

Patricia L. Turner, MD, FACS

Patricia L. Turner, MD, FACS is the director of the Division of Member Services at the American College of Surgeons and a clinical associate professor of surgery at The University of Chicago. Prior to joining the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Turner spent eight years in full-time academic practice on the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where she was the surgery residency program director. She previously served as a member of the AMA Council on Scientific Affairs, and is currently a delegate to the AMA from the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Executive Committee of the AMA Council on Medical Education.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University, Dr. Turner continued her training as an intern and resident in surgery at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. Her fellowship training in minimally invasive and laparoscopic surgery was completed at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Weill-Cornell University School of Medicine, and Columbia University School of Medicine in New York City. Dr. Turner is board-certified in surgery, and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Throughout her career, Dr. Turner has been involved in both basic science and clinical research. During medical school, her research in neurobiology and anatomy focused on neuron apoptosis. During residency, she spent two years as a senior staff fellow in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Her work there focused on dysregulation of sodium transport in the kidney and nitric oxide's role in the changing abundance of nephron transporter proteins.

Dr. Turner's current research interests are associated with her clinical expertise in laparoscopic surgery, including developing new training paradigms for residents and more senior surgeons. Her commitment to advancing new approaches to abdominal surgery places her squarely on the forefront of developing technologies in medicine. Her clinical interests include minimally invasive gastrointestinal and endocrine surgeries. She has also emerged as an innovator in quality improvement and outcomes research. Her role as the ACS-NSQIP surgeon champion for UMMC provided opportunities for complication prevention and quality improvement interventions on both small and large scales. She has published and presented widely on topics related to minimally invasive surgery, quality improvement, surgical outcomes, and graduate surgical education.

Dr. Turner is consistently described as a superb clinician, educator, communicator, and advocate for her patients and for women and underrepresented minorities in surgery. In addition to her clinical and research activities, she is a leading advocate for post-graduate education reform and for research in the organized medicine arena. She played a pivotal role in developing policy on biomedical research, training, and refining the way in which surgeons are trained while a member of the: Surgery Residency Review Committee, Blue Ribbon Committee on Surgical Education of the American Surgical Association, AMA Council on Scientific Affairs, Association of Academic Surgery Ethics Committee, and ACS Young Fellows Association Steering Committee.

Dr. Turner's current roles in national organizations include immediate past president of the Surgical Section of the National Medical Association, president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, and chair of the AMA Council on Medical Education.