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DEVELOPING THE ACADEMIC SURGEON: INTRODUCTION

During the past decade there has been enormous pressure on all practicing physicians to provide clinical care to many more patients and to do so in any hospital into which the patient is admitted. Physicians are being asked to earn more clinical income and often to practice clinically at more than one center. This notion is anathema to the proven success of maintaining a corps of physicians who practice in concert with one another at one institution. This and the decreasing income of both physicians and academic health centers have made the duties of young academic surgeons particularly stressful. They are directed to earn more clinical income, yet at the same time to practice at more than one medical center, which may involve a three-hour round-trip waste of a surgeon's talents, as well as a waste of his or her income-producing time. Yet these surgeons are expected to maintain academic standards both in teaching and in the pursuit of new knowledge.

The following articles will be of great help to new academic surgeons. They are a compendium of a symposium, *Developing the Academic Surgeon*, held under the auspices of The American Association for Thoracic Surgery. Edward D. Verrier, MD, and Irving L. Kron, MD, who gathered a distinguished panel of surgeons, developed the symposium. This symposium appears not only as a supplement to this month's edition of the *Journal* but also will be made available, separately, to interested individuals and will be updated. We believe it contains constructive ideals and will fill a need of academic cardiothoracic surgeons.

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