Greetings from the President

The STSA 55th Annual Meeting is now only four months away. I look forward to seeing you at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort outside Austin, Texas. My wife Lisa and I took a recent trip to Lost Pines to plan the meeting, and I am pleased to report that it is a beautiful facility. The resort is nestled in McKinney Roughs Nature Park in a beautiful grove of ancient pecan trees – some more than 100 years old. The grounds are expansive and the lower Colorado River meanders through it all providing a lovely setting. Lisa reports that the spa is excellent. There’s a great pool and even a lazy river so the kids can go tubing. Hiking, biking and horseback riding are on site and guided trips through the huge nature preserve are available. It is a perfect family venue and just the right size for our group.

I can also report that the golf course will be a perfect venue for the Saturday afternoon tournament. It is on the grounds and offers a challenging round of golf in a beautiful setting. The 12th hole is especially challenging, but it does have a gorgeous view of the grounds. The tennis courts are state of the art and there is a large horseshoe pit for the laidback athlete.

Jeffrey Jacobs, MD and Michael DiMaio, MD, co-chairs of the 2008 Postgraduate Committee, have assembled an outstanding program for Thursday morning, outlined on page 5. As in years past the Postgraduate Program will consist of separate sessions for congenital, adult cardiac and general thoracic followed by a number of timely and interesting pro-con debates. The Postgraduate Program will conclude with an inspiring talk by Dr. Roberto Canessa, a survivor of a 1972 plane crash in the Andes that was later made famous by the movie Alive.

Your Program Committee, chaired by Andrew Fiore, MD and Paul Schipper, MD, met in Chicago in May and put together an impressive program. A full outline will be provided in your advance program, which will arrive in your mailbox in the coming weeks. There is a great line up of topics and speakers, many having come from your evaluation form suggestions.

I’m excited to announce that I have invited Paul Barringer from Common Good, a group of legal minds committed to liability reform, to be this year’s President’s Invited Speaker. I think he will have some important insights on malpractice reform to share with you. Curt Tribble, MD has agreed to give the Kent Trinkle lecture this year. Curt is implementing new ideas regarding resident training at the University of Florida. I’m sure we will all look forward to learning about his innovations.

I want to especially thank our Leadership Council and Committees for their hard work and careful planning. It is a real pleasure to get together with this great group of old friends and their families and to meet the new members each year at the Annual Meeting. With a relevant and timely educational program and all the fun and camaraderie STSA is famous for, it’s a meeting you won’t want to miss.

We learned a little “Texas Speak” while in Austin, including the expression: It ain’t braggin’ if you can do it. So make plans now to come to the STSA 55th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort outside Austin on November 5 - 8. It’s going to be big, Texas big, and it’s going to be great – and that ain’t braggin’.

See you in Austin!
STSA Welcomes New Members

Congratulations and welcome to the following cardiothoracic surgeons approved for membership in the STSA during the Annual Business Meeting held November 9, 2007 in Bonita Springs.

Jay K. Bhama, MD Pittsburgh, PA
Robert Binford, MD Nashville, TN
Ray Anthony Blackwell, MD Newark, DE
Peter James Bolan, MD Macon, GA
Morton (Chip) Bolman, III, MD Boston, MA
Jason Budee, MD Jefferson City, MO
Albert Shou-Yen Chang, MD Orlando, FL
Cliff Choong, MD Cambridge, England
Traves Crabtree, MD St. Louis, MO
David Andrew Dean, MD Pittsburgh, PA
Nikola Dobrilovic, MD Providence, RI
Louis Elkins, MD Mountain Home, AR
Richard H. Feins, MD Pittsburgh, PA
Kirk Fleischer, MD Albany, GA
Robert Higgins, MD Chicago, IL
Joseph Huh, MD Houston, TX
Eliza Elizabeth Jaroszewski, MD Phoenix, AZ
Elizabeth Miller Kline, MD Charleston, SC
Stanley Kokocki, MD Spring Hill, FL
Benjamin David Kozower, MD Charlottesville, VA
Robert Laird, MD Nashville, TN
Christine Lau, MD Charlottesville, VA
Joseph Lin, MD Durham, NC
Harald Lindberg, MD Orlando, FL
John Lonquist, MD Washington, DC
Frederick Lough, MD Olathe, KS
Roderick Landreneau, MD Phoenix, AZ
Keith Mortman, MD Miami, FL
Joseph Huh, MD Phoenix, AZ
Stanley Kokocki, MD Charleston, SC
Marco Lippi, MD Spring Hill, FL
Mark Ringles, MD Charlottesville, VA
Dawn Elizabeth Jaroszewski, MD Orlando, FL
Elizabeth Miller Kline, MD Charleston, SC
Keith Mortman, MD Miami, FL
Shu S. Lin, MD Davie, FL
John Locher, MD West Palm Beach, FL
Robboy, MD Pittsburgh, PA
Robert Laird, MD Arlington, VA
Joseph Huh, MD Houston, TX
Ashish Shah, MD Rochester, MN
Robert Shen, MD Memphis, TN
Robert Stewart, MD Miami, FL
Shankar M. Sundaram, MD Birmingham, AL
Gregory A. Thomas, MD Atlanta, GA
Vinod H. Thourani, MD Lawton, OK

A Reminder to New STSA Members

Active status will not become effective, nor a certificate of membership presented, until the elected applicant registers at one of the next four annual meetings following his/her initial election to membership. Exception to this requirement may be granted by a majority vote of the Council. Failure to comply with the procedure will require reapplication for membership.

In Memoriam

Dr. Clifford Van Meter, a Dear Friend and Esteemed Colleague

Dr. Clifford H. Van Meter, Jr. passed away on May 29, 2008 following a courageous battle with leukemia and its varied complications.

Dr. Van Meter was an active member of the STSA for 15 years. He served as Chair of the Program Committee in 1998 and was Director of Continuing Medical Education from 2002-2005. In addition to his many valuable contributions to the Association’s educational activities, Dr. Van Meter was a great contributor to the atmosphere of fellowship and collegiality that is so unique to the STSA. He regularly attended and presented at the Annual Meeting and received the Tiki award in 1997. In 2005, shortly after losing his home to Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Van Meter made his role as STSA Director of CME a priority and traveled to Chicago to ensure STSA’s reaccreditation interview with ACCME went smoothly. Many will recall that he also gave a poignant presentation at the STSA Annual Meeting in Orlando on his and New Orleans’ struggles in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

As a surgeon with the Ochsner Health System for 20 years, Dr. Van Meter was a pioneer in the areas of surgery and transplantation. In 1990 he took the lead in Louisiana’s first heart-lung transplant. In 1995 he was the lead surgeon in back-to-back heart transplants that were part of a record setting weekend marathon when two sets of lungs, a liver, a pancreas and kidney were also transplanted. And in 2000, Dr. Van Meter was the lead surgeon in Ochsner’s 500th heart transplant.

News of his death elicited many words of respect, admiration, and sadness from his colleagues and friends at STSA. In the words of John Hammon, “He will be deeply missed and always remembered as a person of great stature and integrity. He was a true friend and trusted colleague.”

As per Dr. Van Meter’s wishes, TSFRE has set up The Van Meter Fund for Advanced Heart Disease to recognize the significant contributions that Dr. Van Meter made to the specialty over the course of his career. Contributions to this fund can be made at the following address:

Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education
The Van Meter Fund
900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915
2007 STSA Annual Meeting Award Recipients

The Osler Abbott Award, given annually to a member of the Association who excels in the art of discussionmanship, was presented to W. Steves Ring, MD at the 54th Annual Meeting. This award signifies the importance of open, frank and candid discussion with a healthy give-and-take among members, resulting in the enhanced camaraderie and esprit-de-corps which have traditionally characterized the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association.

Robert Cerfolio, MD was awarded the 2007 Tiki Award. This award is given to the person who presents the most memorable and noteworthy slide at the Annual Meeting. Dr. Cerfolio’s presentation during the PostGraduate Pro-Con debate on whether cardiothoracic surgical outcomes should be published in the lay press was a superb, if eccentric, video reenactment of a scene from the movie A Few Good Men. Dr. Cerfolio gave a memorable and noteworthy performance indeed.

The STSA Inspiration Award, which was established to recognize the important contribution of mentorship to the specialty and the organization and to encourage upcoming generations of CT surgeons by helping to cultivate mentors worthy of emulation, was presented for the first time at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Dr. Robert Cerfolio and Dr. Hooshang Bolooki both received the 2007 Inspiration Award, presented during the President’s Black Tie Dinner, for their exceptional efforts in motivating, inspiring and cultivating the clinical and research talents of their mentees.

The Mavroudis/Urschel Award was established in 2006 to recognize and honor an STSA member who has not only made important contributions to the STSA scientific program, but who has also uniquely personified the social spirit, camaraderie and fun for which STSA is famous. Dr. Kit Arom, the inaugural and exceptionally deserving recipient of the Mavroudis/Urschel Award, was selected by the President with input and recommendation from the double-secret Tiki and Osler-Abbott Committee Chairs. Dr. Arom and his wife Sue travel from Thailand each year to attend the STSA Annual Meeting. As an STSA Past President, frequent Annual Meeting presenter, Tikki and Osler Abbott Award winner, Dr. Arom certainly contributes significantly to both the scientific value of the STSA Annual Meeting and to the organization’s high spirits - and high-jinx. Congratulations, Dr. Arom!

2007 Awards to be Presented at the 55th Annual Meeting

John Stulak, MD of Rochester, Minnesota was selected to receive the 2007 President’s Award for the best scientific paper given at the Annual Meeting. This superior paper, chosen by STSA President Carolyn Reed, MD, with the assistance of Council members, was judged on the basis of originality, content and presentation. The award winning paper and presentation was titled “Restoration of Sinus Rhythm by the Maze Procedure Prevents the Progression of Tricuspid Valve Regurgitation in Patients Undergoing Mitral Valve Surgery.” Additional authors of the paper were: Joseph A. Dearani, Thoralf M. Sundt III, Thomas A. Orszulak, Richard C. Daly, and Hartzell V. Schaff.

The Hawley H. Seiler MD Resident’s Award is presented each year to an outstanding cardiothoracic resident whose manuscript and oral presentation at the meeting is deemed superior to all others. The recipient of the 2007 award is Tara Karamlou, MD, for her paper and presentation titled “National Practice Patterns for Management of Adult Congenital Heart Disease: Operation by Congenital Surgeons Decreases In-Hospital Mortality.” Dr. Karamlou was also the 2004 Hawley Seiler Award recipient and is the first resident to win the award twice since it was established in 1997. Additional authors on the paper were Brian Diggs, Thomas Person, Ross Ungerleider, and Karl Welke.
The 2008 Program Committee met in Chicago on May 17 to review abstracts and plan the Program for the 55th Annual Meeting in Austin. With 236 abstracts submitted, a significant increase from the 188 submissions received last year, the Committee had many excellent papers to choose from. Under the leadership of President John Hammon, MD and Program Committee co-chairs Andrew Fiore, MD and Paul Schipper, MD, an outstanding program was compiled. Drawing from suggestions made by past meeting attendees on their evaluation forms, the scientific sessions will again feature cardiac, thoracic, and - new this year - congenital breakout sessions on Friday afternoon. All scientific sessions have been scheduled to allow for plenty of time for discussion following each presentation. In order to encourage the open, frank and candid discussion that STSA Annual Meeting attendees value so highly, invited discussants will have exactly two minutes to kick off discussion by asking two questions.

The Program also allows time for attendees to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that is such a big part of the STSA Annual Meeting experience. The All Attendee Luncheon and President’s Mixer on Friday, Saturday’s golf and tennis tournaments, and the famous Saturday night dinner and dance will be featured on the program once again this year.

Save the Date – 55th Annual Meeting

The STSA 55th Annual Meeting will be held November 5 – 8, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa just outside Austin, Texas. With an outstanding lineup of educational and social activities you won’t want to miss this opportunity to experience STSA, Texas style! Registration materials will be available soon. Please visit www.stsa.org in the coming weeks for more information.

“TEXAS TUX” Dinner Dance

The Saturday Night “Black Tie Dinner” has been a tradition at the STSA Annual Meetings for many years. At this year’s meeting in Austin, Texas, however, the Saturday night event will look a little different. STSA is goin’ Texan!

Plan now to attend the first STSA Texas Tuxedo Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 8, at the Hyatt Lost Pines in Austin. For a Texas Tuxedo event, gentlemen are invited to wear jeans with either a tuxedo shirt and jacket or a dark suit coat. Cowboy boots and ten gallon hat are not required, but are encouraged! Ladies, as always, can choose from the full spectrum of fancy: cocktail dresses or pants suits, floor-length skirts – or maybe even a denim skirt, silk blouse and cowboy boots! So feel free to wear Black Tie, Texas Tux or any combination of the two. The important thing is to be comfortable and have fun!

Also this year, the Council and the Program Committee have agreed, based on many comments from past attendees, that the Saturday afternoon activity awards will be given at the conclusion of the events, not at the Saturday night dinner. The goal is for there to be more time for dancing and socializing with friends. The Tiki and Osler Abbott awards will be given at the dinner, with the usual outrageous hilarity. Seating on Saturday night has frequently caused confusion, so this year there will be a new system. In order to prevent the last minute scramble, ticket-holders will be able to “reserve” seats in advance on sign-up sheets next to registration.

It will be a special and fun evening – the perfect finale to a great meeting. Make your travel plans now to include the STSA “Texas Tux” Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 8.

Activities for the Whole Family at Lost Pines

There are activities available for the whole family at the Hyatt Lost Pines. A great spa is available for anyone in need of pampering and the resort’s pool, water slide and lazy river will appeal to anyone looking for some fun in the sun. Horseback riding, hiking, even kayaking and canoeing are also available on the resort’s impressive grounds, which are surrounded by the McKinney Roughs Nature Park and the Colorado River.

Nature programs offer the opportunity to learn about the Texas eco-regions and wildlife represented throughout the resort’s nature trails. Watch for your advance program book to arrive in the next few weeks and be sure to take it home so you can begin planning a fun-filled trip to Austin with your family.
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM OUTLINE

Thursday, November 6, 2008
7:00 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

CME Credits Available: 4.5

The first portion of the Postgraduate Program will feature concurrent sessions in adult cardiac, general thoracic and congenital heart surgery. The Program will continue with Pro/Con Debates. All attendees and guests are invited to attend the Keynote presentation.

POSTGRADUATE KEYNOTE ADDRESS – LESSONS FROM THE ANDES

During the Postgraduate Program’s keynote address on Thursday, November 6 in Austin, Roberto Canessa will present his incredible story of surviving a 1972 plane crash in the Andes Mountains. At the time of the crash, which was later made famous by the movie Alive, Dr. Canessa was a medical student traveling to Chile to play rugby. He and 15 others spent 72 days struggling to survive amid severe climatic conditions and impending starvation. After two months, Dr. Canessa and one other survivor set out in search of rescue, which they finally found after 10 days of hiking through the extreme terrain of the Andes. Today, Dr. Canessa is a renowned pediatric cardiologist in Uruguay.

All attendees and their spouse or guest will be invited to attend this fascinating address at 11:15 am on Thursday following the Pro/Con debates. Dr. Canessa’s firsthand account, from the perspective of a fellow medical professional, is certain to keep attendees on the edge of their seat and should not be missed!

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Nominations for the STSA Inspiration Award Now Being Accepted

To nominate someone for the STSA Inspiration Award, please submit your nomination in writing by September 1 to be considered for possible presentation at the 2008 STSA Annual Meeting. Recommendation letters should outline the specific merits of the nominee and his or her positive influences for the ‘mentee(s).’ The recipient must be a member of the STSA in good standing. The award will be given at the discretion of the President in consultation with the Council.

Nominations can be mailed to:
John Hammon, MD
President, Southern Thoracic Surgical Association
633 N. Saint Clair St., Suite 2320
Chicago, IL 60611

For additional information regarding the STSA Inspiration Award, and all other STSA awards, please visit www.stsa.org and click on “Awards.”

Update your contact information today!

Each year STSA prints a membership directory in the Annual Meeting Program Book. In order for the Association and your fellow members to be able to communicate with you it is crucial that we keep this directory as up to date as possible. Please e-mail (stsa@stsa.org) or call (800-685-7872) STSA with any updates to your contact information.

STSA FUTURE MEETINGS

November 5-8, 2008
Hyatt Regency Los Pines Resort & Spa
Austin, Texas

November 4-7, 2009
Marriott Marco Island Golf Club & Spa
Marco Island, Florida

November 3-6, 2010
Disney Yacht & Beach Club
Orlando, Florida

November 9-12, 2011
JW Marriott
San Antonio, Texas

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