Dear Colleagues:

As our 52nd Annual Meeting in Orlando draws near, I invite you to register for this great meeting soon, if you have not yet done so. The meeting this year promises to be another exceptional educational event. The Program Committee and the Postgraduate Committee have planned an exciting array of important topics and renowned speakers. I am especially pleased to announce that the President's Invited Lecturer this year will be Immediate Past President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), Tirone David. In addition, the 2005 Kent Trinkle Education Lectureship will be given by Neal Kon of Wake Forest University.

If you would like to review the 52nd Annual Meeting program, visit the STSA Web site at www.stsa.org. I'm confident you will find many important sessions relevant to your patients and practice. On the Web site you can also download meeting registration and hotel reservation forms. If you have questions, call STSA headquarters at 800/685-7872. Don't forget, the deadline for registration is October 14, 2005, so please mail or fax your forms today.

You won't want to miss this meeting in Orlando. I have personally explored the Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resorts and believe the facilities will be fantastic for STSA members and their families. I think you will find the golf, tennis and swimming facilities to be first class, not to mention the nearby parks. Epcot®, Magic Kingdom® Park, Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park, and Disney-MGM Studios are all a few minutes away and are sure to enrich your meeting experience. Also, I hope you will plan on attending the annual formal black tie dinner dance on Saturday, November 12. It is always a special evening and always a lot of fun. It will be difficult to top last year's award ceremonies, but I am sure this year will bring even more surprises.

As you know, this is also the time of year when STSA launches its annual membership recruitment campaign. At press time, we have received 28 membership applications. A special thanks goes to Richard Prager, STSA Membership Chair and the Membership Committee for their work in recruitment. My thanks also to everyone who extended an application and provided letters of support to these prospective members.

November will be here sooner than you think. Visit www.stsa.org today to learn more about the upcoming Annual Meeting. 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 Orlando. I look forward to seeing you in November!

~Irving Kron, MD, STSA President
NEW THIS YEAR
CME Linked to Evaluations the 52nd Annual Meeting

A new CME/evaluation process will be implemented this year for physicians attending the STSA 52nd Annual Meeting. In previous years, physicians completed both a CME form (found either in the program book or as a stand-alone form) and an evaluation form.

This year, the CME and the session evaluation forms will be part of the same form. Physicians wishing to receive credit for sessions they attend will be required to complete the evaluation form for the session. This will be the only way physicians will be able to earn CME for their attendance.

The evaluation form will provide physicians the opportunity to offer feedback to the STSA Council and Program Committee regarding content offered, including information about applicability of the content to current practice, quality of the material presented and recommendations for future programming. This information is invaluable in the planning of future STSA educational programs.

In addition to being useful for program planning, program evaluation and future needs assessment are important components of the requirements that the STSA must meet to maintain accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). It is by meeting the requirements set forth by the ACCME that the STSA is able to award CME credit for educational programming.

How the Process Will Work
To ensure that this new process will work effectively, the forms will be available on-site at all of the sessions offered.

Each evaluation will include a series of questions regarding the program content. In addition, physicians will need to fill in their STSA membership ID number and the actual amount of time spent in individual sessions. Without this information, CME credit cannot be awarded. Non-members will be given a number that is generated for this purpose. Physicians will simply fill in their member ID or specially generated number, note the actual time spent in the session, complete the evaluation, and submit it in an evaluation bin. Evaluation forms will be processed soon after the Annual Meeting and entered into an electronic file that STSA staff will use to generate a CME certificate after the meeting. These certificates will be mailed to physicians.

This new process will allow the STSA to maintain an electronic record of CME earned by physicians. Files will be maintained for a minimum of six (6) years. Any questions regarding this new procedure should be directed to Jeanne Delaney Lippert, at 312/202-5835, via e-mail at lippert@stsa.org.

STSA ANNUAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tirone David, MD
Immediate Past President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) will be the President’s Invited Speaker at this year’s STSA 52nd Annual Meeting. Dr. David is currently head of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Toronto General Hospital and is a faculty member in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. Dr. David’s notable contributions include improving the understanding of the role of the mitral valve in the systolic function of the heart, developing and refining a variety of techniques to repair rather than replace the mitral valve, the development of new approaches to reconstruct ventricular septal defects after myocardial infarction, the introduction of stainless porcine aortic valves, and an operation that is named after him – the Tirone David reimplantation method of aortic valve sparing for aortic root aneurysm. In Orlando, Dr. David will speak Friday morning, November 11, about the importance of surgical creativity.

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 Neal Kon, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Kon will speak in Orlando on Friday morning, November 11th.

Tentative Schedule of Events
52nd 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 20.25 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually devoted to the activity.

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Who will win the Tiki Award?

Attend the STSA Annual Meeting to Find Out!

Recruit a Member!

New members are a key ingredient in maintaining STSA’s vital role in the cardiothoracic surgery community. There is still time to submit a membership application. Please consider who among your friends and colleagues might quality for STSA membership and invite him or her to complete an application form. Your offer to prepare a sponsorship letter will be strong encouragement.

A membership form is included with this newsletter and the forms are also available electronically at the STSA Web site, www.stsa.org or call us at 800/685-7872 to have one mailed to you. Please act quickly, the deadline is September 15th.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE STSA 52ND ANNUAL MEETING IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA!

The 52nd Annual Meeting will take place November 10-12, 2005, at the Disney Yacht & Beach Club Resorts in sunny Orlando.

- outstanding educational programming • networking opportunities • fun social events • annual golf and tennis tournaments
- Magic Kingdom® Park, Epcot®, Disney-MGM Studios and the Disney’s Animal Kingdom® Theme Park and more!

Look for registration information on our site, www.stsa.org