

ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit 2020 Cancelled

In light of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and its impact, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) is cancelling the 2020 ACS Leadership and Advocacy Summit (LAS). We made this difficult decision out of an abundance of caution, and with concern for your safety and the safety of your patients. Each of you are leaders at your home institutions, and your presence there may be more important now than ever. Preliminary information regarding hotel and registration cancellations can be found below.

Most scheduled committee meetings and all LAS programming will be canceled. You will receive additional follow-up information if your committee is meeting virtually.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to livestream or record Leadership and Advocacy Summit programming. That said, it is critical to remain engaged in the ACS's advocacy efforts and political activities. While our typical annual advocacy day on Capitol Hill will not occur, we are exploring ways to hold two select activities virtually. Those potential virtual events are included in these five things that you can do to help ensure surgery's voice is heard in Washington, DC, and at home:

1. Mark your calendars for a potential webinar on Monday, March 30. When scheduled, this webinar will be open to all Advocacy Summit registrants and emphasize critical ACS advocacy priorities that require your attention and action. Additional details to follow.
2. Participate in a tentative "virtual" Capitol Hill day on Tuesday, March 31. Details and logistics will be provided to assist you with contacting your members of Congress by phone and via *SurgeonsVoice*, and using social media to impact change.
3. Carefully review all fact sheets circulated by DAHP staff in the coming weeks.
4. Follow [@SurgeonsVoice](#) on Twitter to stay informed about ACS advocacy issues.
5. [Support SurgeonsPAC](#) to ensure that we are actively engaging with congressional champions to help us fight several difficult advocacy related challenges that lie ahead. Your contribution is essential to our success. Last year's LAS contributions totaled nearly 15 percent of all 2019 funds raised.

We greatly appreciate your flexibility and understanding of our commitment to the health and well-being of ACS members, their patients, and our staff. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

David Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

Patricia L. Turner, MD, FACS
Director, ACS Division of Member Services

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Director, ACS Division of Advocacy and Health Policy

Travel and Registration Fees

Hotel

All hotels have been informed of the meeting cancellation. Please contact your hotel directly to cancel your stay. If your hotel was booked through ACS meetings and conventions staff, you will receive an email confirming your cancellation.

Registration

If applicable, your Advocacy Summit registration fee will be refunded to your original method of payment.

Andrea

Andrea Donelan
Executive Director