



# American Surgical Association

*The oldest surgical association in the United States  
Established in 1880*

American Surgical Association (ASA)

The American Surgical Association was founded in 1880 and is the nation's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization. Its members include some of the most prominent surgeons from the country's leading academic medical institutions, many of whom are Chairs of the Departments of Surgery at these institutions.

The 2013 ASA Proposal for Membership is now open and must be initiated online by an ASA member. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2012. In the current edition of the ASA Newsletter, it is noted that "Women represent approximately 51% of all medical students and 40-45% of residents in many surgical training programs. This will have a positive impact on academic faculties of medicine, and in particular, surgery. The Council of the American Surgical Association feels strongly that our membership should reflect and support these changes" This article also notes that the ASA Bylaws were changed to increase the number of Active Members in the Association. Therefore they have strongly encouraged their members to seek out colleagues who are women or belong to other underrepresented groups and propose them for Membership.

In addition the Council of the Association voted to approve funding of the Women in Surgery Breakfast and to recognize it as an official part of the ASA Program, annually. Finally the ASA Council made a generous donation to support the American College of Surgeons Annual Olga Jonasson Lecture.

Women elected to ASA membership in 2011 include:

Karen J. Brasel, MD  
Sally E. Carty, MD  
Vivian Gahtan, MD  
Seema A. Khan, MD  
Patricia L. Roberts, MD  
Hilary Sanfey, MB, BCh  
Sharon M. Weber, MD

Currently women make up less than 10% of the total ASA Active Membership but this is changing. Anyone interested in applying for membership should consult the ASA homepage at :

<http://americansurgical.info/about.cgi>

Feel free to contact Hilary Sanfey ([hsanfey@siumed.edu](mailto:hsanfey@siumed.edu)) for additional information on the application process.