

Residents and Fellows Research Day 2014

A Program of the Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Center
For Research and Education

May 14 Keynote Address

Achieving Optimal Care in Surgery: Observations From the American College of Surgeons

Clifford Y. Ko, M.D., has been named keynote speaker for Residents and Fellows Research Day 2014. Currently Director of the Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care at the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Dr. Ko will discuss the role of quality in patient care, how to evaluate quality in a surgical environment, and the role that culture and teamwork play in achieving optimal care.

Dr. Ko's work focuses on surgical quality of care, including quality measurement, process improvement, and quality maintenance. Organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, and the Veterans Administration, among others, have awarded him millions of dollars in grant funding to study quality of care. Dr. Ko has published more than 275 peer-reviewed articles and has written more than 20 book chapters. He is frequently invited to speak both nationally and internationally, and has served on numerous advisory panels.

At ACS, Dr. Ko oversees all the quality improvement programs, which include the Bariatric Surgery Accreditation Program, the Cancer Accreditation program, the Trauma Verification program, the new Surgeon Specific Registry, and the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), for which he also serves as Director.

In addition, Dr. Ko is Adjunct Research Scientist at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, CA, Vice Chair of Surgery, Clinical



Dr. Clifford Y. Ko

Research, at the UCLA Department of Surgery, and Associate Director of the UCLA-RAND Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. Also at UCLA, he is Professor of Surgery at the School of Medicine and Professor of Health Services at the School of Public Health. In addition, he is Chief of the Section of Colorectal Surgery at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center.

Dr. Ko is a double board-certified surgeon, specializing in patients with colorectal cancer. As the Robert and Kelly Day

Professor of Surgery at UCLA, he has won the Faculty Teaching Award three times. Dr. Ko has also been recognized many times on both the Best Doctors in Los Angeles and the Best Doctors in America lists. Among the many honors and awards he has received are the Golden Scalpel Award for Excellence in Teaching, conferred in 2003, 2004 and 2008 by the UCLA Department of Surgery. He also received the Piedmont Award, given in 2005 for the Best Clinical Study at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons National Meeting.

Educated at the University of Chicago, Dr. Ko received not only his M.D. there but a B.A. in Biology and an M.S. in Biological/Medical Ethics as well. In addition, he holds an M.S. in Health Services/Outcomes Research from UCLA, where he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellow. Dr. Ko completed his general surgery residency at UCLA Medical Center and subsequently obtained specialty training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Lahey Clinic in Boston, MA.

