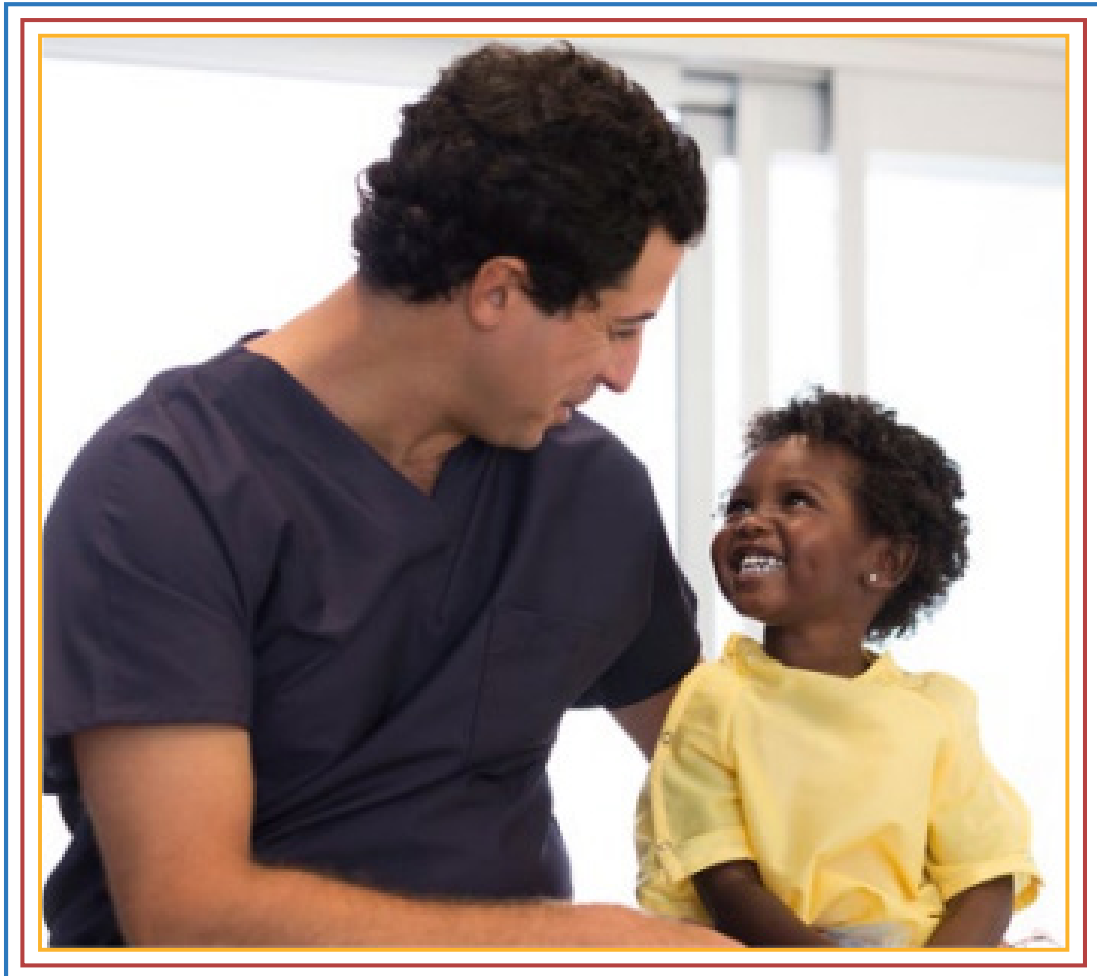




APSA
American Pediatric
Surgical Association
Saving Lifetimes

NEW MEMBER **WELCOME KIT**



We're glad you're here!

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Vision and Mission

APSA VISION

All children receive the highest [quality](#) surgical care.



APSA MISSION

To provide the best surgical care to our [patients and families](#) by supporting an [inclusive community](#) through [education](#), [discovery](#) and [advocacy](#).

View the list of
[APSA's Past Presidents](#)
and
[Founding and Charter Members](#)



APSA
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Surgical Association
Saving Lifetimes

Welcome

Saving Lifetimes

Dear New APSA Member,

On behalf of the leadership of the American Pediatric Surgical Association, we'd like to welcome you to APSA and the pediatric surgical community. As a member of APSA, your investment provides opportunities to excel in your profession and contribute to the field.

Being part of this close-knit society presents you with multiple ways to interact with a wide range of colleagues and specialists – from pioneers in the field to trainees at all levels to a section dedicated to affiliate professionals – who share your desire to fulfill APSA's mission of *Saving Lifetimes*.

APSA's unparalleled **educational programming** is all within your easy reach and comes with a member discount. Explore the multiple ways to keep current on research, techniques and best practices in **pediatric surgery** and also to earn valuable **pediatric surgery Continuing Medical Education credits**. Learn more on page 13.

Involvement in **committees, task forces and strategic initiatives** is a great way to engage in the APSA community. Often these are very effective vehicles for getting things done and networking with those with similar interests. Learn more on page 14.

The **APSA Foundation** is the philanthropic partner of APSA and supports pediatric surgical innovation and discovery, surgeon-scientist career development, member education, and other efforts which ensure access, quality, and equity in the surgical care and lives of all children. Through inspired giving, members support its vision to promote excellence in pediatric surgery by fostering scientific, clinical and educational endeavors through inspired giving. The Foundation offers several scholarships. Read more on page 10.

We welcome you to our community and look forward to seeing you in person or online. Should you have questions of any kind or need assistance accessing the member benefits, please contact us at info@apsaped surg.org.



Who's Who at APSA?

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Gail Besner, MD
President

GAIL BESNER

Dr. Gail Besner is Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where she has served since 2012, and holds the H. William Clatworthy, Jr. Chair in Surgery at The Ohio State University. A surgeon-scientist and scientific Co-Founder of Scioto Biosciences, Inc., she is also a member of the Center for Perinatal Research and served as the Program Director of the Pediatric Surgery Residency Training Program for many years. She established a research lab at Nationwide Children's Hospital in 1991 focusing on developing novel therapies to protect the intestines from intestinal injury including necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), which has been continuously funded by the NIH for the past 30 years. Her achievements have been recognized with numerous honors, including the 2024 Allen Distinguished Scholar in Pediatric Research, the 2024 Drake Medal from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and the 2025 Medallion for Scientific Achievement from the American Surgical Association for her research on NEC. Dr. Besner served as the Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Surgery in 2020 and is currently President-Elect of the American Pediatric Surgical Association.

Dr. Besner earned her undergraduate degree from Cornell University, her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati, completed residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital, her Pediatric Surgery training at Buffalo Children's Hospital, and conducted research under Dr. Judah Folkman, where she discovered heparin-binding EGF-like growth factor (HB-EGF). She has served on key national NIH committees and has authored over 220 peer-reviewed publications with more than 500 presentations globally.

Dr. Besner resides in Dublin, Ohio with her husband David. Their son Matthew is a triathlete in Austin, Texas, and daughter Nicole is a law student at the University of Michigan. She spends her spare time as a marine aquarist, enjoys needlepointing and antique collecting.



Mike Chen, MD, MBA
President-Elect

MIKE CHEN

Dr. Mike K. Chen is Surgeon-in-Chief at Children's of Alabama and holds the Joseph M. Farley Endowed Chair. He is Professor of Surgery and Chief/Director of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. A nationally recognized leader in pediatric surgery education and health system leadership, Dr. Chen has served as a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship Program Director and is active in professional organizations including the American Pediatric Surgical Association and the American Board of Surgery. His academic work has spanned tumor biology, tissue engineering, and outcomes research, and he has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Dr. Chen has also been engaged in global pediatric surgery education through invited lectures and surgical training efforts internationally. He is a U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps veteran and is committed to mentorship, building trusted teams, and advancing the future of pediatric surgery through developing the next generation of surgical leaders.



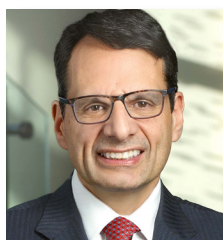
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**Andrea A. Hayes
Dixon, MD**
*Immediate Past
President*

ANDREA HAYES DIXON

Dr. Andrea Hayes Dixon is the Dean of Howard University's College of Medicine and Vice President of Clinical Affairs. Dr. Hayes Dixon is the first African American female pediatric surgeon in the USA and the first female Dean at the HUCOM. She is nationally and internationally known for her work pioneering Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor, DSRCT. Her patients request her services from around the world because she was the first to do hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy, HIPEC, and cytoreductive surgery in a child. Dr. Hayes Dixon has a basic science laboratory that focuses on finding a cure for DSRCT. She has cared for the largest number of DSRCT patients at any one hospital and by any one surgeon. Dr. Hayes Dixon was appointed by former President Trump to the National Cancer Advisory Board. (The National Cancer Advisory Board reports to the Director of the National Cancer Institute and the Secretary of Health). Dr. Hayes Dixon has published over 160 manuscripts and dozens of book chapters.



**David Hackam
MD PhD**
Treasurer

DAVID HACKAM

Dr. David Hackam is the Garrett Professor and Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Johns Hopkins University and Pediatric Surgeon in Chief and co-director of the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. He received his MD from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, both his PhD in Cell Biology and General Surgery training at the University of Toronto, followed by a Pediatric Surgery fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hackam's clinical expertise is in the management of complex surgical disorders in newborns, including patients with necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), which is the leading cause of death from gastrointestinal disease in premature infants.

Dr. Hackam's research is focused on understanding the pathogenesis and developing novel therapies for NEC, and his laboratory has identified a unifying theory that explains its development. His lab has been funded by the National Institutes of Health continuously for the past 25 years. Dr. Hackam has written the definitive textbook on the management of NEC, which includes surgeons, neonatologists, nurses and families as authors, and is now in production in its second edition. He is the PI on a T32 in the Hopkins Department of Surgery that focuses on developing surgeon-scientists, and holds multiple patents for the development of novel therapies for NEC. Dr. Hackam is the past president of the Society of University Surgeons, past Secretary-Treasurer of the Surgical Biology Club, and is both proud and honored to serve as Treasurer-Elect for APSA.





Kenneth W. Gow, MD
Secretary

KENNETH GOW

Dr. Kenneth Gow is a pediatric surgeon with a career spanning over three decades. He completed his medical degree at the University of Manitoba in 1991, followed by a residency in general surgery and pediatric surgery at the University of British Columbia, finishing in 1999. Furthering his specialization, Dr. Gow pursued a fellowship in pediatric surgical oncology, which he completed in 2001.

In 2020, Dr. Gow expanded his expertise by earning a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from the University of Washington. He currently holds the position of Knapp Swezey Endowed Chair of Pediatric Surgery and serves as the Pediatric Surgeon in Chief at Stony Brook Children's Hospital on Long Island, New York.



Eunice Y. Huang
MD MS
Governor

EUNICE HUANG

Dr. Eunice Huang is a Professor of Pediatric Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital. She is a graduate of Yale University, completed her medical education at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, trained in general surgery at the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center and pediatric surgery at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Dr. Huang is triple boarded in General Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, and Clinical Informatics. She is currently the Vice Chair of Surgical Quality and Patient Safety for the Section of Surgical Sciences, and the Associate Surgeon-in-Chief at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital.

Dr. Huang has a passion for building teams to care for children and their families and educating and supporting team members. She is a recent graduate of the Executive Leadership in Health Care Program, a track of the ELAM Program at Drexel University, and is a formally trained coach.

In her current leadership roles, she works with many talented and dedicated individuals across multiple disciplines to solve complex problems and to nurture VUMC's strong culture of safety, working always to be a high reliability organization.



Romeo C. Ignacio, Jr.
MD MS
Governor

ROMEO C. IGNACIO, JR.

APT Romeo Ignacio, MC, USN (Ret.) is a pediatric surgeon at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, where he serves as Section Chief of Pediatric Surgery, Trauma Medical Director, and Director of Clinical Research. A dedicated member of APSA since 2011, he has contributed to several committees and served in various leadership roles, including Chair of the Publications Committee, Chair of the Parent and Family Member Subcommittee, and Vice Chair of the History Committee.

A retired U.S. Naval surgeon with 24 years of service, Dr. Ignacio is board certified in both General Surgery and Pediatric Surgery. His career reflects a deep commitment to graduate medical education, military medicine, global surgery, and advancing the field of humanitarian surgical care.

Dr. Ignacio values APSA for its mission of service, compassion, and the camaraderie among those individuals privileged to care for children. His research interests focus on trauma, surgical education, and global health. Clinically, he specializes in biliary surgery, chest wall reconstruction, and minimally invasive surgery. He is also a strong advocate for pediatric trauma care, reducing healthcare disparities, and improving access to surgical services for all children.



Erika A. Newman, MD
Governor

ERIKA NEWMAN

Dr. Erika Newman is the Michael Mulholland Distinguished Collegiate Professor and an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan. She is also the Chief of Pediatric Surgery at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and the Associate Director for Health Equity at The Rogel Cancer Center. Dr. Newman earned her BSN and MD from Georgetown University and completed her surgical residency and fellowship training at the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. Her clinical focus is on pediatric cancer, particularly neuroblastoma, and minimally invasive surgery for children.

A leader in pediatric oncology research, Dr. Newman investigates novel treatment pathways for high-risk neuroblastoma and the development of relevant preclinical models to study the impact of social deprivation in cancer patients. Recognized for her contributions to medicine, Dr. Newman has received numerous awards, including the James Densler Award from APSA. She has over 70 peer-reviewed publications and serves on the editorial boards of several prominent medical journals. Dr. Newman was elected to serve as a Councilor for the American Board of Surgery, a Director on the Pediatric Surgery Board of Surgery, and is a Governor on the Board of Governors for the American Pediatric Surgical Association. Dr. Newman is dedicated to mentoring and advancing the next generation of American surgeons and advancing health equity in academic medicine. Her work continues to make a profound impact on pediatric surgery and surgical oncology.



Marion C.W. Henry, MD, MPH, FACS, FAAP
Governor

MARION HENRY

Dr. Marion C. W. Henry is Professor of Surgery in the Section of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Chicago and holds multiple hospital leadership roles at Comer Children's Hospital, including Director of Surgical Quality, Medical Director of the Operating Rooms, and Interim Chief of Pediatric Surgery. A former Division Chief at Naval Medical Center San Diego and past Pediatric Surgeon in Chief at Banner Diamond Children's Hospital, Dr. Henry brings a broad national perspective across academic, military, and children's hospital practice. She is widely recognized for her work in pediatric trauma, health outcomes, health equity, and surgical policy and advocacy, and she has authored an extensive body of peer reviewed scholarship, guidelines, and educational content. Within APSA, Dr. Henry has held major leadership roles including inaugural Chair of the Benjy Brooks Committee, Chair of the Health Policy and Advocacy Committee, and Vice Chair and Chair of the Program Committee, with a strong focus on inclusive member engagement and trainee development.



Kathleen D. van Leeuwen, MD, FACS, FAAP
Governor

KATHLEEN VAN LEEUWEN

Dr. Kathleen D. van Leeuwen is a pediatric surgeon at Phoenix Children's Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor of Child Health at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, with an additional academic appointment at Mayo Clinic Arizona. She is an experienced surgical leader and program builder, serving as Director of the Center for Fetal and Neonatal Care and Director of the Reproductive Anomalies/Differences of Sex Development (DSD) Program at Phoenix Children's, and as Associate Surgeon-in-Chief for Phoenix Children's East Valley. Dr. van Leeuwen is nationally recognized for her work improving outcomes for children with complex congenital conditions, including DSD and colorectal/pelvic disorders, and has contributed extensively to the peer reviewed literature, book chapters, and national educational resources. Within APSA, she has held multiple leadership roles, including Chair of the Program Committee and Chair of the Nominating Committee, and has helped convene major society initiatives such as the APSA SVS Pediatric Vascular Task Force and the APSA Valuation Task Force.



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**Brian C. Gulack,
MD, MHS**
*Early Career
Representative*

BRIAN GULACK

Dr Brian Gulack is an associate professor of surgery at Rush University Medical Center, where he has worked since completing fellowship in 2020. Prior to Rush, Dr Gulack earned his undergraduate degree from Union College (Schenectady NY) and medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He did his training in general surgery at Duke University and in pediatric surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto Ontario. Clinically Dr Gulack is actively involved in the promotion of new technology in pediatric surgery, pushing the boundaries of robotics and other innovations. He served most recently as chair of the New Technology committee for APSA before being elected to the early career representative position on the board of APSA. Dr Gulack was also a member of the inaugural APSA MORE academy, the leadership program developed and administered by APSA. As part of his time with APSA MORE, Dr Gulack became involved with the Just in Time video library initiative which is developing a video library to refresh pediatric surgeons prior to index procedures. From a research perspective, Dr Gulack is involved in the development of multicenter clinical trials to improve pediatric surgical care, focusing most recently on the adolescent inguinal hernia, use of the stapler for bowel anastomoses in infants, and the diagnosis and management of pediatric appendicitis. He is also the chair of the Pediatric Surgical Research Collaborative (PedSRC). During his free time, Dr Gulack enjoys doing improv at various theaters and sailing in Chicago where he lives with his wife Elizabeth and puppy Goldie.



**Thomas F. Tracy, Jr.
MD MBA**
Executive Director

THOMAS TRACY

Dr. Thomas Tracy is a native of Albany, New York. He is a graduate of Colgate University, Albany Medical College and the first class of the New York State Program, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. He received his MBA from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Dr. Tracy most recently served the American Pediatric Surgical Association as its Executive Director. He spent 19 years in a variety of leadership roles at Brown University and Lifespan Health System, role of Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President at PennState Health, Hershey Medical Center, Lifespan's Miriam Hospital, and served the health system's Rhode Island Hospital. He was appointed the first Surgeon-in-Chief at Lifespan's new Hasbro Children's Hospital in 1997. He has also served as the Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University since 2003.

Dr. Tracy completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Medical College of Virginia and Pediatric Surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. He held positions at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, leadership positions in the Pediatric Research Institute of Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and maintained 18 years of continuous NIH funding with RO1, T32 and Program Project studies, and was recruited to Brown on the Research/Scholar track in 1997 with peer reviewed research funding in both basic and clinical science. He is the author of over 130 scientific publications and served on numerous editorial boards. He is a member of leading national and international organizations, including Alpha Omega Alpha, the Society of University Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, The Southern Surgical Association, and the Halsted Surgical Society. He has served on the Board of Governors of the American Pediatric Surgical Association, on the Foundation Board of the Society of University Surgeons, Chairman of the Advisory Council for Pediatric Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, and Chairman of the Chairs Council for all of the Advisory Councils. He also has had a longstanding commitment to the New England Surgical Society serving as President 2011/2012. Dr. Tracy serves as a Health Policy and Leadership Scholar for the American College of Surgeons and participates on its Regental Committee for Optimal Access and Health Care Disparities, and has previously served with the Children's Hospital Association (formerly NACHRI) on its task force for children's surgical care to outline optimal resources for surgical care of children in the United States, as a Director of the American Board of Surgery and as the Chairman of the Pediatric Surgical Board of the American Board of Surgery, as the President of the Association of Pediatric Surgery Training Program Directors and was an elected member of the Surgery Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

APSA Foundation

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION?

The APSA Foundation (APSAF) is the philanthropic arm of APSA in support of pediatric surgical innovation and discovery and serves to allow members to have impact in any area which enhances the surgical care and lives of children around the world. Many previous APSAF scholars have successfully used their APSAF grants to acquire NIH funding: in fact, over the years the \$1.7 million given in grants by the Foundation have resulted in \$68 million in external funding. Thus, the return on investment for APSA foundation tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable donations is tremendous and are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. The APSAF portfolio is in the process of expanding to areas that include advocacy, leadership, education, global surgery, and surgical innovation.

WHO LEADS THE APSA FOUNDATION?

A **Board** comprised of past-presidents of APSA, members of the current APSA leadership, members-at-large, and an APSA Foundation Board Chair all passionately work together to promote **the goals and aims of the foundation which essentially are to help APSA members improve the surgical care of children.**

WHAT AREAS DOES THE FOUNDATION SUPPORT?

Grants comprise funding opportunities for APSA members working on mainly the areas below:

- 1) **research in the basic sciences**
- 2) **innovation in education**
- 3) **solutions to global health** inequities and care in settings where there are resource constraints
- 4) **leadership, advocacy, and surgical innovation** are new areas into which the Foundation is expanding

GRANTS

LEARN ABOUT GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Jay Grosfeld, MD Scholar Grant

The Foundation encourages the enrichment of pediatric surgeon scientists by providing support for projects which will broaden the horizon of the recipient in a fashion not otherwise readily achievable and for which funds may not be available from usual current sources. We welcome proposals for support of projects that encompass the humanities, medical ethics, education, clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, health care delivery, computer sciences, as well as clinical or laboratory research as they relate to the surgical sciences or to the delivery of pediatric surgical care and may include traveling fellowships or special scholarships. [Learn More](#)

James A. O'Neill, Jr. Global Pediatric Surgery Scholarship

APSA has a commitment to the surgical care of children worldwide. The Board of Governors of APSA and the Foundation have collaborated to establish a Global Scholarship Program to promote the development of meaningful and impactful research approaches in resource-constrained environments. APSA and the Foundation are proud to offer this opportunity for members to respond to the pediatric surgical needs of low- and middle-income countries. [Learn More](#)



Education Grant

APSAF has created a funding opportunity for educational projects which consist of discrete activities that will provide members of APSA an opportunity to explore innovations in training and to expand their surgical knowledge and skills. [Learn More](#)



Ways to Support the APSA Foundation

All contributions, large and small, are very much appreciated. Regardless of amount, all contributions are cumulative. With minimal overhead and operational costs, 93% of all contributions go toward funding scholarships and grants.

Your Donation, Your Choice

Choose a Fund to Make the Most of Your Donation:

- ▶ Grosfeld Scholar Research Grant
- ▶ Global Initiatives
- ▶ Coffee Club
- ▶ Education Initiatives for Members and Trainees
- ▶ Pediatric Critical Care / ECMO
- ▶ General / Unrestricted / Greatest Need

**No Donation is Too Small
and Every Dollar Supports
Pediatric Surgical Research!**

Consider donations which provide tax advantages early in your career such as **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)**. If you're not familiar with **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)**, you're not alone. At its most basic level, a **DAF** is like a **charitable savings account**. You put money (or stock) into the account, receive the tax deduction right away, and then decide later which charities to support and when to give. Here's why this matters: Most people now take the **standard tax deduction**, which means their charitable donations don't always lower their taxes. If your total itemized deductions—including donations—don't exceed the standard deduction, you don't receive a tax benefit for giving, even though your generosity still matters.

Donate today to support the causes of your choice!

Visit the [Foundation Site](#) to learn about different donation methods and tax advantages.

Donate Today

#InspiredGiving

#NoDonationTooSmall

Resources

APSA provides a community specific to the interests and needs of pediatric surgical care, including CME, training, educational opportunities, professional support and coaching.

Special Resources



Peer Support

As pediatric surgeons, our work can be physically and/or emotionally taxing. Often only a colleague can understand what we do. This program seeks to provide the APSA membership with that listening ear. You may refer yourself or a colleague. All requests and conversations are confidential. A trained peer supporter will reach out within 48 hours.

Watch real testimonials from pediatric surgeons, visit the FAQ page, reach out for support or refer a colleague.

[Click Here](#) for Peer Support



Coaching Program

This program is designed for pediatric surgeons and trainees to enhance professional development and personal growth. The program offers a unique opportunity to be a coach or a coachee, depending on the stage in your career, and to engage in a meaningful relationship with a colleague who is trained in professional development coaching skills.

The program pairs coaches and coachees from within the APSA community to build strong, supportive relationships. Coaches gain the opportunity to connect with peers, acquire skills in positive psychology coaching, and engage in a rewarding experience working with pediatric surgeons or trainees. Coachees benefit from being coached by pediatric surgeon coaches who are trained in positive psychology coaching.

Professional Resources



PedSurg.TV

PedSurg.TV is THE source for rich and educational pediatric surgery content. Access countless hours of educational content produced **BY** pediatric surgeons. Subscribe and turn on notifications to never miss a new release.

[Click Here](#) for PedSurgTV



Pediatric Surgery Library

Pediatric Surgery Library (PSL) is a resource hub for providers of pediatric surgical care that includes open access and subscription-based products.

[Click Here](#) for Pediatric Surgery Library



PedSurg Resource

PedSurg Resource is APSA's FREE channel for all your clinical resources! Access free clinical resources, guidelines and position statements; educational tools for students and parents; handbooks, white papers and so much more!

[Click Here](#) for PedSurg Resource

Resources

Continuing Education and CME – Subscription-Based Programs



ExPERT

The **ExPERT (Exam-based Pediatric Surgery Educational Reference Tool) CME platform** provides **integrated self-assessment and continuous certification CME credits**. Use it as an information resource and as a real-time, point-of-care knowledge reference or all of the above. ExPERT is designed to help practicing pediatric surgeons incorporate the available medical literature into the care of their patients.

[Click Here](#) for ExPERT



Pediatric Surgery NaT

APSA's (Not a) Textbook - NAT. From presentation to procedures to long-term outcomes, the Pediatric Surgery NaT resource keeps the current general surgical care of children at your fingertips. Designed for both practicing and in-training pediatric surgeons, the Pediatric Surgery NaT is updated quarterly so you will know what strategies, techniques and procedures are being used right now. It is written for pediatric surgeons by pediatric surgeons and contains learning objectives, images, videos and links to MOC CME and medical literature. To take advantage of the MOC CME, you also need to subscribe to ExPERT.

- Organized by clinical modules and learning objectives
- High-resolution images and videos
- Perform advanced searches of the medical literature
- Links to relevant PubMed articles
- Submit feedback, commentary and interesting cases
- Robust, cross-platform integration when subscribed to ExPERT
- Integrated with the American Board of Surgery SCORE curriculum

For information about pricing for individual and institutional access, including discounts for students, international users in zone 2-4 countries, and general surgeons in rural areas, and other details, visit the APSA website.

[Click Here](#) for Pediatric Surgery NaT



Monthly Critical Care Conference

Join us the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm ET/2:00 pm PT USA.

[Click Here](#) to view previous conferences

Contact info@apsaped Surg.org for additional information and a link to the virtual Zoom meeting.

APSA Committees

[Join a Committee!](#)

**All members
are welcome!**



ALL members are eligible to apply to any APSA committee.

Regular, Associate, Candidate, Resident, Medical Students, SOAPPS, International, Emeritus

APSA Committees carry out a number of different critical functions for the association.

Visit the APSA website to learn more about a specific committee and learn how to apply for committee service.

COMMITTEES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Surgery for Kids (ASK APSA) • Audit • Benjy Brooks • Bylaws • Cancer • Diversity, Equity and Inclusion • Education • Ethics • Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment • Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Pediatric Surgery • Health Policy and Advocacy • History • Industry and Institutional Advisory • Membership and Credentials • Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery • New Technology • Nominating • Outcomes and Evidence-based Practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice • Professional Development • Program • Publications • Research • Surgical Critical Care • Surgical Quality and Safety • Trauma • Vascular Surgery • Wellness • Workforce |
|--|---|---|

SOAPPS COMMITTEES

(Section on Affiliate Professionals in Pediatric Surgery)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOAPPS Education Committee • SOAPPS Membership Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOAPPS Practice Committee • SOAPPS Program Committee |
|---|---|

Questions? Contact info@apsaped surg.org.

Membership

Membership Cycle

Membership is on an annual basis from January 1 to December 31. Renewal begins in October and payment is due December 31. Members are notified via email with reminders two times per month.

Regular, Associate, International* and Candidate Members are required to pay dues in the amount set by the Board of Governors.

Emeritus, General Surgery Residents and Medical Students are not required to pay membership dues.

***International Members'** dues are on a sliding scale based on geographic location per the World Bank.

Transitioning to a Different Member Type

Resident Members transitioning to Candidate Membership, and Candidate Members transitioning to Regular Membership should follow the guidelines on the [APSA website](#). All others should contact APSA staff for details and instructions.



Membership Type	Eligible Individuals	Dues
Affiliate Professionals in Pediatric Surgery	Affiliate professionals, licensed in the US or Canada, involved in pediatric surgical care	\$125
Medical Student Member	Medical Students in good standing at an accredited medical school in the US or Canada	No dues
Resident Member	General surgery resident or in a training position during or after completion of the residency, but not yet a fellow in an ACGME approved training program in pediatric surgery	No dues
Candidate Member	Matched or matriculated in an accredited Pediatric Surgery fellowship	\$75
Regular Member	Practicing pediatric surgeons post training, board eligible or board certified in pediatric surgery by the ABS or the RCSC	\$695 (Military Discount of 50% for active-duty members)
Associate Member	Associate membership shall be extended to a person who has been predominately in the practice of pediatric surgery, except as may be required by emergency care or special circumstances	\$695 (Military Discount of 50% for active-duty members)
International Member	Pediatric surgeon who does not live or practice in a US territory or Canada	Dues based on geographic location
Emeritus Member	Any member who is 60 or older, has been a member of APSA for at least 20 years, and are fully retired from practice.	No dues
Charter Member	Charter membership established and closed in 1970	No dues
Honorary Member	Awarded in special circumstances. Annual call for applications in December.	No dues

[Learn More](#)

Questions? Concerns? Need Assistance? Contact info@apsapedsurg.org.

SOAPPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section of Affiliated Professionals in Pediatric Surgery

Together, we stand at the heart healing – where knowledge meets compassion, and collaboration drives excellence. By empowering those who work alongside pediatric surgeons through education, professional growth, and advocacy, we elevate every child's surgical journey. Let us continue to unite our strengths, share our wisdom, and champion the best care and outcomes for the children and families we serve.

In 2022 APSA expanded its community of healthcare providers for pediatric surgical patients to include affiliate professionals.



[Learn more about SOAPPS](#)



**Executive Committee
Co-Secretary 2025-2027**

**Stephany Walk, DNP, ARNP,
CPNP-AC/PC**
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA



**Executive Committee Chair
2026-2027**

William Sharp, PA-C, MSPAS
Valley Children's Hospital
Madera, CA



**Executive Committee
Co-Secretary 2026-2028**

**Nicole Parnell, DNP, APRN,
CPNP-PA/AC, CCRN**
University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
Memphis, TN



**Executive Committee Chair-Elect
2026-2027**

Katy Noonan, PA-C
Cohen Children's Medical Center
New York, NY



**Executive Committee,
Director-at-Large 2025-2027**

Richele Koehler, DMSc, PA-C
Children's Hospital Colorado
Aurora, CO



**Executive Committee Past-Chair
2026-2027**

Monica Holder, BSN, RN, CPN
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati, OH



**Executive Committee,
Director-at-Large 2023-2026**

**Cindy McManaway, MSN,
RN, FNP-BC**
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus, OH

[View SOAPPS Leadership](#)

Interested in applying for committee service or leadership positions?

Contact SOAPPS@apsaped Surg.org for details.

Join the SOAPPS WhatsApp Group to stay connected
and up to date on the latest information!





SOAPPS

section of affiliated professionals in pediatric surgery



APSA
American Pediatric
Surgical Association
Saving Lifetimes

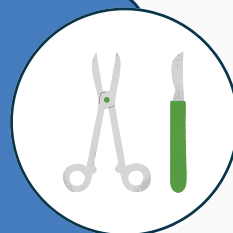


Who are we?

This Section of Affiliated Professionals in Pediatric Surgery is open to any licensed member of the pediatric surgery team who cares for pediatric surgical patients including, but not limited to NPs, PAs, RNs, nutritionists, counselors, PTs, OTs. Must work in the US, US territories or Canada. Must be board eligible or board certified by relevant organization or board.

Our Mission

To cultivate a community of 'affiliated professionals' in pediatric surgery that strive for excellence and surgical care for all children through professional collaboration, mentorship, education, and advocacy.



Our History

APSA as an organization has been around since 1970. In 2022, SOAPPS was created to expand its community. An executive board of directors is comprised of 13 directors and committee co-chairs who have formulated and adopted bylaws and help contributed to annual meeting breakshops and content creation. Membership currently consists of around 200 affiliated professional members.



Member Benefits

PedSurg Library, Discount subscriptions to (NaT) Not a Textbook and Journal of Pediatric Surgery, live and recorded CME opportunities, conference program lectures given by SOAPPS members, guests and surgeon led lectures geared directly towards affiliated professionals at the annual meeting, Peer Support Program, annual meeting discounts, apsaped surg.org resource, private group chat for SOAPP members



Join Us!

Together we can share ideas, innovations, research and experience to improve the outcomes for and the lives of our patients. We can network and foster a relationship at the level of the affiliated professional and bridge any gaps allowing us to connect and share our expertise with one another. Please consider joining us today.



Awards

APSA proudly presents several awards for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the field of pediatric surgery and surgical childcare with both individual and scientific awards. All awards are presented at the APSA annual meeting.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Distinguished Service Award

APSA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of a lifetime commitment to, and wide-reaching impact on, the field of pediatric surgery and/or contributions to The American Pediatric Surgery Association. "Wide-ranging impact" can be defined by the nominator and should be addressed in the summation.



2026 Recipient
Whit Holcomb, III, MD, MBA

James F. Densler Award

The purpose of this award is to acknowledge an individual who has a consistent track record of promoting diversity, equity and inclusivity in pediatric surgery. This includes delivery of care to diverse populations, working in diverse teams and promoting diversity and inclusivity in the pediatric surgery professional community.



2026 Recipient
Kathleen van Leeuwen, MD

Robert E. Gross Award for Excellence in Pediatric Research and Achievement

The APSA Robert E. Gross Award for Excellence in Pediatric Research and Achievement recognizes a seminal contribution by an individual who has made a major impact on pediatric surgery. Their contributions have resulted in a major change in how pediatric surgeons manage a particular problem, and the results have been demonstrated to be durable with time and widely accepted by pediatric surgeons as "standard practice."



2026 Recipient
Ronald B. Hirschl, MD, MS

Donald E. Meier Surgical Humanitarian Award

The APSA Surgical Humanitarian Award recognizes an APSA member whose career has been dedicated to ensuring the provision of surgical care to underserved children without expectation of commensurate reimbursement. This award is intended for surgeons who have dedicated a significant portion of their surgical careers to humanitarian efforts either locally or globally, rather than routine surgical practice.



2026 Recipient
Mary Brandt, MD, Mdiv

Awards

SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

Quality, Safety and Value in Surgery Award

The APSA Quality, Safety and Value in Surgery Award is given to the manuscript that best demonstrates quality improvement principles, patient safety initiatives and/or addresses the value proposition by demonstrating an improvement in outcomes while at the same time reducing cost or other measures of resource utilization. The quality of the manuscript and potential impact of the intervention for improving value outside of the author's own institution will serve as the primary criteria for judging.



2026 Recipient
Taylor H. Jacobs, MD

Decreasing Length Of Stay for Pectus Excavatum Repair by Implementing an Eras Protocol

Innovation Award

The Innovation Award is presented for the best abstract presented in the Innovation category. In an effort to encourage and disseminate novel ideas, authors are encouraged to submit abstracts detailing new techniques, therapies, devices or processes of care that have the potential to improve the treatment of pediatric patients. Abstracts will be judged on the uniqueness and potential impact of the idea, as well as the quality of the presentation.



2026 Recipient
Daniel R. Liesman, MD

The Validation Of A Non-Invasive Premature Infant Monitoring Probe (Premo) For Blood Pressure Assessment In A Fetal Lamb Model

M. Judah Folkman Memorial Awards

This award was created in honor of Dr. M. Judah Folkman and his legacy of leadership in our organization, the tremendous body of work he left behind and the way he selflessly shared his art of medicine with so many students and the art of healing with so many children and families.

The American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) and the Association of Pediatric Surgery Training Program Directors (APSTPD) are proud to present the M. Judah Folkman Memorial Award for outstanding research presentations given during the APSA Annual Meeting. Award recipients must be trainees currently enrolled in a surgical training program (residency or fellowship). Presentations are judged on scientific merit and actual presentations.



2026 Recipient
Rachel C. Bordelon, MD

A Novel Luminal Spring Approach To Apply Mechanical Strain To Innervated Human Intestinal Organoids



2026 Recipient
Anastasia M. Kahan, MD

No-Dishcharge-Antibiotics After Complicated Appendicitis: A Western Pediatric Surgery Research Consortium Perspective Study

SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

Eric B. Jelin NAFTNet-APSA Award for Best Abstract in Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy

Eric Jelin was a pediatric and fetal surgeon at Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital, who passed in May of 2021 at 42 years old. Dr. Jelin helped build the Johns Hopkins Center for Fetal Therapy which gained national recognition under his leadership. Eric was the principal investigator of the Renal Anhydramnios Fetal Therapy (RAFT) study. This multi-center, NIH-funded R01 grant investigated novel amnioinfusion for the treatment of fetuses with anhydramnios. He was one of a small group of pediatric surgeons to receive NIH funding for fetal therapy.



2026 Recipient
Latoya Stewart, MD, MSc

Predictive Modeling Of Neonatal Outcomes In Nonhydrotic Fetuses With Lung Malformations: Results From A National Cohort Of Major Children's Hospitals

NEC Society/APSA Award

A collaboration between the Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society and the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA)

Pediatric Surgery Research Fellow Award

The NEC Society's mission is to build a world without necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) by advancing research, education, and advocacy.



2026 Recipient
Christopher Luschen, MD

Association of Socioeconomic Status with Development and Severity of Necrotizing Enterocolitis

JPS/APSA Award

In honor and memory of Dr. Robert H. Bartlett, the ECMO/Bartlett Award recognizes outstanding scientific contributions in the fields of pediatric critical care and ECMO. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Critical Care Committee, this award has received an endowment of \$20,000 and will remain in perpetuity in honor of Dr. Robert Bartlett.



2026 Recipient
Elizabeth Gilliam, MD, MPH

Recurrent Small Bowel Obstruction Following Contrast Challenge Versus Surgical Adhesive Bowel Obstruction In Children (Abc) Study

Robert Bartlett Award for Innovation in Pediatric Critical Care and ECMO

In honor and memory of Dr. Robert H. Bartlett, the ECMO/Bartlett Award recognizes outstanding scientific contributions in the fields of pediatric critical care and ECMO. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Critical Care Committee, this award has received an endowment of \$20,000 and will remain in perpetuity in honor of Dr. Robert Bartlett.



2026 Recipient
Rakesh R. Gurrula, MD, MBA

Impact Of Anticoagulant and Oxygenator Type on Ecmo Outcomes in Neonates with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia

SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

Quick Shots Award

Awarded for the best presentations in a Quick Shot session, one in basic science and one in clinical. Award recipients must be students (medical or undergraduate) enrolled at the time of abstract submission, trainees currently enrolled in a surgical training program (residency or fellowship), or affiliate professionals.



2026 Recipient
Sara L. Lee, MD, MEng

Development and Implementation of a High Fidelity Pediatric Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia Repair Simulator



2026 Recipient
Edward Hammond-Debrady

Diagnostic Delays and Nonstandard Treatment Characterize Adult Wilms Tumor in the Seer Database

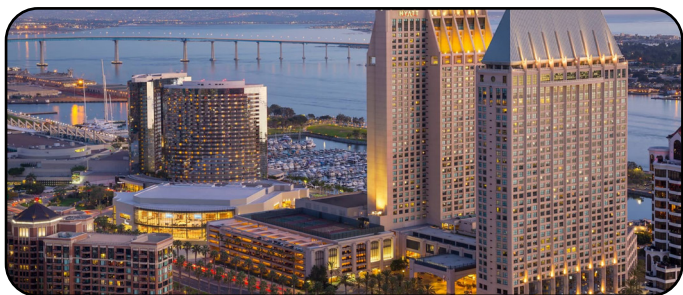
[Learn More and View All Recipients](#)



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Upcoming Events

Annual Meetings



**APSA 2027 ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 12-15**

[Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego](#)

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**APSA 2028 ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 3-6**

[Grant Hyatt Washington DC](#)

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