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Good evening and welcome to the 201* Initiates of the ACS and their families and friends, as well as our newly elected and current Honorary Fellows and esteemed guests.

To our Initiates; congratulations ~ You represent our largest classever, with 1, 35+ coming from the U. S. and Canada and 613 from many other countries around the world; a truly global representation of surgery today. Give yourself and your colleagues a round of applause. You each richly deserve this recognition.

This occasion is indeed momentous. You have just earned entry into the ACS and have taken a major step in solidifying your standing in our profession. Surgery is not only a great profession, but also the best profession in medicine. It is a profession, I would argue, that will provide you with the recognition and rewards that you deserve based on the years of hard work, dedication, and commitment it takes to become, and remain, the best surgeon you can be. And, as a surgeon, you will help to sustain our profession through self-regulation, altruism, and constant demonstration of the highest ethical values.

Our profession

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Ourselves

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