



**ASSOCIATION of SURGICAL ASSISTANTS
and
NATIONAL SURGICAL ASSISTANT ASSOCIATION**

1st ANNUAL JOINT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Rosemont, IL
APRIL 26-27, 2019**



**EMBASSY
SUITES**

by HILTON™

Rosemont, IL



Navy Pier, Chicago



Indoor Skydiving, Rosemont



Fashion Outlet Mall, Rosemont



Rivers Casino, Rosemont



Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago/O'Hare/Rosemont
5500 North River Road
Rosemont, Illinois 60018

WELCOME



Welcome to Rosemont!

On behalf of the 2019 Conference Planning Committee, Presidents' Greg Salmon and Luis Aragon, and the ASA and NSAA staff, let us welcome you to Rosemont, IL for the 1st Annual ASA/NSAA Joint Conference! We hope that you will enjoy this great educational opportunity and visit with old friends, make new friends, and perhaps explore the attractions in Rosemont and Chicago.

Collectively this conference offers up to 16 contact hours of continuing education units (CEU) featuring updates on state and federal policy. It also offers the opportunity to network with your colleagues, discover the latest goods and services for surgical assistants and students in the exhibit hall, and of course, dynamic speakers who will share their unique perspectives on the role of the surgical assistant in the ever-changing health care environment.

If this is your first-time visiting Rosemont, prepare yourself to be amazed. Rosemont has a little bit of everything as well as lots of restaurants and attractions. A popular attraction is just down the street, the Rivers Casino, where you can chance your luck with slots, cards, and Roulette; test your fears with skydiving indoors; shop in the Fashion Outlets, or perhaps take in a Chicago White Sox baseball game, they are in town.

This year's location also offers convenient access to downtown Chicago via the Blue Line.

So, if you have some extra time, get out and explore Rosemont, or take the train to Chicago's waterfront, but first enjoy a great conference!

Fred Fisher, CSA, CSFA
Jim Pressley, CSA, CSFA, MBA, F-OS
Co-Chairs – 2019 ASA/NSAA Joint Conference



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THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
AND SURGICAL ASSISTING



**SCHEDULE of EVENTS and
PRESENTATIONS**

Friday April 26th:

- 12:00—7:00 pm **Registration: Embassy Suites Chicago O’Hare Rosemont**
- 7:00 am—3:45 pm **Endoscopic Harvesting Workshop (8 CEs) [Offsite]**
- 12:45 —3:45 pm **Robotic Total Knee Replacement Workshop (3 CEs)**
- 1:00—3:00 pm **Fellowship Specialty Workshops (2 CEs)**
• Ortho (F-OS) • Plastic (F-PRS) • Robotic (F-RMIS)
- 4:15—5:00 pm **Business Meetings**
- 5:00—6:00 pm **Keynote Address: Dr. Andrew Bland - Medical Director,
The Joint Commission**
- 6:00—7:30 pm **Welcome Reception: Sponsored by Meridian Institute of
Surgical Assisting**

Saturday April 27th:

- 7:30—9:00 am **Registration: Embassy Suites Chicago O’Hare Rosemont**
- 7:30—7:45 am **Breakfast with Exhibitors**
- 7:45—8:00 am **Joint Welcome**
Greg Salmon, CSFA & Luis Aragon, CSA
- 8:00—8:50 am **Total Knee Replacement**
Dr. Anuj Puppulla
- 9:00—9:50 am **Anterior Total Hip Replacement**
Dr. Anuj Puppulla
- 10:00—10:20 am **Professional Networking**
(Break with Exhibitors)
- 10:20—11:30 am **Robotics in Neurosurgery**
Dr. Juan Jimenez
- 11:40—12:30 am **Robotics in Gynecology & Urogynecology**
Dr. Nahla Merhi
- 12:30—1:30 pm **Luncheon; Sponsored by NBSTSA & NCCSA**
- 1:30—2:20 pm **Robotic-Assisted Colectomy**
Dr. Reza Gamagami
- 2:30—3:20 pm **Transoral Robotic Surgery in ENT**
Dr. Rajeev Metha
- 3:30—4:00 pm **Professional Networking**
(Break with Exhibitors)
- 3:40—5:30 pm **Legislative Round Table on Current Issues and Trends**
Lobbyists invited from GA, IL, TX, and VA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Andrew C. Bland, MD, MBA, MSPA, FAAP, FACP
Joint Commission Medical Director
Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation

Andrew C. Bland, M.D., is a medical director in the Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation at The Joint Commission. In this role, he is responsible for leading annual strategic planning to engage national stakeholders, identifying key quality and safety improvement targets, and selecting strategies such as standards, survey methods, measures, and publications to address them. Dr. Bland promotes the scientific integrity of standards, survey methods, and performance measures by directing literature reviews, leading technical advisory panels, and developing rationale statements explaining the evidence for requirements in accreditation and certification programs. He also leads efforts to identify best practices and quality improvement tools for meeting new standards and performance measure requirements.

Most recently, Dr. Bland served as system chief quality officer at Hospital Sisters Health System, a multi-hospital system in Illinois and Wisconsin, where he was instrumental in quality improvement efforts. He is board-certified by the American Board of Medicine, in nephrology and internal medicine, and by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Bland received his Medical Degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, in Illinois, and completed his residency in combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois. He received a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master's in Predictive Analytics at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Dr. Bland is a current Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.





Dr. Anuj S. Puppala

Dr. Anuj Puppala, a Board-certified Orthopaedic Surgeon, specializes in joint replacement surgery of the hip, knee, and shoulder, as well as arthroscopic surgery and fracture surgery. Additionally, Dr. Puppala performs minimally invasive direct anterior hip replacements, which are less painful and have shorter recovery times.

Upon graduation from Northwestern University, Dr. Puppala attended Medical School at the Chicago Medical School and then went on to complete an Internship and Residency at Ochsner Clinic Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During his time at Ochsner Clinic Hospital, Dr. Puppala served as associate team physician for the New Orleans Saints and the New Orleans Hornets sports teams. Dr. Puppala previously spent time as associate team physician for University of St. Francis in Joliet and currently serves as team physician for Romeoville High School in Romeoville, Illinois.

Dr. Puppala combines leading edge, minimally invasive techniques with proven traditional methods to provide patients with the best possible care. He is a Fellow with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Medical Association.





Dr. Juan Jimenez

Dr. Jimenez graduated with honors from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine in 1996. Following an Internship and Residency at the University of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, FL, Dr. Jimenez completed a Neurological Surgery Residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Juan Jimenez's training encompasses the treatment of patients with a broad range of neurological disorders including conventional and minimally invasive surgical techniques for brain and spinal disorders. His areas of interest are treatment of brain tumors, spinal reconstruction, minimally invasive spinal surgery, surgical outcomes research and international surgeon training.

Dr. Juan Jimenez's research focuses on surgical spinal devices. Dr. Jimenez was one of the first surgeons to use Stryker's 3D-printed Tritanium Posterior Lumbar Cage. He currently practices at Riverside Medical Group in Kankakee, IL. Dr. Jimenez is also an Assistant Professor in Rush University Medical Center's neurological surgery department.

Dr. Jimenez is a Fellow (FAANS) of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Medical Association, and a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Jimenez is bilingual in English and Spanish.





Dr. Nahla Merhi

Dr. Nahla Merhi received her medical training from the American University of Beirut where she graduated with the highest distinction and was awarded the Alpha Omega Alpha honor. She then completed her Residency training in OB/GYN at Lutheran Medical Central in New York in 2002.

Dr. Merhi is double boarded in both general Gynecology and in the sub-specialty of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery known as Urogynecology. In 2007, Dr. Merhi started Suburban Gynecology where she is dedicated specifically to Gynecology & Urogynecology services and surgeries. She has a special interest in treating Urinary Incontinence and Pelvic Organ Prolapse and is on staff at Silver Cross Hospital & Presence St. Joseph Medical Center.

Dr. Merhi has performed more than 1000 Robotic surgeries, and greater than 500 Single Site Robotic Gynecological surgeries. This makes her one of the most accomplished surgeons in the nation, and the surgeon who has performed the highest number of Single Site Robotic Hysterectomies in IL.

Gynecologists come from all over the country to learn from Dr. Merhi, the most advanced techniques of the Robotic, da Vinci Surgery. Dr. Merhi speaks internationally and in the US at conferences for Minimally Invasive surgery (Robotic).

Dr. Merhi has been the Co-Director for the COEMIG (Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynecology) at Silver Cross Hospital for more than two years and is proud to constantly work on advancing the field of Gynecologic surgery. Dr. Merhi's affiliations include the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, American Urogynecologic Society, International Urogynecologic Association Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy & Surgery, and a Fellow with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In her leisure time, Dr. Merhi enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with her twins and husband.





David F. Gencarelli, Esq.

David F. Gencarelli is a native of Rhode Island, and a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and the University of Houston Law School. He served as legislative assistant to Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida, and was Director of Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Customs Service from 1985-1988. From 1988-1992, Mr. Gencarelli was Vice President and General Counsel to the National Association of Beverage Importers. Mr. Gencarelli has been an independent consultant since 1993.

Robert Kamm

Bob Kamm is an attorney, lobbyist and mediator with 40 years' experience in Texas legislative, political and legal matters. His office is in Austin, where he represents clients before the Legislature and state agencies. He received his B.A. in political science from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York and his law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law



Hunter W. Jamerson

As a lawyer and a lobbyist, Hunter leverages a tireless work ethic, a command of relevant subject matter, and a dedication to his client's cause in order to best advocate on behalf of his clients. Hunter's practice is primarily focused on the representation of health care providers and pharmaceutical manufacturers. Hunter's knowledge of the health care sector allows him to help a client resolve a broad range of legal or public policy problems.

Chuck McMullen, III

Chuck McMullen co-leads Parker Poe Consulting's Atlanta office. Through serving clients in Georgia and around the country, he has built deep political and business networks, as well as a reputation for managing complex legislative issues at all levels of government.

Chuck has more than 20 years of experience managing government relations for public and private sector clients in the pharmaceutical, health care provider, food and beverage, and energy infrastructure industries. He has leveraged his relationships and public policy experience to provide clients with legislative results at the local, regional, and national levels.



Margaret Vaughn

Often referred to at the Statehouse as "the hardest working woman in Illinois politics", Margaret Vaughn has worked for the successful passage of over 90 state laws. After serving on the House and Senate staffs, Vaughn founded her consulting firm in 1993 and has since been providing lobbying, public relations and association management services to a wide variety of clients.

Margaret also founded and serves as the Executive Director of the Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers, as well as the Illinois Surgical Assistant Association. Her firm provides association management, public relations and conference planning services to these organizations.



Dr. Reza Gamagami

Dr. Reza Gamagami is a Board-Certified General Surgeon in New Lenox, Illinois and is affiliated with Silver Cross Hospital. He received his Medical Degree from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, DC and completed his General Surgery Residency and Internship at the University of California - San Diego.

With to his extensive training and expertise in robotic surgery, Dr. Gamagami has been appointed as an Epicenter Surgeon for da Vinci Surgical. Surgeons come from across North and South America every week to learn from Dr. Gamagami, who uses robotic technology for general, colon and rectal surgery. Dr. Gamagami was the first surgeon to perform the area's first Single-Site da Vinci Si Cholecystectomy (robotic gallbladder surgery) at Silver Cross Hospital and is a leading expert for this and other digestive disorder surgeries in the southwest suburbs of Chicago.

Dr. Gamagami is a Fellow with the American College of Surgeons and has several publications, with the most recent articles pertaining to Robotic-assisted surgery.

*Progressive Surgical
Associates*



Dr. Rajeev H. Mehta

Dr. Rajeev Mehta is a Board-certified ENT-otolaryngologist in Joliet, Illinois and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in that area, where he is one of 6 doctors at Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center and one of 8 at Morris Hospital and Healthcare Centers who specialize in Otolaryngology (ENT). Dr. Mehta graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a Bachelor of Arts degree and graduated with distinction from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. His Surgical Internship and Otolaryngology Residency was completed at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Mehta has worked to provide effective results for patients suffering from ear, nose, and throat diseases. His clinical interests include the management of thyroid and parathyroid disorders, sinus disease and allergy, endoscopic and minimally invasive techniques, and pediatric ENT issues.

Dr. Mehta is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois (UIC) where he teaches ENT surgery to Medical Students and Residents to prepare them to be well-trained physicians of the future.

He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Otolaryngology, Fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society, the Will-Grundy Medical Society, Illinois State Medical Society, and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He also volunteers his time and expertise to the Will Grundy Free Medical Clinic.



Endovein Workshop

Participants will have a detailed lecture on how to harvest, learn about the history and advancements made in Vein Harvesting, as well as, Anatomy and Physiology related to harvesting. Practitioners will actively be walked through the processes from beginning to end and have full understanding how to practice.

During this workshop, participants will have a designated lecture time to learn about and be taught how to harvest. Then, participants will have the opportunity to dissect actual cadaver pig hearts to learn cardiac anatomy, since this goes hand in hand with Vein Harvesting. Following dissection, there will be a brief lunch period and then move onto hands in portion of the workshop.

This workshop doesn't certify participants to take vein. This is a mock lab with no cadaver leg tissue. This workshop's purpose is to educate participants on how to harvest and to educate future harvesters in their practice. This course doesn't certify you to harvest vein at your facility. This is only an introductory course to Vein Harvesting for practitioners who are considering pursuing Vein Harvesting at their sponsoring facility.

Other means will need to be made with your facility and with a Certified Vein Harvesting Representative in order to practice safely and effectively. Note: participants should wear scrubs and bring loupes, if available.

Robotic Total Knee Workshop

Attendees will participate in a hands-on Total Knee Replacement workshop utilizing sawbones. The participants will experience in the procedure from start to finish beginning with CT scan that is patient specific which provides for consideration of the patient's anatomy and ligament balance. Dr Ehmke will lead the workshop that introduces guiding the robotic arm within a predefined area and the participants will learn how this keeps you within boundaries and helps protect the patient against soft tissue damage during the procedure.

Fellowship Specialty Workshops

Each of NSAA's Fellowship Specialties will hold separate "Hands-On" workshops on Friday afternoon. These workshops are limited to @20 participants and open to all current Specialty Fellow members. Participants must sign up at the conference registration desk at check in. If space is available, non-specialty members may participate (**requires completion of On-site Specialty Application**). All spaces are on a first come basis.

Fellowship – Robotic & Minimally Invasive Specialty Workshop - "Techniques for GYN, Oncology, and General Surgery"

"Every 60 seconds, somewhere in the world, a robotic assisted surgery is performed". According to the current statistics from Intuitive Surgical, creator of the DaVinci Surgical System, robotic and minimally invasive surgeries are being relied upon more than ever to treat a wide range of conditions, from simple cyst excisions to complex cancer treatments. In addition, National Patient Safety Goals are aimed at decreasing surgical site infections. Increased focus has also been placed on patient outcomes and satisfaction scores, which now have a direct effect on healthcare reimbursement. Discussion will include techniques, applications, advantages, limitations, and problem-solving strategies for a variety of models including Laparoscopy, Robotic Assisted (both SI and XI), and TAMIS.

Fellowship – Plastic & Reconstructive Specialty Workshop "The War on Breast Implants"

Breast implants have been on a wave of acceptance then dismissal since its onset in 1962. From the moratorium in the early 90s to recent data linking breast implants to cancer, the public has a difficult time deciding if breast implants are right for them. The goal of this workshop is to help the Surgical Assistant aid their patients in making informed decisions about what is entering their body. We will discuss the known complications of breast implants from psychological to physical then highlight the many different ways to prevent and/or solve those complications.

Fellowship – Orthopaedic Specialty Workshop "Arthrex GraftLink Technique"

The GraftLink technique provides the ultimate in anatomic, minimally invasive, and reproducible ACL reconstruction. Two suspension TightRope® fixation implants, with a proprietary 4-point locking system, make the GraftLink technique the most reproducible ACL reconstruction available. The goal of this workshop is to demonstrate the GraftLink technique as an educational tool and clinical aid to assist Allied Healthcare Professionals in the usage of specific Arthrex products. The practitioner must use their professional judgment in making any final determinations in product technique.

2020 CONFERENCE



2nd Annual ASA & NSAA Joint Conference
April 24-25, 2020 Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace

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2nd Annual Joint Association Conference**

Orlando, FL

April 24 & 25, 2020

