

The Story of American Surgery

A Multi-Part Documentary Film for PBS

American College of Surgeons Foundation | Restricted Fund Overview and Pledge FAQ

THE PROJECT

A group of ACS Fellows, in collaboration with the American College of Surgeons Foundation, is working with Ewers Brothers Productions to create a multi-part film for PBS on *The Story of American Surgery*. The film will trace surgery from its primitive beginnings, through the complexity of the present, to the contemplation of an unpredictable future. Its purpose is to give the public a broader understanding of the relationship between surgery and the remarkable ability to repair the human body — a capability whose seeming magic remains little appreciated by the lay public.

THE FILMMAKERS

The Ewers Brothers team has worked with Ken Burns for more than 30 years, producing and editing *The Civil War*, *The American Revolution*, *Baseball*, and other subjects central to Americana. Their work has received nine Emmy nominations and multiple other awards, and Ken Burns has endorsed this project as he nears retirement. A work-samples reel from their Mayo Clinic documentary is available at <https://vimeo.com/1191209701>.

THE PROCESS

The seed funding will pay for the production of multiple videos and other materials needed to secure additional funds to complete the project. The Ewers Brothers have an exceptional track record of securing donations from foundations, public television, industry, and high-net-worth individuals to complete their projects; none of their projects has failed to be completed. The budget for the final project will likely exceed six million dollars, depending on the length of the final product and the number of episodes in the final series.

SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

- **Seed-funding threshold:** \$500,000, raised through the ACS Foundation.
The project moves forward only if this threshold is met.
- **Pledge/Contribution Details:** Pledges may be made and paid over two years
Contributions are made to a dedicated fund of the ACS Foundation.
- **Tax status:** Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
- **Recognition:** Donors receive ACS Foundation recognition.
Donations are eligible to participate in the lapel scalpel pin program as determined by pledge amount.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PLEDGE IF THE FUNDING TARGET FALLS SHORT?

The Fund to support the *Story of American Surgery* Film Project requires a minimum of \$500,000 to be established. If the Foundation determines that the Fund will not reach this threshold, all contributing donors will be notified in writing, and outstanding pledges will be released with no further payments due.

Funds already received will be handled as follows. Cash gifts may, at the donor's election, be refunded or redesignated to another Foundation fund or initiative. Gifts of appreciated securities and contributions made through qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from an IRA cannot be refunded and will be redesignated to another Foundation fund or initiative of the donor's choosing. In all cases, funds already received will be held by the Foundation and will not be expended for the purposes of the Fund until each donor's election is received.

Donors will have [60] days from the date of notice to indicate their preference. If no response is received within that period, the gift will be redesignated to the Foundation's Area of Greatest Need.

Refunds may affect the tax treatment of a prior charitable deduction. The American College of Surgeons Foundation does not provide tax or legal advice; donors should consult their own tax advisor regarding their specific circumstances.

QUESTIONS

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Scan the QR code for more information or to make a donation.

