Dear Colleagues:

As our 51st Annual Meeting in Cancun draws near, I invite you to register for this great meeting, if you have not yet done so. We have some excellent speakers for the meeting including AMA Immediate Past President Donald Palmisano, special guest speaker Denton A. Cooley, and Kent Trinkle Education Lecturer Joseph Coselli.

In an effort to always keep our program informative and innovative, this year’s meeting will include a new Scientific Forum Session that will take place on Saturday morning and a Moderated Poster Session on Friday at 12:30pm. If you would like to view the program schedule or download a registration and hotel form, please visit the STSA web site at www.stsa.org or call 800/685-7872 to have one mailed to you. The deadline for registration is October 22, 2004, so please mail or fax your forms today.

I have personally explored the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Hotel and have found the amenities to be fantastic. I think you will find the golf, tennis, fishing, and swimming facilities to be first class, they are sure to enrich your meeting experience. Also, count on attending the annual formal black tie dinner dance. This evening of dining, dancing, and networking with colleagues is sure to be an unforgettable one!

At press time the STSA has received 25 membership applications. Thanks to Jack Marbarger and the Membership Committee for their work in recruitment and a big thank you to everyone who extended an application to these prospective members.

I encourage each of you to participate fully in the excellent opportunities for continuing education and the exciting events that have been planned for this year’s meeting in Cancun. Again, I look forward to seeing you in November!

— D. Glenn Pennington, M.D., STSA President
RECRUIT A MEMBER!
As you know, new members are a key ingredient in maintaining STSA’s vital role in the thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon community. Many of you have already educated others on the benefits of our association, like the unique camaraderie and social cohesion of STSA, combined with a rigorous clinical education process. Please look to your colleagues that fit the STSA profile. Membership forms are available electronically at our Web site, www.stsa.org or call us at 800/685-7872 to have one mailed to you. Please act quickly. The deadline is rapidly approaching.

2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES
You will be receiving your 2005 STSA dues statement in November. There will be no dues increase this year. Your dues help support the organization’s educational efforts. Please send in your payment promptly. Thank you.

Also, this year you will notice that the dues statement includes a line allowing you to make a voluntary contribution to the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE) with your STSA dues. Please give whatever you feel is appropriate to this worthwhile organization. Your contribution will be acknowledged directly by TSFRE.

Tentative Schedule of Events
51st Annual Meeting of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

The Southern Thoracic Surgical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (AACME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The STSA designates this activity for a maximum of 19.75 category I credits toward the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually devoted to the activity.

Thursday, November 4, 2004
7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration
8:00 am – 12:00 pm Postgraduate Program
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm Exhibits Open – Scientific Posters in Exhibit Area
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm First Scientific Session
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Break – Visit Exhibits and View Scientific Posters
8:00 pm – 10:15 pm Surgical Videos

Friday, November 5, 2004
7:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration
7:00 am – 4:00 pm Exhibits Open – Scientific Posters in Exhibit Area
7:45 am – 9:15 am Second Scientific Session
9:15 am – 9:45 am Break – Visit Exhibits and View Scientific Posters
9:45 am – 10:30 am President’s Invited Lecturer: Donald Palmisano, Past AMA President
10:30 am – 10:45 am Kent Trinkle Education Lectureship: Joseph Coselli
10:45 am – 11:30 am Presidential Address: D. Glenn Pennington
11:30 am – 12:30 pm All Attendee Luncheon
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Moderated Poster Presentations (NEW!)
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm Second Scientific Session
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break – Visit Exhibits and View Scientific Posters
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm STSA Business Meeting – STSA Members Only
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Presidents Mixer

Saturday, November 6, 2004
6:45 am – 11:00 am Registration
6:45 am – 10:30 am Exhibits Open – Scientific Posters in Exhibit Area
7:00 am – 8:00 am Coding Workshop
7:00 am – 8:00 am Ethics Session
7:00 am – 8:00 am Basic Science Forum (NEW!)
8:15 am – 11:00 pm Third Scientific Session
9:00 am – 9:15 am Special Guest Speaker: Denton A. Cooley
9:15 am – 9:45 am Break – Visit Exhibits and View Scientific Posters
11:00 am Program Adjourns
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Various Social & Sporting Events (Fishing, Golf, Tennis)
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Annual Black Tie Dinner Dance/Reception & Banquet
STSA Annual Meeting Guest Speakers

**Donald Palmisano, MD, JD**, Immediate Past President of the American Medical Association, will be the Presidential Invited Speaker at this year’s STSA 51st Annual Meeting. Dr. Palmisano is an authoritative advocate for the medical profession, who has represented America’s physicians before Congress and the national media. In 2000, the Department of Defense chose him as one of 60 American “opinion leaders” to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. In that role he took part in maneuvers with the U.S. Armed Forces. Driven by his interest in medical liability reform, Dr. Palmisano obtained his JD from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans. He is also a clinical professor of surgery and clinical professor of medical jurisprudence at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. In Cancun, Dr. Palmisano will speak Friday morning, November 5, on “Physician Leadership in a Time of Healthcare Crisis: United We Triumph –Divided We Fail.”

Saturday morning, November 6, will feature **Denton A. Cooley, MD**, as Special Guest Speaker. His speech is titled "My Sixty Years of Cardiovascular Surgery". Dr. Cooley is President and Surgeon-in-Chief of the Texas Heart Institute, which he founded in 1962. He is Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, a consultant in cardiovascular surgery at Texas Children’s Hospital and a clinical professor of surgery at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Dr. Cooley served on the full-time faculty of Baylor College of Medicine for 18 years as a professor of surgery. A world-renowned surgeon, he has pioneered many techniques used in cardiovascular surgery. He performed the first successful human heart transplant in the United States in 1968. In 1969, he became the first heart surgeon to implant an artificial heart in man. Dr. Cooley and his associates have performed more than 100,000 open heart operations—more than any other group in the world.

Each year, in honor of Dr. J. Kent Trinkle’s remarkable dedication to student education, an STSA member is selected to present on his/her training program. This year’s Kent Trinkle Lecture will be given by **Joseph S. Coselli, MD**, Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and a Professor of Surgery in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. He specializes in cardiovascular, thoracic and vascular surgery, with a keen interest in the surgical management of aortic aneurysms and patients afflicted with Marfan syndrome. Dr. Coselli’s lecture will address current issues of thoracic surgical training from the perspective of his own training program.

Register today for the STSA 51st Annual Meeting in Cancun, Mexico!

The 51st Annual Meeting will take place November 4-6, 2004, at the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Hotel, in beautiful Cancun Mexico.

In addition to the great educational programming, networking opportunities and fun social events, the STSA 51st Annual Meeting in Cancun offers the annual golf, tennis, or fishing outings, as well as the option of day trips to the ruins, shopping, and more. Look for registration information on our Web site, www.stsa.org.

Join us in Cancun!
STSA 51st Annual Meeting
in Cancun, Mexico!

November 4-6, 2004

New Features for Annual Meeting

The STSA Annual Meeting in Cancun will have two new educational sessions. On Friday afternoon, there will be moderated poster presentations. Each poster will be discussed in detail by the author. All authors will also be personally available with their posters for questions and further discussion during the break that afternoon.

On Saturday morning, STSA will hold the first Basic Science Forum with five outstanding papers presenting important research findings. Come learn the latest.

Don’t Forget the Fun

Saturday afternoon activities include a golf tournament at beautiful Pok-ta-Pok golf course. Or you can participate in the tennis tournament to be held in the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Hotel. There’s also a deep sea fishing excursion. And don’t forget the annual black tie banquet and dinner dance. The theme this year will be ‘black and white.’ Everything in the banquet hall will be in black and white with a very ‘sophisticated’ style. The dinner dance is always a lot of fun. Don’t miss it this year in beautiful Cancun.