I had the privilege of attending this well-organised meeting, as a representative of the College of Surgeons, Singapore.

Monday, 4th October

Opening Ceremony:
It was held at the Ballroom, which could accommodate a few thousand delegates. The grand ceremony began with the National Anthems of Canada and USA, who were the founding members of the ACS or American College of Surgeons.

The new President of the College, Dr. D.L.Britt, presided. He first presented a short video, outlining his theme for the year, which was that everyone, regardless of race, language, religion or creed, must receive the best possible care. He concentrated on the minority races, the blacks and Hispanics, and stressed that language should not be a barrier to the delivery of good health care, especially surgical care. He then introduced the College Officers, Regents, Honorary Fellows, Distinguished Philanthropist award winner, past presidents, members of allied organisations and fellows of sister Colleges from overseas. This included our Academy of medicine, represented by the Master, Dr. K C Tan and the College President Dr. Low Y P. The huge stage party was well over a hundred strong.

Named Lecture
Following that we had the Martin Memorial Lecture, an annual named lecture of the American urological Association. This year's speaker was Dr. Anthony Atala from North Carolina, who gave a fascinating account of new developments in tissue and organ regeneration. His facility, with well over two hundred researchers, has managed to regenerate skin, muscle, bladder, heart and liver tissue among others, and implanted these in-vitro, with near normal functionality. Needless to say, the applause was deafening.

I also attended these Panel Sessions:
- **1. Diverticulitis**: changing management paradigms
- **2. Biliary tract injuries** from laparoscopic cholecystectomy
- **3. Operative techniques in colorectal Surgery**: Tricks of the trade

Tuesday 5th October

1. **Controversies in thyroid surgery**- mainly cancer surgery
   a. Laryngoscopy essential, pre-op, to rule out paralysis/nerve infiltration
   b. U/s of neck - central compartment nodes & lateral compartment nodes
   c. Decision-making at surgery - if nodes not involved, no need to dissect. Does not prolong survival or increase recurrence.
   d. Thyroglobulin for follow-up.

Wednesday 10th October

I attended some free papers and panel sessions. Some of the free papers were on basic research, especially on robotics. Others included surgical education, and were very well attended. I must also mention that the ACS has a special one day program for foreign language surgeons, especially Latin American Surgeons, as well as a special program for medical students. Also useful were the scientific exhibits, which featured the latest in medical equipment, instruments, books and educational material. Of particular interest was the various educational media that the College uses to reach out to all, including lay public, industry, para-medical and medical staff and the nation.

Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons

For myself, I learnt a lot at those sessions that I attended, some of which were new to me. I also met and discussed with the top names in their field the finer points of surgery.

We had representation from Academy of Medicine Singapore, College of Surgeons Singapore as well as Chapter of General Surgeons at this meeting. The College President and Master of Academy attended the International Fellows meeting and made sure our voice was heard. I am sure that in the years to come, our College and Academy will be playing a bigger role in the Annual Congress of the ACS, and we look forward to their centenary meeting in four years’ time.