



**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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NCCSA
National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants



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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. Edward Pollak - 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	Robotic Total Knee Replacement Dr. Rajeev Puri
9:00—9:50 am	Minimally Invasive Total Hip Replacement Dr. Nikhil Chokshi
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. Ed Pollak, MD
Joint Commission Medical Director
Division of Healthcare Improvement

Ed Pollak, M.D., a practicing anesthesiologist and Fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, is medical director and patient safety officer for the Division of Healthcare Improvement at The Joint Commission. In this role, he is responsible for promoting The Joint Commission's performance improvement and patient safety initiatives. Dr. Pollak provides oversight and physician leadership to the Division of Healthcare Improvement, and leads the response to reported patient safety incidents at accredited and certified health care organizations.

A surveyor of record, Dr. Pollak is a member of the Accreditation Council. He also serves on working groups which look at areas of focus for The Joint Commission's patient safety efforts and ongoing issues related to interpretation of current standards. He directs the patient safety fellowship and leads physician patient safety education throughout the organization. Dr. Pollak recently led a webinar on workplace violence, is a member of the Sentinel Event Alert writing group, and frequently speaks on physician engagement, safety culture, and burnout.

Prior to coming to The Joint Commission, Dr. Pollak was patient safety officer at William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak where he helped lead the hospital to consistent top performance in patient safety and quality by championing a robust safety culture. A board certified anesthesiologist, he served as vice chief of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak.

Dr. Pollak received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Michigan Medical Center. In addition to his medical background, Dr. Pollak holds a master's degree in philosophy from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he wrote his thesis on ethics.





Dr. Rajeev Puri

Dr. Puri completed his undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, with an engineering degree. He worked for General Motors for a year, and then started medical school at The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. He interned in general surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, which was followed by his orthopedic surgical residency at the same institution. Throughout his undergraduate, medical school, and residency programs, Dr. Puri has garnered numerous awards and recognition for his outstanding academics, research, and publications.

Dr. Puri has completed two fellowships, the first in foot and ankle reconstruction at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the second fellowship in hip and knee total joint revision at Indiana Orthopedics in Indianapolis, Indiana. The completion of these two fellowships establishes and brings an exceptional surgeon to OAK Orthopedics and his patients.

Dr. Puri has continued to engage in research and shared a publication with an author at RUSH University. His primary interest is in surgery of the lower extremity. He is using computer-aided planning as well as gender specific implants in knee replacements. He also has been performing hip replacements using a technique that does not require cutting of any muscle leading to faster recoveries. In addition to this, he does most of the practice's hip and knee revisions and has an interest in these challenging cases. He is also interested in foot and ankle reconstruction from tendon reconstructions in athletes to complex diabetic foot fusions.

He is very excited about his new clinic in Pembroke, Illinois. He has established a hip and knee clinic for the underserved of that area that he has funded himself along with donations from the industry. He hopes others may someday bring their skills to that community as well and help it improve in its economic status.





Dr. Nikhil K. Chokshi

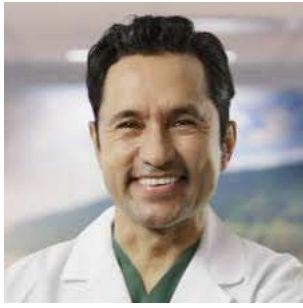
Dr. Chokshi is a board certified orthopaedic surgeon who treats all types of orthopaedic conditions, but focuses particularly on joint replacement, trauma and orthopaedic oncology. Dr. Chokshi grew up in Crystal Lake, Illinois where he graduated high school valedictorian and was named to the Chicago Tribune all-state academic team. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Washington University in St. Louis where he also completed medical school. He completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, where he was named Outstanding Chief Resident and received multiple teaching awards.

Following his residency, Dr. Chokshi completed two fellowships at University of Sydney/Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Arthroplasty and Orthopaedic Oncology as well as Orthopaedic Trauma. He joins Hinsdale Orthopaedics after practicing in central Illinois for seven years.

Dr. Chokshi specializes in the direct anterior approach to total hip replacement surgery. This is a minimally invasive technique that provides less discomfort, a faster recovery, and enhanced mobility for patients undergoing hip surgery. He also performs patient-specific performs knee replacements which allow the surgeon to customize the surgery to a patient's unique knee anatomy, reducing the risk of misalignment. These technologies improve the patient's outcome by extending implant longevity and helping the patient regain an active lifestyle. Dr. Chokshi performs complex revision surgeries including direct anterior hip revision surgery, distal femur replacement, proximal tibial replacement, and total femoral replacement. He also performs oncologic resections, reconstructions, and reverse total shoulder arthroplasty.

Dr. Chokshi has performed extensive research to continually improve outcomes of treatment. Dr. Chokshi partners with his patients throughout their entire treatment and recovery process, working together to achieve positive results. Dr. Chokshi is also active in sports and has completed four marathons.





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.





Dr. Reza Gamagami

Dr. 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.

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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.





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.

Jocelyn Dabeau

Jocelyn Dabeau is a lobbyist and attorney with nearly twenty years of experience advocating on behalf of clients across a wide variety of industries, including before the Texas state legislature and many state agencies. Dabeau received a B.A. in government with high honors from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



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.

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 workshops 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.

NOTES

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2020 CONFERENCE

Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace



**Join ASA and NSAA next year for the
2nd Annual Joint Association Conference**

Orlando, FL

April 24 & 25, 2020

