreatic mucinous neoplasms in this cohort. Dr. Francis Spitz (PAS President) provided data about neoadjuvant therapy for pancreas cancer, questioning when patients should proceed directly to resection. Finally, Dr. David McAneny (BSS Secretary) demonstrated that expertise and experience enhance the safety of pancreas surgery, with a point of view about who

should perform these operations (and where) to equitably care for all patients, including those with adverse social determinants of health.

The enthusiasm and size of the audience did not wane during the reception, when the Bostonians had a wonderful opportunity to mingle with colleagues and make many new friends. All of the BSS panelists dined together, joined by Angela Callery, Kendra Kenney, Dr. Dana Fugelso (BSS), and colleagues from New York and Philadelphia. We savored a great evening of camaraderie that was nearly matched by a popular wild mushroom ravioli, a tantalizing choice of salmon or sirloin steak, and a delectable crème brûlée.

Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, former Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington and current Chief Medical Officer of UW Medicine, presented the Dinner Lecture, “The Joy of Life as a Surgeon”. His observations were so familiar to many surgeons, who nodded approvingly and enthusiastically, while younger members were undoubtedly inspired. Dr. Pellegrini introduced the Japanese concept of Ikigai (a reason for being) to explain how life as a surgeon allows one to strike the sweet spot of personal and professional fulfillment.

The Boston contingent cherished its time in the Big Apple, and President Millham captured the group’s sentiments when he expressed gratitude to the hosts and declared that no team from Boston had ever been so warmly received in New York. This meeting set a high standard for 2020, when the Boston Surgical Society hopes to welcome our friends from Philadelphia and New York.

Respectfully submitted,



David McAneny, MD