

WELCOME

2026

Annual Meeting

ACS / AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

Arizona Chapter

SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2026



University of Arizona Health Sciences Education Building ·
Phoenix, AZ

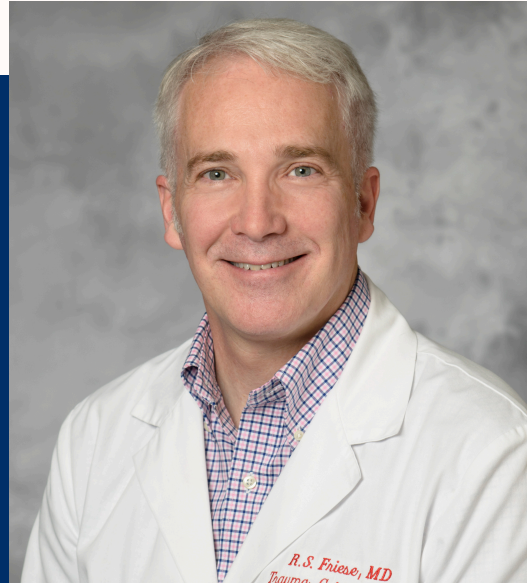
CME Accredited · Up to 6.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*TM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*AzACS 2026
Annual Meeting*

RANDALL S. FRIESE MD, FACS, FCCM

Dr. Randall Friese, MD, FACS, FCCM is a Trauma/Acute Care Surgeon at Banner University Medical Center – Tucson and a retired Professor of Surgery at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2014, representing Legislative District 9, where he championed gun safety legislation after treating victims of the January 2011 mass shooting in Tucson.



ACS NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



MICHAEL J. SUTHERLAND MD, MBA, FACS

Dr. Michael J. Sutherland, MD, MBA, FACS is Senior Vice President of the Division of Member Services at the American College of Surgeons. A retired Air Force surgeon trained in general thoracic and vascular surgery, he built trauma centers across Arkansas, Louisiana, and Ohio and continues his clinical practice and teaching at Northwestern Medicine and the Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago.



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Welcome

On behalf of the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting — “*Surgeons Reclaiming Our Time.*” We're glad you're here for a day of science, advocacy, and connection with colleagues from across Arizona. Enjoy the meeting!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

FULL DAY SCIENTIFIC MEETING

University of Arizona Health Sciences Education Building · 435 N 5th St · CME Accredited

7:30 AM **Registration, Breakfast & Exhibitor Visits**

8:30 AM **Welcome & President's Remarks**

- **Dr. Iman Ghaderi** — Welcome to the AzACS 2026 Annual Meeting (15 min)

Opening Total: 15 min

8:45 AM **Keynote Address**

- **Dr. Randy Friese** — Advocacy for Surgeons: Tips, Insights & Lessons from the Capitol (60 min)
Trauma Surgeon & Former Arizona State Representative

Keynote Total: 60 min

9:45 AM **Break & Exhibitor Visits · 10 min**

SESSION 1 — “RECLAIMING THE OR”

Technology, AI & Robotics

9:55 AM

Moderator: Dr. Ortega

- **Dr. Paul Del Prado** — Existing Tech for Teaching: YouTube and Other Tools Reshaping Surgical Education (15 min)
 - **Dr. Ara Feinstein** — AI in Surgical Practice: Best Use, Worst Use & What's Actually Coming (15 min)
 - **Dr. Frankie Rybicki** — 3D Surgical Modeling: What to Ask Radiology and How to Use It in the OR (15 min)
 - **Dr. Irving Jorge** — Beyond Intuitive: Non-Dominant Robotic Platforms — Potential Gaps and Applications (15 min)
- Panel Q&A:** “Will They Replace Us? AI, Robotics & the Surgeon's Future” (10 min)

Session 1 Total: 70 min

RESIDENT ABSTRACT PRESENTATIONS

11:05 AM

Moderator: Dr. Gerald Wang

Format: 3 min presentation + 2 min Q&A · 8 presentations · Quick-shot format

- **Evelyn Alexander** — Esophagectomy for Late Esophageal Mesh Erosion Following Hiatal Hernia Repair
- **Alexandra Hay** — Predictors of Positive Wide Local Excision Margins for Melanoma Among the Southern Arizona Population
- **Logan Kenny** — AI-Assisted Screening of General Surgery Residency Applications
- **Naimisha Badri** — Evaluation of Tools for Assessment of Technical Skills in Robotic Surgery: A Validity-Focused Systematic Review
- **Leah Barnhardt** — Comprehensive Management Strategies for Lower Extremity Degloving Injuries: A Systematic Review
- **Amy Vansdadia** — Patterns of Surgical Conversion in Spinal Epidural Abscess: Timing and Clinical Characteristics
- **Rintaro Kinjo** — Five-Year Computed-Tomographic Remodeling After Endovascular Repair of Kommerell's Diverticulum
- **Grace Mun** — Robotic Assisted Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair and Splenic Preservation for Penetrating Trauma: A Case Report

Panel selects best abstract winner — announced at closing

Abstracts Total: 50 min

11:55 AM

Lunch & Exhibitor Visits · 60 min

ACS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

12:55 PM

- **Dr. Michael Sutherland, MD, MBA, FACS** — ACS Representative Report (25 min)

Senior Vice President, Division of Member Services

Not for CME

SESSION 2 — “RECLAIMING THE ABDOMEN”

GI, Hernias & Bariatric

1:20 PM

Moderator: Dr. MacKenzie Landin

- **Dr. Rob King** — Bariatric Emergencies: What Every General Surgeon Needs to Know in 2026 (15 min)
- **Dr. Andrew Nejad** — It's Not Just an Inguinal (10 min)
- **Dr. Ashley Casano** — Diverticular Disease in 2026: Reanastomosis, Antibiotics & the Emergency Colon (10 min)
- **Dr. Rajesh Ramanathan** — Oncology Updates for the General Surgeon (15 min)
- **Dr. Gerald Wang** — The Open Abdomen: High-Tension Closure, Damage Control & Abdominal Wall Stewardship (15 min)

Panel Q&A (10 min)

Session 2 Total: 75 min

2:35 PM

Break & Exhibitor Visits · 15 min

SESSION 3 — “RECLAIMING OUR VOICE”

Advocacy, Business & Wellbeing

2:50 PM

Moderator: Christine Lovato

- **Dr. Jimmy Chim** — Wound Care, Plastics & Coding: The Overlap No One Talks About (15 min)
- **Viridiana Beltran, RD & Janhavi Virkar, RD** — Nutrition & Prehabilitation: What the Evidence Says and How to Use It (10 min)
- **Dr. Jorden Marble** — Rural Surgery in Arizona: My Practice, My Cases, My Pathway (15 min)
- **Dr. Sarah Lee-Davisson** — Advocacy — Let's Improve the Future (10 min)

Panel Q&A (10 min)

Session 3 Total: 60 min

3:50 PM

Break & Exhibitor Visits · 10 min

DEBATE — “THE HOW OF ROBOTICS”

Not whether — how we do it right

4:00 PM

Moderator: Dr. Morgan Crigger

Format: 3 topics · 30 min each (For 10 min · Against 10 min · Discussion 10 min) · Audience vote

Topic 1 — Does the Robotic Platform Improve Surgeon Longevity? Physical and Psychological Impact on the Operating Surgeon

- **Dr. Jonathan Rice** — Against

Thoracic Surgeon, BUMT

- **Dr. Epameinondas “Nodas” Dogeas** — For

HPB Surgeon, Banner/MD Anderson

Topic 2 — The Role of the Robotic Platform in Emergency General Surgery: Lessons Learned from the ED

- **Dr. Sarah Lee-Davisson** — Against

General Surgeon, TMC

- **Dr. Collin Stewart** — For

Trauma Medical Director, BUMT

Topic 3 — Oversight, Training & Privileges: Company's Push vs. Academic Responsibility

- **Dr. Iman Ghaderi** — Current State of Affairs with Industry Taking the Lead

- **Dr. Zhi Ven Fong** — Governance by Societies & Need for Academic Supervision

HPB Surgeon, Mayo Clinic

Debate Total: 90 min



Vote Live — Poll Everywhere

Scan to cast your vote on each debate topic in real time.

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CLOSING

5:30 PM

Happy Hour · Until 6:30 PM

Closing Remarks & Award Announcements take place during Happy Hour

- *Best Resident Abstract Award*
- *Recognition of Sponsors, Exhibitors & Planning Committee*
- *Closing Remarks*

Thank you for being part of AzACS 2026 — Surgeons Reclaiming Our Time. See you next year!



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Arizona Chapter of the American College of Surgeons — 2026 Annual Meeting

Outcome Objectives

- Select appropriate use cases for AI-assisted tools, 3D surgical modeling, and non-dominant robotic platforms in surgical practice.
- Evaluate current evidence comparing robotic-assisted, laparoscopic, and open approaches for common general surgery procedures.
- Manage bariatric emergencies using updated, evidence-based strategies.
- Apply evidence-based pathways for diverticular disease management, including indications for reanastomosis versus antibiotics versus emergency colon surgery.
- Differentiate inguinal, sports, and atypical groin hernias to guide diagnosis and treatment planning.
- Apply high-tension closure and damage-control techniques in complex or recurrent abdominal wall hernia repairs.
- Counsel surgical patients on nutrition and prehabilitation strategies to improve perioperative outcomes.
- Apply current oncologic principles and treatment updates relevant to general surgery practice.
- Engage in advocacy efforts that directly affect surgical practice and reimbursement in Arizona.

Accreditation / Credit Designation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson and Arizona Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Continuous Certification Statement

Successful completion of this CME activity enables the learner to earn credit toward the CME requirement(s) of the American Board of Surgery's Continuous Certification (CC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABS CC credit.

In order to report CC points to specialty boards, the attendee must complete the MOC/CC section of their CloudCME profile prior to claiming credit.

Relevant Financial Relationships Statement

University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson Office of Continuing Medical Education adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CME activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers or others are required to disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies (commercial interests). The CME office reviewers have nothing to disclose. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated prior to the commencement of the activity.

- **Dr. Chim** has disclosed: Consulting Fee-MTF | Membership on Advisory Committees or Review Panels, Board Membership, etc.-Medaxis.
- **Dr. Crigger** has disclosed: Paid consultant-Intuitive Surgical.
- **Dr. Del Prado** has disclosed: Consulting Fee-Integra LifeSciences Corporation.
- **Dr. Feinstein** has disclosed: Advisor-Axon | Advisor-Open Motion AI | Membership on Advisory Committees or Review Panels, Board Membership, etc.-MCM Medical.
- **Dr. Jorge** has disclosed: Grant or research support-Boston Scientific Corporation (Relationship has ended).
- **Dr. Nejad** has disclosed: Physician proctoring, robotic surgery-Intuitive Surgical.
- **Dr. Rajdev** has disclosed: Speakers Bureau-BD | Speakers Bureau-Intuitive Surgical.
- **Dr. Ramanathan** has disclosed: Honoraria-Boston Scientific Corporation (Relationship has ended).

All other individuals in a position to control the content of this CME activity have disclosed that they have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies that would constitute a conflict of interest concerning this CME activity.

CME Certificate Information

To receive a CME certificate, read/follow the instructions in the email you will receive from the UArizona CloudCME system (or sign into your account at cme.arizona.edu and go to MyCME > Evaluations and Certificates). After completing the evaluation, you will be able to view/print/download a CME certificate.

Thank you!

The generous support of our sponsors makes the 2026 Annual Meeting possible!

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Thank You & Stay in Touch

On behalf of the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, thank you for joining us for the AzACS 2026 Annual Meeting — it's a pleasure having you with us! We hope you enjoy the sessions, connect with colleagues, and leave inspired for the year ahead. We're already looking forward to next year's event and hope to see you again!

If you have any questions or need assistance during the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Bonnie Simmons

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