



Uniformed Services University

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News Release

USU plans 23rd Annual Surgical Associates Day

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences has scheduled its 23rd Annual Surgical Associates Day for March 24.

The all-day conference, which begins at 7 a.m. in USU's Sanford Auditorium, features a variety of surgical-related presentations from USU faculty and alumni, as well as from national and international lecturers.

To recognize reservists in the field, the afternoon part of the program is called the 18th Annual Reserve Component Surgical Day.

It is one of four quarterly surgical days dedicated to USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine third-year students on surgical rotation.

According to Norman M. Rich, M.D., FACS, USU's Leonard Heaton and David Packard professor of surgery, this conference gives the medical students a broad overview of what surgery is all about, from the military mission to the various specialties ranging from general surgery to orthopedics and neurosurgery.

"It's a potpourri of subjects that combines an introduction to surgical specialties, a bit of history and a little science," explained Rich, the first chairman of USU's Department of Surgery who served for 25 years before stepping down last October.

The WWII surgical group distinguished memorial lecture, which has been presented every year since the conference started, will be given this year by the U.S. Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service Vice Adm. Richard H. Carmona.

Other presentations will include “Challenges in Surgical Education” by U.S. Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. James B. Peake; “Ocular Trauma” by the former surgeon general of the Mexican Army, Gen. Bernardo Bidart; “Surgical Interventions Impact on World History” by Allan J. Hamilton, M.D., University of Arizona at Tucson; “Mass Casualties in Triage” by John E. Hutton, M.D., a professor of surgery at USU; and “Trauma Management in Ancient Greece” by Manos Pikoulis, M.D., University of Athens.

A number of awards will be also presented during the conference, to include the Micheal E. DeBakey International Military Surgeons’ Award (presented to a military surgeon from a country other than the United States), the Baron Dominique Jean Larrey Award for Excellence in Military Surgery (presented to an active-duty U.S. military surgeon), and the Barry Goldwater Service Award (presented to a medical corps Reservist).

The annual surgical associates day is supported in part by USU Surgical Associates, the university’s alumni group, and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

USUHS was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972 and has the nation’s only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. With its motto “Learning to Care for Those in Harm’s Way,” the university has a worldwide reputation as a center of excellence for military medical education and research.