

OPERATIVE NOTES

American Academy of Pediatrics - Section on Surgery Newsletter

Submit your abstract for the 2023 NCE Meeting

The **deadline for submission is April 14, 2023**. Abstracts must be original - data that are published or electronically available in a peer-reviewed journal before the AAP meeting are not permissible. Data presented in a local meeting or at the authors' institution may be submitted without penalty. Abstracts submitted to, accepted for, and presented at the ACS Surgical Forum in the same calendar year are permitted for duplicated submission to and presentation at the AAP SOSu without penalty. The **Rosenkrantz award competition** is open to surgical residents and training fellows. New this year, **submission of a companion manuscript is now encouraged but not required** for any competitors and will not be factored into the scoring. Abstracts on **Advocacy** will be eligible for a \$500 award.

[Link to submit **HERE**](#)



Dr. Mary L. Brandt, 2023 William E. Ladd Medalist

The AAP Section on Surgery is thrilled to announce that Dr. Mary L. Brandt has been selected as the William E. Ladd Medal recipient for 2023. This is the “highest recognition that an American pediatric surgeon can receive”. She completed her MD and General Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, Fellowship in Surgical Nutrition, Metabolism and Research at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, Houston, TX and her pediatric surgery fellowship at Sainte Justine Hospital, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada. She is currently a Professor of Pediatric Surgery at Tulane University School of Medicine. She is internationally recognized as a clinical researcher and educator. She is renowned as a speaker on physician wellness and speaks and writes regularly on compassion fatigue, work-life balance and the art of medicine. She has also served on the **AAP Section on Surgery Executive Committee** beginning 2006 and completed her term as the AAP SOSu **Chair** in 2012.

Dr. William E. Ladd is widely acknowledged to be the “father” of pediatric surgery in the US. Ladd graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1906, completed general surgery training at Boston City Hospital in 1908, and joined the voluntary staff of the Children’s Hospital of Boston in 1910. Ladd served at Children’s Hospital until he retired in 1945. Under his direction, there were remarkable improvements in child health through description and standardization of a wide variety of surgically correctible disease and abnormalities. Dr. Herbert Coe recruited Ladd in the creation of the Surgical Section of the AAP. Ladd served on the Executive Committee for its initial five years. In 1954, the American Academy of Pediatric established the William E. Ladd Medal as the “highest recognition an American Pediatric Surgeon can receive”.

Past Ladd Medal Award Recipients:

1954 - Thomas Lanman, 1957 - Dennis Browne, 1957 - Herbert Coe, 1962 - Willis Potts, 1965 - Robert Gross, 1967 - Cameron Haight, 1969 - Orvar Swenson, 1972 - Mark Ravitch, 1974 - Wyland Leadbetter, 1976 - C Everett Koop, 1978 David Waterston, 1979 – H William Clatworthy, 1980 - Clifford Benson, 1983 - W Hardy Hendren III, 1986 - Harvey Beardmore, 1988 - Stanley Dudrick, 1989 - Douglas Stephens, 1991 - Morio Kasai, 1993 - Thomas Starzl, 1995 - M Judah Folkman, 1996 - Marc Rowe, 1997 - Thomas Holder, 1998 - Judson Randolph, 1999 - Lester Martin, 2000 - J Alex Haller, 2001 - Peter Rickham, 2002 - Jay Grosfeld, 2003 - Robert Bartlett, 2004 - Daniel Hays, 2005 - Patricia Donahoe, 2006 - Eric Fonkalsrud, 2007 - James O’Neill, Jr., 2008 - Alberto Peña , 2009 - Kathryn Anderson, 2010 - Michael Harrison, 2011 - Keith Georgeson, 2012 - Lewis Spitz, 2013 - Joseph Vacanti, 2014 - Michael Gauderer, 2015 - Arnold Coran, 2016 - Moritz Ziegler, 2017 - Michael Klein, 2018 - Robert Shamberger, 2019 - Barbara Barlow, 2020 - Thomas Krummel, 2021 - Mary Fallat, 2022 - Donald Nuss

SOSu Famous Figure: Willis J Potts (1895-1968)



Potts was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1895. He served in the first World War. He graduated from Rush Medical School in 1924 and went into practice in Oak Park, a Chicago suburb. In 1930 through 1931, he spent time doing postgraduate training in Frankfurt, Germany. He returned to Chicago to practice general surgery and joined the staff at Children’s Memorial Hospital and became interested in pediatric surgery. After WWII, Potts decided to devote himself entirely to pediatric surgery, becoming Surgeon-in-Chief of the Children’s Memorial Hospital and Professor of Surgery at Northwestern Medical School in 1946. He began his tenure as chairman by going immediately to Boston’s Children’s Hospital for a three-month observation study. He recruited experts in several surgical specialties during his tenure

as chief. He collaborated with the cardiology service and focused on pioneering pediatric cardiac surgery and attacked the problems of the “blue baby” syndrome leading to the aortic-pulmonary anastomosis in 1953. A year before he retired as Chief, he wrote *“The Surgeon and the Child”* in 1959. In 1965, he ended his practice of surgery and retired to Sarasota, Florida. His name is associated with several surgical instruments with a particular emphasis on devices used in surgery on major blood vessels. He began his time on the **Section on Surgery Executive Committee** shortly after it was formed in 1953 and served as **Chair from 1961 through 1962**. In his last year as Chair, he also was awarded the **Ladd Medal**.

Join your State Chapter

Kirk Reichart MD, MBA, FAAP

President of the Delaware Chapter of the AAP



**Kirk Reichart, MD,
MBA, FAAP**

I would like to take a moment to encourage each of you to consider becoming active in your American Academy of Pediatrics State Chapter. As you probably know, the AAP is structured around 3 distinct entities: Sections, Committees, and State Chapters. More recently, Councils have developed to connect the activity of certain Sections and Committees.

I have been the President of the Delaware Chapter of the AAP since July of 2020. During that time, I have learned an enormous amount about the needs of the children of our state and there are barriers to care. We have been at the front-line addressing vaccine hesitancy, the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the spike in pediatric trauma including firearm injuries the behavioral health epidemic, and many other important issues. We have created new task forces to promote JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusiveness), SDOH (social determinants of health), and trainee participation. I began my second term as president this past July. Our membership continues to grow particularly amongst trainees and sub-specialists.

The state chapters are organized into 10 districts throughout the North America. All Chapter and District leaders meet virtually biweekly with members of the executive committee of the AAP to discuss real time issues and share initiatives that impact the AAP membership, the state chapters, and our patients. Every summer during the Annual Leadership Forum, Chapter, Section, Committee and Council leaders meet at AAP headquarters in Itasca, IL to discuss important initiatives and issues, and to debate the slate of resolutions that will help determine the AAP Executive Committee agenda for the next year. I have attended two of these forums to date, and I can assure you they are among the most invigorating three-day meetings I have attended!

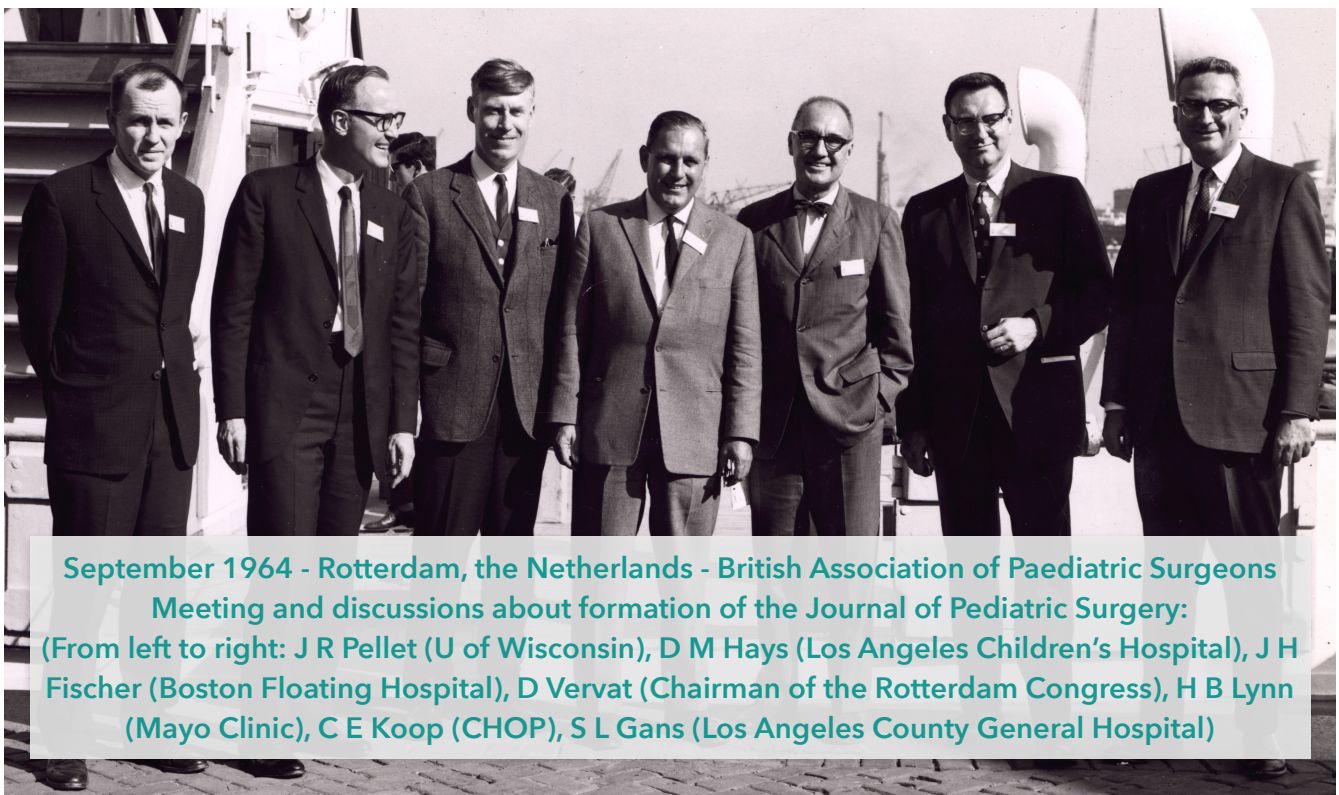
Overall, I think it is the advocacy work that is most rewarding. As chapter president, I have had the opportunity to develop a relationship with the DE Governor's office, The division of public health, members of our state legislature, and our congressional delegation. We are frequently called upon to provide consultation and public testimony in support of the children of Delaware. As chapter president, I also have the privilege of leading a delegation to the yearly AAP advocacy conference. This year, the conference once again moves to Washington DC for a completely in person experience, which includes keynote addresses, didactic training, team breakouts, and will culminate with a visit to Capitol Hill. Each district will meet with their delegation to discuss a particular issue that is important to the children of their state.

My experience as chapter president has reinvigorated my participation in the AAP. I currently serve as vice chairman of the liaison committee for the section on surgery, as the surgical liaison and member of the executive committee of the Section on Obesity, and I'm a member of the joint APSA-AAP advocacy committee.

Stephen L. Gans and the Birth of the Journal of Pediatric Surgery

Every pediatric surgeon in the US has either published or read articles from the Journal of Pediatric Surgery. This year, it celebrates its 58th anniversary. Thus, most of our profession cannot remember a time when the journal was not available and an option for publishing. However, few consider how and why the journal came to be.

In 1962, **Dr. Larry Pickett**, the Chair of the of Section on Surgery of the AAP voiced concern that it was challenging to publish papers presented at the annual AAP SOSu meetings – whether it be in adult surgical or pediatric journals. At that same time, **Dr. Stephen L Gans** was a member of the **AAP SOSu Publications Committee** and had been assigned the task to expedite publication of manuscripts presented at the meetings but found this difficult without a reliable journal dedicated to pediatric surgery. This prompted him to seek a solution. His first task was to identify a publisher as the field was at that time considered to have too small a readership to require a journal. Also, publishers were concerned about developing a journal which did not have any formal relationship with any pediatric surgical association or society. Undaunted, Gans began recruiting leaders in pediatric surgery to serve as future members of the editorial board for this journal. At the 1964 BAPS meeting in Rotterdam, Gans met with a several leading international pediatric surgeons to gauge interest and to ask BAPS to allow the Journal of Pediatric Surgery to be its official journal. During that same time, Gans had been turned down by several publishers until Grune & Statton Publishers agreed.



September 1964 - Rotterdam, the Netherlands - British Association of Paediatric Surgeons Meeting and discussions about formation of the Journal of Pediatric Surgery:
 (From left to right: J R Pellet (U of Wisconsin), D M Hays (Los Angeles Children's Hospital), J H Fischer (Boston Floating Hospital), D Vervat (Chairman of the Rotterdam Congress), H B Lynn (Mayo Clinic), C E Koop (CHOP), S L Gans (Los Angeles County General Hospital))

Interestingly, when it came to selecting the first Editor-in-Chief, Gans felt that this role should go to someone of large stature. He convinced C Everett Koop to take on this role while Gans would be an Associate Editor and Professors Peter L Rickham and Keijiro Suruga were named Associate Editors for Great Britain and Asia, respectively. Koop noted, *“In 1965, perhaps the single greatest event took place that enhance the future of pediatric surgery – the beginning of the Journal of Pediatric Surgery.”* In 1965, Koop and Gans persuaded BAPS and the AAP Section on Surgery to publish their transactions of their annual meetings in the journal. The first issue was published in February 1966 and initially was published every other month. Subsequently in 1971, the newly formed American Pediatric Surgical Association selected the Journal of Pediatric Surgery as its official publication. Robert E Gross, the first president of APSA would write, *“I think the Journal of Pediatric Surgery has done more to advance children’s surgery, not only here but around the world, above anything in the last couple of decades.”*

In 1976, Koop would step down as Editor-in-Chief, having served 11 years in that position. Gans would step into this role. In 1979, the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons would also choose the Journal of Pediatric Surgery as its journal to publish its annual proceedings. And in 1986, the journal would become published annually. Gans continued to serve as the Editor-in-Chief until 1994 at the time of his passing and Jay L Grosfeld would take on the role. It remains today as the publishing home for all the pediatric surgical associations.

After Gans’ passing in 1994, in honor of his extensive international collaboration efforts during his career, the annual AAP Section on Surgery Overseas lecture was named in his honor as the **Stephen L Gans Overseas Visiting Lectureship**. Similarly, in 1997, the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons named a lecture in his honor, the **Stephen L Gans Memorial Lecture**. It was apt that the lecture would be given by Dr. Keijiro Suruga, the first Associate Editor of Asia for the Journal of Pediatric Surgery. Fittingly, his talk was entitled, “An International Strong Personal Friendship in Pediatric Surgery”.



Dr. Stephen L Gans (1920-1994) Born in Cleveland, OH in 1920. He graduated with honors from Western Reserve University in 1940. After a rotating internship at the City Hospital in Cleveland, his surgical training included further time in Cleveland, a stint in Pathology at the Toledo Hospital in Ohio, and surgical residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. He trained in pediatric surgery with Willis Potts at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago (see Famous Figures in this edition), finishing in 1950. He also served in the US Army Medical Corps for two years between 1946-48. During his practice in pediatric surgery in Los Angeles for more than four decades, Gans held faculty positions at Loma Linda University Medical School, the University of California College of Medicine at Irvine, the University of Southern California School of Medicine, and the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine. He recognized the role of endoscopic surgery and pioneered the field of pediatric laparoscopy as well as laser surgery, publishing a book on these topics in 1983. He was a council member of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, founder of the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons and its first president 1969-70, and co-founder of Seminars in Pediatric Surgery.

Passages:

Anthony Shaw MD, FAAP

(October 31, 1929 - February 8, 2023)

Shaw was a graduate of Bronx High School of Science and Harvard College. He earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine in 1954, completed his general surgery training at New York Presbyterian Hospital in 1962, and then completed his training in pediatric general surgery under Thomas V. Santulli at Babies and Children's Hospital of New York.

Shaw's interests extended outside of the traditional operating theater to those who presented with injuries inflicted by caregivers. He was early to adopt clinical criteria distinguishing between child abuse and accidental injury or self-harm. As he became aware of the scale of this issue, he collaborated with social workers, judges, and his wife Iris Azian Shaw, a family court lawyer, to draft mandatory reporting laws, many of which have been adopted nationwide, requiring all who work with children to report suspected cases of child abuse to law enforcement authorities.



Throughout his professional life and well past his retirement, he was a prolific contributor to professional journals on the subject of medical ethics. He served on the **American Academy of Pediatric Committee on Bioethics**. He was also a charter member of the **American Pediatric Surgical Association** and chaired its Ethics Committee from 1980 through 1988.

Some of his best known writings include; "Doctor, do we have a choice?" in the New York Times, January 30, 1972 Section SM, Page 44, "Ethical issues in pediatric surgery: a national survey of pediatricians and pediatric surgeon" Pediatrics 1977;60(4-Part 2):588-99, "Caring for Gravely Ill Children" in Pediatrics 1994;94(4):433-439, "Historical Review of Pediatric Surgical Ethics" in Seminars in Pediatric Surgery 2001;10(4):171-178,

Shaw was a much sought after speaker, appearing on CBS's 60 Minutes and before the United States Congress to discuss the ethical consequences of controversial medical interventions. Also, Shaw first at the University of Virginia and then at UCLA, would champion the care of children and families least able to afford health care. He would continue working at UCLA/Olive View Hospital for years after his employment contract had ended. Throughout his professional life and well past his retirement, he served as an expert witness, trusted by defense and prosecution alike to provide dispassionate professional testimony in challenging cases of suspected abuse.