



# STSA News

SUMMER 2009

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN THORACIC SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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## Save the Date!

The STSA 56th Annual Meeting will be held November 4 – 7, 2009 at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort in Marco Island, Florida. With an outstanding lineup of educational and social activities you won't want to miss this opportunity to experience STSA in a beautiful beach setting! Registration materials will be available soon.

Please visit [www.stsa.org](http://www.stsa.org) in the coming weeks for more information.

## Letter from the President

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the STSA 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Austin Texas. The meeting was a great success! Attendance was fantastic, and results from the evaluation forms plus numerous comments I have heard all indicate attendees were incredibly satisfied with the quality of the educational programming and the unique social events that take place at the STSA. The meeting featured many excellent presentations in an outstanding Postgraduate Program, Scientific Sessions with breakouts for each specialty, and Surgical Motion Pictures. The Postgraduate and Program Committees did a great job.



Michael J. Mack, MD

We now turn our full attention to planning the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Marco Island, Florida, which promises to be another great venue for our meeting; I look forward to seeing you there. Some of you may think you remember the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort from 2000 when STSA met there. However, the property has undergone a \$187 million renovation and redesign since we were there last and promises to be even more beautiful than before. The Resort is situated on three miles of pristine southwest Florida beaches, and offers several outstanding restaurants, a championship golf course, world-class spa, and a wide range of activities for the whole family. I encourage you to make plans now to attend!

Mark Krasna, MD and Ara Vaporciyan, MD, co-chairs of the 2009 Postgraduate Committee, with their team have assembled an outstanding program for Thursday morning, outlined on page 4. As in years past, the Postgraduate Program will consist of separate sessions for congenital, adult cardiac and general thoracic followed by a number of interesting pro-con debates. The Postgraduate Program will conclude with a timely talk by Edward Verrier, MD on how the practicing cardiothoracic surgeon can stay current through training in new technology.

After a successful abstract submission and review period, your Program Committee, chaired by John Ikonomidis, MD and Bryan Meyers, 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 July. There is this year another great line up of topics and speakers. And there will be time in the schedule for socializing and enjoying the beauty of the resort and Marco Island with your colleagues and family.

I'm excited to announce that I have invited Fred Mohr from Leipzig, Germany to be this year's President's Invited Speaker. He will also be speaking during the Postgraduate Program on the results of the Syntax Trial. I think he will have some important insights to offer that you will not want to miss. Irving Kron, MD has agreed to give the Kent Trinkle lecture this year. Irv has a great deal to share regarding resident training at the University of Virginia that I'm sure will be beneficial to us all. 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.

I would like to close by encouraging you to encourage your colleagues who may be eligible for STSA membership to apply this year. You know how special our organization is, and your encouragement will be an important incentive for prospective members considering membership. New members are vitally important for STSA to maintain its valuable role in the thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon community. Dr. Robert Jones, Chair of the Membership Committee, will welcome your help with recruitment and any information about potential new members.

*See you in Marco Island!*

**STSA 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting November 4-7, 2009**



Members attending their first Annual Meeting receive their membership certificates 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 7, 2008 in Austin.

Ahmad Reza Abrishamchian, MD	Lebanon, PA
Gorav Ailawadi, MD	Charlottesville, VA
Leheb Hisham Araim, MD	Cookeville, TN
Joseph Michael Arcidi, Jr., MD	Worcester, MA
Broadus Zane Atkins, MD	Durham, NC
Faisal Bakaeen, MD	Houston, TX
Reginald Baptiste, MD	Austin, TX
Shanda Blackmon, MD	Houston, TX
Mark Bleiweis, MD	Gainesville, FL
Blaine Borders, MD	Monroe, LA
James Ryan Burke, MD	Columbia, SC
Danny Chu, MD	Houston, TX
Kimberly Gandy, MD	Milwaukee, WI
Dwight Everett Hand, MD	Cincinnati, OH
S. Adil Husain, MD	Gainesville, FL
Adel Dinshaw Irani, MD	Houston, TX
Sunjay Kaushal, MD	Chicago, IL
Daniel Kreisel, MD	St. Louis, MO
Alexander Sasha Krupnick, MD	St. Louis, MO
Javier Lafuente, MD	Orlando, FL
Kevin Lobdell, MD	Charlotte, NC
John Mayer, MD	Boston, MA
L. Carr McClain, MD	Hattiesburg, MS
William Ogle, MD	Cape Girardeau, MO
Sara Jane Pereira, MD	Grand Junction, CO
Mark Plunkett, MD	Lexington, KY
J. Scott Rankin, MD	Nashville, TN
Harold Roberts, MD	Plantation, FL
Tomas Salerno, MD	Miami, FL
Edward Savage, MD	St. Louis, MO
John Matthew Toole, MD	Charleston, SC
Jeffrey A. Travis, MD	Columbus, GA
Uttam Tripathy, MD	Houston, TX
Keung Ung, MD	Paducah, KY
Jonathan Waxman, MD	Boca Raton, FL
James Whiteneck, MD	Tulsa, OK
Sai Yendamuri, MD	Buffalo, NY

## Update your contact information today!

Please e-mail (stsastsa.org) or call (800-685-7872) STSA with any updates to your contact information.

## 2008 STSA Annual Meeting Award Recipients



W. Steves Ring, MD (right) presents the Osler Abbott Award to John Hammon, MD.

The Osler Abbott Award, given annually to a member of the Association who excels in the art of discussionmanship, was presented to **John W. Hammon, MD** at the 55th 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.



Curt Tribble, MD (left) receives the Tiki Award from Robert Cerfolio, MD.

**Curt Tribble, MD** was awarded the 2008 Tiki Award. This award is given to the person who presents the most memorable and noteworthy slide at the Annual Meeting. While Dr. Tribble's Kent Trinkle lecture on the residency training program at the University of Florida at Gainesville included a number of interesting, if unconventional slides, one slide in particular, depicting spring break in Florida, won Dr. Tribble the coveted Tiki Award.

## 2008 Awards to be Presented at the 56th Annual Meeting

**G. Chad Hughes, MD**, of Durham, North Carolina was selected to receive the 2008 **Clifford Van Meter President's Award** for the best scientific paper given at the Annual Meeting. This superior paper, chosen by STSA President John Hammon, 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 "*Hybrid Repair of Aneurysms of the Transverse Aortic Arch: Mid-Term Results.*"

The **Hawley H. Seiler Residents Competition Award** is presented each year to an outstanding cardiothoracic resident whose presentation is deemed superior to all others. The recipient of the 2008 award is **David T. Cooke, MD**, for his paper and presentation titled "*Analysis of Cervical Esophageal Anastomotic Leaks After Transhiatal Esophagectomy: Risk Factors, Presentation, Detection.*"

## STSA Inspiration Award Nominations 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 2009 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:

Michael J. Mack, 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](http://www.stsa.org) and click on "Awards."

## Program Committee Meeting

The 2009 Program Committee met in Chicago on May 16 to review abstracts and plan the program for the 56th Annual Meeting in Austin. With 226 abstracts submitted, the Committee had many excellent papers from which to choose. Under the leadership of President Michael J. Mack, MD and Program Committee Co-Chairs John Ikonomidis, MD and Bryan Meyers, MD, an outstanding program was compiled.

Surgical Motion Pictures will once again kick off the Annual Meeting on Wednesday evening and Scientific Sessions will begin Thursday afternoon following the Postgraduate Program Thursday morning. Based on suggestions made by past meeting attendees and committee members' efforts to identify professional practice gaps, the scientific sessions will again feature cardiac, thoracic, and congenital breakout sessions on Friday afternoon. New this year, there will be additional breakouts on Saturday morning with transplant, cardiac, and thoracic sessions.

All scientific sessions have been scheduled to allow 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 only two questions.

In response to requests by attendees, the Coding and Ethics sessions will still be presented on Saturday morning but are scheduled consecutively so attendees may attend both. Also new this year is the addition of a peer reviewed history paper on Saturday morning. Dr. Fred Crawford will present the inaugural history paper titled, "*Horace Smithy – Pioneer Heart Surgeon.*"

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, tennis and fishing tournaments in the afternoon, and the famous Saturday night awards dinner and dance will all be featured on the program once again this year.

## Important Bylaws Change to Be Voted on at Annual Meeting

Two important revisions to STSA Bylaws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Marco Island this year. The STSA Council recently approved, for consideration of the membership, new language that would allow applicants who have completed a thoracic or cardiovascular research or clinical fellowship in an STSA state or region for at least twelve consecutive months to be eligible for membership.

A second proposed revision would allow the Membership Committee and Council to recommend acceptance of individuals who, despite not meeting membership criteria regarding training, practice, or research in the STSA region, have demonstrated significant involvement with the organization through their participation in the annual meeting, contributions to the scientific program, and service to the organization. After receiving approval by the Membership Committee and the Council, active membership would be contingent upon election by the membership at an annual meeting. These revisions would open membership to a small number of individuals who had formerly not been eligible.

Please refer to the enclosed STSA News insert to read the specific changes being voted on. Be sure to attend the Business Meeting (members only) on Friday, November 6 at 5:00 pm to cast your vote.

## STSA CME Update

### STSA CME Directors Meet With Staff in Chicago

Walter Merrill, MD, Director of CME, and Vinod Thourani, MD, Director Elect of CME recently met with staff at STSA headquarters in Chicago to assist in preparations for the self study report required for ACCME March 2010 reaccreditation. The meeting resulted in many important suggestions and resolutions aimed at furthering STSA's CME mission to design and deliver high-quality, practical, and scientifically rigorous educational programming at its Annual Meeting. Changes and clarifications will address the fact that Council members and planners are prohibited from accepting remuneration for the planning of the Annual Meeting, how issues of perceived bias detected during a CME activity are resolved, and how STSA ensures commercial interest will not influence educational planning. Additionally, beginning in 2009, relationship disclosures by leadership, staff, and presenters will be printed in the Annual Meeting Program Book and added to a special section of the STSA website at [www.stsa.org](http://www.stsa.org). For questions or comments regarding STSA CME policies or ACCME accreditation, please contact headquarters at 800-685-7872.

### STSA CME Mission Statement

STSA's CME mission statement was recently revised. To review the revised statement please visit [www.stsa.org](http://www.stsa.org) and click on "CME Information." The revised statement will also be printed in the advance program, which will arrive in your mailbox in July.

## Recruit a Member

Known for its camaraderie, social cohesion and rigorous clinical education programming, STSA offers members the opportunity to participate in a truly unique organization. But as an STSA member you already know how special our organization is. Please also remember how vitally important new members are for STSA to maintain its valuable role in the thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon community. STSA needs your help in recruiting new members. Prospective members are most likely to apply to the STSA after receiving an invitation from a current member to do so. With the expansion of membership criteria in recent years 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 available electronically at [www.stsa.org](http://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, 2009.

## 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, however, will require reapplication for membership.



# POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM OUTLINE

Thursday, November 5, 2009 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## Concurrent Breakout Sessions

### ADULT CARDIAC

Moderator: *Vinod Thourani & Jennifer Lawton*

#### 7:00 am - 7:15 am

Off Pump Apical Aortic Valve Replacement  
*John Brown*

#### 7:15 am - 7:30 am

Atrial Fibrillation; Surgical Approaches and Results  
*Vigneshwar Kasirajan*

#### 7:30 am - 7:45 am

Syntax Trial; What Does It Mean?  
*Friedrich Mohr*

#### 7:45 am - 8:15 am

Panel Discussion

### GENERAL THORACIC

Moderator: *Ara Vaporciyan & Mark Krasna*

#### 7:00 am - 7:25 am

Early Stage Lung Cancer - Adjuvant Therapy  
*Thomas D'Amico*

#### 7:25 am - 7:50 am

Lung Volume Reduction  
*Keith Naunheim*

#### 7:50 am - 8:15 am

Esophageal Cancer  
Treatment for Stage II  
*Mark Krasna*

### CONGENITAL

Moderator: *Eric Mendeloff*

#### 7:00 am - 7:15 am

Certification for Congenital  
Heart Surgeons  
*John Calhoun*

#### 7:15 am - 7:30 am

Ross Operation for Adults at Risk for Autograft  
Dilation  
*Ross Ungerleider*

#### 7:30 am - 7:45 am

Single Ventricle Approach to  
Repair for Ebstein's  
*Vaughn Starnes*

#### 7:45 am - 8:00 am

Two Ventricle Approach to Repair for Ebstein's  
*Christopher Knott-Craig*

#### 8:00 am - 8:15 am

Panel Discussion

BREAK

#### 8:15 am - 8:30 am

### Pro/Con Debates

#### 8:30 am - 9:05 am

Endoscopic Vein Harvest is Superior to  
Saphenous Vein Harvest  
Pro - *Vinod Thourani*  
Con - *Robert Poston*

#### 9:05 am - 9:40 am

Lung Cancer Screening Benefits Outweigh Harms  
Pro - *Robert Cerfolio*  
Con - *Reginald Munden*

#### 9:40 am - 10:15 am

Moderate Mitral Regurgitation Should Always be  
Addressed at the Time of CAB  
Pro - *Irving Kron*  
Con - *John Puskas*

BREAK

#### 10:15 am - 10:45 am

### Special Session

#### 10:45 am - 11:30 am

How Does the Practicing CT Surgeon Get  
Retrained in New Technology?  
*Edward Verrier*

## Activities for the Whole Family in Marco Island

There are activities for the whole family at the Marco Island Beach Resort and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the Resort's white sand beaches and tropical gulf breezes. The resort's beautiful pool and beach-front location provide numerous options for water sports and relaxation. From "dive-in movies," to scuba diving, to sailing and more, there are endless options for water enthusiasts. Shelling tours, tennis clinics, yoga, and family waterside bingo are just a few of the other activities available to guests at the Marco Island Beach Resort. The resort's spa is a luxurious and tranquil setting surrounded by beautiful beaches and the peaceful waters of Florida's Gulf Coast. The spa features various pampering treatments, as well as state-of-the-art fitness facilities, and salon services. The resort is also home to one of southwestern Florida's most acclaimed golf courses. The Rookery was designed by Robert Cupp, Jr. and features a blend of native topography and natural water hazards that golfers of all skill levels will appreciate. Watch for your advance program book to arrive in the coming weeks and be sure to take it home so you can begin planning a fun-filled trip to Marco Island with your family!

### The Official Newsletter of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

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