



STSA News

SUMMER 2007

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN THORACIC SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Greetings from the President

Mark your calendars now for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. Our location is the stunning Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, Florida. Many will remember this as the site of our 50th anniversary celebration. The tropical gardens, warm breezes and sparkling gulf coast waters will provide a breathtaking background for another stimulating, fun-filled meeting. There are plenty of activities offered at the resort, ranging from a round of golf on a championship course, working out in a fully equipped fitness center, a tennis match on the resort courts, a walk along the beach searching for the perfect seashell, a few hours of peace and pampering at the spa, or spending an afternoon poolside with friends or that perfect novel. The fishing tournament will return and should be a worthy adventure. Spouses will enjoy some structured events and opportunities to expand the creative mind, as well as a trip to old Naples for lunch and shopping, and a guided seashell beachcombing expedition.



Carolyn Reed, MD

The meeting will provide a balance between education, opportunity for thoughtful discussion, and time to renew friendships and experience camaraderie as we relax and play, all of which make the Southern special. In this regard, I am going to enforce a new rule. No ties will be allowed in the scientific sessions! Staff with scissors will be standing at the entrances and instructed to use them freely.

With the advent of the resident 80-hour work week, the dropping number of applicants interested in CT surgery, and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) looming on the horizon, our specialty is facing challenges and changes. The program will address some of these issues via the postgraduate course, scientific program and special presentations. I am honored that Dr. William A. Gay, my mentor, colleague and friend, has accepted my invitation to deliver the President's Invited Lecture. As Executive Director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, his insight into life-long learning will be valuable. I am also looking forward to hearing Dr. Walter Merrill's Kent Trinkle Education Lectureship.

Chip Oswalt and John Puskas have assembled an outstanding postgraduate program. There will be separate sessions for congenital, adult cardiac and general thoracic followed by the popular pro-con debates. The program will conclude with an interesting talk on reshaping and retooling your practice and self.

I am hopeful that a record number of residents will attend the Annual Meeting. The Southern has always been an ideal place for residents to present their work, mingle with faculty in a relaxed environment, and appreciate the history and values of cardiothoracic surgery. I presented my first paper at the STSA, and I can remember it as if it were yesterday. It was the beginning of a life-long regard and commitment to the organization.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being an officer is working with and getting to know people in the organization. It is the voluntary work of the Council, Postgraduate Committee, Program Committee, Membership Committee and CME Committee that form the infrastructure of the STSA. I cannot praise them enough for their hard work and commitment to the organization.

See you in Bonita Springs!



President Carolyn Reed, MD receives the president's gavel from outgoing president, Ross Ungerleider, MD at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Tuscon.

STSA Welcomes New Members

Congratulations and welcome to the following physicians approved for membership in the STSA during the Annual Business Meeting held November 10, 2006 in Tucson.

Rashid Ahmad, MD Nashville, TN	Lawrence Hamner, III, MD San Antonio, TX
Douglas Appleby Jr., MD Greenville, SC	Gavin Henry, MD Baltimore, MD
John Armitage, MD Fredericksburg, VA	Tain-Yen Hsia, MD Charleston, SC
John Artrip, MD Portsmouth, VA	George Hughes, IV, MD Durham, NC
Anthony Ascioti, MD Indianapolis, IN	Kenneth Kesler, MD Indianapolis, IN
Christopher Baird, MD Charlotte, NC	David Ladden, MD McComb, MS
Michael Banker, MD Fredericksburg, VA	Eric Lambricht, MD Nashville, TN
Randy Brown, MD Cape Girardeau, MO	Terry Lowry, MD Rochester, NY
Clay Burnett, MD Olathe, KS	Blair Marshall, MD Washington, DC
Paul Chai, MD Tampa, FL	Jeffery Martin, MD Columbia, SC
Robert Dabal, MD Jacksonville, FL	Linda Martin, MD Mountain View, CA
Michael DeFrain, MD Columbia, SC	Christopher Mascio, MD Louisville, KY
William Douglas, MD Lexington, KY	Bassem Mora, MD Washington, DC
Jason Felger, MD San Angelo, TX	Jeff Myers, MD Memphis, TN
Sanjiv Gandhi, MD St. Louis, MO	Carmelo Otero, MD San Antonio, TX
Kristopher George, MD Cleveland, OH	V. Seenu Reddy, MD San Antonio, TX
James Greelish, MD Nashville, TN	Evelio Rodriguez, MD Greenville, NC
Kristine Guleserian, MD Dallas, TX	Joshua Rovin, MD St. Petersburg, FL

New STSA Awards

The STSA Executive Council recently approved the establishment of two new awards, each encompassing different aspects of the unique spirit of STSA and its members.

The Mavroudis-Urschel Award – which was approved unanimously after a motion brought by Dr. Mavroudis was seconded by Dr. Urschel – is an award to exemplify the spirit of these two STSA veterans. Its purpose is to recognize and honor an STSA member who has made important contributions to the STSA scientific program, but who has also uniquely personified the social spirit and sense of camaraderie and fun for which STSA is famous. As Past Presidents and continuously active members of STSA, Drs Mavroudis and Urschel have both contributed significantly not only to the scientific value of the STSA Annual Meeting but also, and just as importantly, to the organization's high spirits (and, some might say, high-jinx). The Mavroudis-Urschel Award will be given to a member who has enhanced both aspects of the organization, scientific and social, and done so with a distinctive, even flamboyant, personal style.

Recipients of the Mavroudis-Urschel Award will be determined at the discretion of the President with input and recommendation from the Council. When given, the award will be announced at the annual Black Tie Ball.

A second newly created award, the **STSA Inspiration Award**, was approved by the STSA Council at their recent spring meeting in Washington, DC. The award 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. The Inspiration Award will be given to the STSA member who has demonstrated exceptional efforts in motivating, inspiring and cultivating the talents of medical students, residents and /or early career CT surgeons.

Nominations for the Inspiration Award must be submitted in writing by September 1 to the sitting STSA President. Recommendation letters should outline the specific merits of the nominee and his or her positive influences for the mentee(s). When the award is given, the presentation will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Recruit a Member

New members are vitally important in maintaining STSA's valuable role in the thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon community. Known for its camaraderie, social cohesion and rigorous clinical education program, STSA offers members the opportunity to participate in a truly unique organization. Prospective members are most likely to apply to the STSA after receiving an invitation from a current member to do so. With the recent expansion of membership criteria to include those who previously practiced cardiothoracic surgery for at least two consecutive years in STSA states

and regions, it is particularly important that you look to your colleagues and identify potential new STSA members. An application to join STSA is enclosed; please take a moment to share it with a colleague. Don't forget to offer to write a letter of support. Your encouragement will be an important incentive. Membership applications are also available electronically at the STSA Web site, www.stsa.org, or call us at (800) 685-7872 to have one mailed or faxed to you. The deadline for new member applications is September 15.

2006 STSA Annual Meeting Award Recipients

Andrew W. ElBardissi of Rochester, Minnesota was selected to receive the 2006 President's Award for the best scientific paper given at the Annual Meeting. This superior paper, chosen by STSA President Ross Ungerleider, 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 "A Prospective Approach to Identifying Human Factors that Influence Patient Safety in the Cardiovascular Surgery Operating Room." Additional authors of the paper were: **Thoralf M. Sundt**, **Joseph A. Dearani**, and **Douglas A. Wiegmann**. The President's Award will be presented to Dr. ElBardissi at the 54th Annual Meeting in Bonita Springs.

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 2006 award is **Thomas K. Varghese, Jr. MD**, for his paper and presentation titled "Surgical Treatment of Epiphrenic Diverticula: A 30-year Experience". Additional authors on the paper were **Becky Marshall**, **Andrew C. Chang**, **Allan Pickens**, **Christine L. Lau**, and **Mark B. Orringer**. Dr. Varghese will receive his award in Bonita Springs at the Black Tie Ball.

The Osler Abbott Award, given annually to a member of the Association who excels in the art of discussionmanship, was presented to **Thoralf M. Sundt, MD** at the 53rd Annual Meeting in Tucson. This award signifies the importance of open, frank and candid discussion in the spirit and substance of STSA and encourages more objective and active participation from all meeting attendees.



Dr. Mavroudis, MD (right) accepting the Tiki Award from Dr. Jacobs.

Constantine Mavroudis, MD, STSA Past President and winner of the 1995 President's Award and the 2003 Osler Abbott Award, was awarded the 2006 Tiki Award. Given to the person who presents the most memorable and noteworthy slide at the Annual Meeting, Dr. Mavroudis was awarded the Tiki Award for his superb, if eccentric, use of state-of-the-art graphics in his slide.

2007 Annual Meeting Postgraduate Program Outline:

ADULT CARDIAC BREAKOUT
A-Fib – *Ralph Damiano, MD*
Aortic Valve Replacement Recommendation for 2007 – *Edward Chen, MD*
TMR Laser – *Keith Allen, MD*

CONGENITAL BREAKOUT
Norwood Stage 1 – What I think is important: Presentation and Panel Discussion – *Thomas Spray, MD*;
Ed Bove, MD; *James Tweddell MD*;
Ross Ungerleider, MD

THORACIC BREAKOUT
Management of Guidelines of Adjuvant Care – *Seth Force, MD*
Postoperative Algorithm of Care after Pulmonary Resection – *Robert Cerfolio, MD*
Guidelines of Management for the Treatment of Esophageal Cancer – *Wayne Hofstetter, MD*

PRO/CON DEBATES
Is Mediastinoscopy Still Required Prior to Pulmonary Resection?
PRO- *Tom Rice, MD*
CON- *Michael Wallace, MD*

Can you Train a Thoracic Surgeon in Two Years?
PRO – *Irving Kron, MD*
CON – *J. Michael Dimatio, MD*

Should Cardiothoracic Surgical Outcomes be Published in the Lay Press?
PRO – *Jeffrey Jacobs MD*
CON – *Robert Cerfolio, MD*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Reshaping/Retooling your Practice/Self – *Stewart Horsley, MD*

Save the Date for the STSA 54th Annual Meeting in Bonita Springs, Florida



The 54th Annual Meeting will be held November 7-10, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, Florida, site of the gala 50th Anniversary Meeting in 2003.

Come back – or come for the first time – to beautiful Bonita!

Registration materials will be available soon. Please visit www.stsa.org in the coming weeks for more information.

STSA FUTURE MEETINGS

November 7-10, 2007
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
Bonita Springs, Florida

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

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

Bylaws Changes Approved at Annual Meeting

The membership voted to accept two important revisions to the STSA Bylaws at the Annual Business Meeting in Tucson.

The first revision is related to membership criteria and opens membership to those who previously practiced cardiothoracic surgery for at least two consecutive years in STSA states and regions, whereas previously membership was available only to applicants residing in or having completed a thoracic residency program in a member state. The STSA membership approved the revision, opening membership to many who had formerly not been eligible.

The Membership Committee requests your help in identifying colleagues who qualify for membership under the updated criteria. If there is someone you would recommend for membership, please take a moment to encourage him or her to submit a membership application by September 15, 2007. You can also contact STSA staff, and a membership packet will be sent at your request. In addition, applications are available on the STSA Web site at www.stsa.org.

A second Bylaws revision increasing the percentage of non-member papers eligible for presentation at the Annual Meeting from 15 percent to 25 percent was also approved. The Program Committee is currently developing the 2007 scientific program. This Bylaws change will provide the Committee with a slightly broader scope as they continually strive to diversify and elevate the program's content.

Help Shape Future STSA Programming

While it is certainly true that attending an STSA Annual Meeting provides numerous opportunities for networking and social activities, attendees consistently rate the quality of the educational sessions offered at the meeting as the most important factor in influencing their decision to attend the Annual Meeting. As an ACCME approved provider of continuing medical education to physicians, STSA takes its mission to provide a high quality scientific program very seriously. Therefore, STSA would greatly appreciate hearing topics of interest you would suggest the Postgraduate and Program Committees consider when planning future CME activities. Please e-mail any suggestions for future educational programming to STSA Affiliate Coordinator, Katie McAuliff at kmcauliff@stsa.org and they will be passed along to Committee members.

Update Your Contact Information Today!

Each year STSA prints a membership directory in the Annual Meeting Program Book. In order for the organization 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 Leadership 2007



Enclosed, please find a copy of the 2007 Leadership Directory. STSA's leaders work diligently throughout the year to enhance the vitality and spirit of the organization. If you have suggestions or would like

to become more actively involved in the STSA, please do not hesitate to contact a Council member or STSA staff member.

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

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STSA News is published twice annually for members of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. Comments may be referred to STSA via stsa@stsa.org.
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