

## **2013-14 Health Policy Scholars Program**

The 2013 Health Policy Leadership course was a great personal experience. The course gave me a much clearer understanding of how and why our health care system must change in order for the United States to meet the growing healthcare needs of our aging population. Equally important, I gained an understanding of operational strategy within a complex health care organization and how to transform myself into an effective, forward thinking leader in health care reform.

The 2014 Advocacy and Leadership Summit was a great opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with health policy and political experts to gain insight into how health care policy and laws are formulated and enacted. Lobbying on Capitol Hill was a unique experience. Being paired with veteran surgeon lobbyists made the experience more meaningful and the meetings more productive.

My biggest disappointment as a Health Policy Scholar was that neither APSA nor ACS ever called upon me to use my newly acquired skills and knowledge. APSA had no role for their Health Policy Scholar in the organization. I never received a request from the ACS to attend any activities or discussions except for a meeting of past and present Health Policy Scholars at the ACS annual meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss our minimal role in the organization.

Overall, the Health Policy Scholars program was exciting and rewarding for me. However, our role within the ACS and the co-sponsoring surgical society needs to be thought out and formalized to better utilize our newly acquired expertise.