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**LOCAL SURGEON AMONG 1,301 INITIATED
INTO AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**

EUGENE, Ore.---Mark Packer, MD was among 1,301 Initiates from around the world who became Fellows of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) during convocation ceremonies at the College's recent 90th Annual Clinical Congress in New Orleans.

Dr. Packer received his medical degree in 1991 from the University of California at Davis and is currently practicing with Drs. Fine, Hoffman & Packer, LLC located in Eugene Oregon. In 1997 Dr. Packer attained board certification from the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. Packer has a strong professional interest in cataract and refractive surgery and holds membership in other professional societies, including representing the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery as a member of the Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and serving on the Ophthalmic Knowledge Base Panel for Cataract and Anterior Segment Surgery.

By meeting the College's stringent membership requirements, Fellows of the College have earned the distinguished right to use the designation of "F.A.C.S." (Fellow, American College of Surgeons) after their names. An applicant for Fellowship must be a graduate of an approved medical school; must have completed advanced training in one of the 14 surgical specialties recognized by the College; and must have been in practice in the same geographic location for at least one year at the time of his or her application. Before admission into Fellowship, the surgeon must further demonstrate ethical fitness

and professional proficiency, and his or her acceptance as a Fellow of the College must be approved by three-fourths of its Board of Regents.

The convocation ceremony was the highlight of the five-day Congress at which initiation into ACS Fellowship took place. The congress also featured reports on research-in-progress, postgraduate courses, panel discussions, symposia, and scientific and industrial exhibits. Total estimated attendance at the Congress was 13,459 including approximately 7,555 physicians. Allied health professionals and members of the scientific and consumer media also attended the meeting.

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery. Its achievements have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients. The College has more than 66,000 members and is the largest organization of surgeons in the world.

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