As summer ends and we become increasingly busy with our practices and other fall activities, I want to remind you that the 54th Annual STSA Meeting is just around the corner. I am excited about the variety and depth of the program.

The meeting will kick off Wednesday evening with the popular Surgical Motion Pictures. Thursday morning the Postgraduate Course begins with breakout sessions in adult cardiac, congenital and thoracic surgery. Watch out for the congenital section where Thomas Spyra, Edward Bove, James Tweddell and Ross Ungerleider relate what each thinks is most important in Norwood Stage I. Sparks could fly! The pro-con debates are back by popular request. The Postgraduate Program concludes with a talk by Stewart Horsley on a topic that affects us all titled, “Reshaping/Retooling your Practice/Self.”

The scientific sessions encompass a wide variety of subject matter and represent important reviews, reports of clinical trials/experiences, and innovative basic science research. Assigned discussants will take a limited amount of time to begin the discussion before turning it over for audience participation.

My mentor and friend, Dr. William Gay, will be sharing his wisdom regarding thoracic education as my invited lecturer. Since Bill was the person who gave me a position in cardiothoracic residency, this is a special occasion for me.

On Friday afternoon we will try something new – cardiac and thoracic breakout sessions. The afternoon will conclude with the STSA Annual Business Meeting. I would like to remind all new members to attend, be recognized, and receive your membership certificate. Friday evening, please plan to join me at the President’s Mixer.

For the early Saturday AM risers, you will have your choice of attending either the Ethics Session titled, “Should Smoking Tobacco Products in Public Places be Legally Banned?” or the Coding Workshop titled, “Update on CPT and Physician Payment Issues for 2008.” The STSA 54th Annual Meeting will conclude with our Black Tie Dinner. I have departed a bit from past custom and engaged a jazz band for our entertainment. The always memorable evening will also feature the inaugural presentation of the STSA Inspiration Award.

I am particularly excited about our activities for spouses and guests. The shelling eco-tour and the Old Naples shopping and lunch excursion provide opportunities to take advantage of the Florida locale. Betsy Urschel deserves special thanks for arranging a two-hour seminar by Jody Potts, PhD titled, “How to Communicate with Left and Right Brain People.” Jody presented at the STS meeting in San Diego and her invitation is based on the rave reviews she received there for her timely subject matter.

The Coconut Point Resort and Spa offers endless choices for activities and adventures for the whole family. Pools, waterslides, golf, spa, tennis, climbing wall, games, biking, hiking, gatherings around the firepit – these are just some of the exciting options for fun and relaxation in Bonita Springs.

I urge everyone to register today and plan to attend the STSA Annual Meeting. Once you have experienced the collegiality, fun, and scientific value of a STSA meeting, you will understand why members return year after year.
STSA 54th Annual Meeting
Join us in Bonita Springs!

November 7-10, 2007 – Hyatt Regency
Coconut Point Resort & Spa

Experience the rigorous scientific educational programming and the distinctive camaraderie that make the STSA Annual Meeting unique.

2007 Annual Meeting Highlights

- New Cardiac and General Thoracic Breakout Sessions
- Presidential Address by Carolyn E. Reed, MD
- Coding Workshop: CPT & Physician Payment Updates for 2008
- Spouse and Guest Activities and Entertainment
- Ethics Debate: Smoking in Public Places—Should it be Banned?
- Featured Lecture by William A. Gay, Jr., MD
- New Pro/Con Postgraduate Sessions
- Famous STSA Black Tie Dinner

Review a detailed program and register online at www.stsa.org, or complete the enclosed registration form. Be sure to register by October 11, 2007. After the 11th, please wait to register on-site.

Please note, there will be an additional $50 charge for attendees registering on-site.

Guest Speakers

William A. Gay, Jr., MD, emeritus professor of surgery in the Cardiac Surgery Section of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine, will be the President’s Invited Speaker at the STSA 54th Annual Meeting.

Dr. Gay received his medical degree from Duke University. After completing two years of his surgical residency at Duke University Medical Center, he spent two years at the Clinic of Surgery, National Heart Institute (now National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute), as a clinical associate. He then returned to Duke where he completed his residency in general and cardiothoracic surgery. Dr. Gay then joined the faculty at Cornell University Medical College in New York and achieved full professorship in 1978. In 1984, he was appointed professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Utah School of Medicine and remained in that position until 1992.

From 1990 to 1992, Dr. Gay also served as vice president for health sciences at the University of Utah and chairman of the board of University Hospitals and Clinics. From 1993 to 1995, he was professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. In 1995, Dr. Gay was named professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. From 1997 to 2000, he was the John M. Shoenberg Professor of Surgery and chief of cardiac surgery. Dr. Gay retired from clinical practice in 2000.

Dr. Gay was a director of the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. He now serves the ABTS as executive director.

Dr. Gay’s lecture in Bonita Springs is titled “Education, a Lifelong Commitment for Thoracic Surgeons,” and will be presented Friday morning, November 9th.

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 Walter H. Merrill, MD, professor and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Merrill will speak in Bonita Springs on Friday morning, November 9th.

Walter H. Merrill, MD
Schedule of Events

The Southern Thoracic Surgical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The STSA designates this activity for a maximum of 21 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.

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
3:00 pm – 8:00 pm Registration
8:00 pm – 10:15 pm Surgical Motion Pictures
(Pizza & Refreshments provided)

Thursday, November 8, 2007
6:30 am – 5:00 pm Registration
7:00 am – 8:15 am Postgraduate Breakouts
Adult Cardiac
Congenital
Thoracic
8:15 am – 8:30 am Break
8:30 am – 11:45 am Postgraduate Program
11:45 am – 1:00 pm Break
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Exhibits Open
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm First Scientific Session A
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm First Scientific Session B

Friday, November 9, 2007
6:30 am – 5:30 pm Registration
6:30 am – 11:00 am Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall
7:00 am – 8:00 am Basic Science Forum
8:00 am – 12:00 pm Second Scientific Session
10:00 am – 10:30 am Break & Visit Exhibits
10:30 am – 11:10 am President’s Invited Lecturer:
William A. Gay, Jr., MD,
Washington University
“Education, a Lifelong Commitment for Thoracic Surgeons”
11:10 am – 11:20 am Kent Trinkle Education Lectureship:
Walter Merrill, MD,
University of Cincinnati

Sunday, November 11, 2007
6:30 am – 11:00 am Registration
6:30 am – 11:00 am Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall
7:00 am – 8:00 am Ethics Session: “Should Smoking Tobacco Products in Public Areas be Legally Banned?”
7:00 am – 8:00 am Coding Workshop: “Update on CPT and Physician Payment Issues for 2008”
8:30 am – 9:45 am Fourth Scientific Session A
9:45 am – 10:15 am Break & Visit Exhibits
10:15 am – 11:30 am Fourth Scientific Session B
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Program Adjourns
12:30 pm – 6:00 pm Golf, Tennis and Fishing Tournaments *Ticketed Event
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Annual Black Tie Dinner
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner and Awards *Ticketed Event
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm Dinner and Awards

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
11:20 am – 12:00 pm Presidential Address:
Carolyn E. Reed, MD
“Patient versus Customer, Technology versus Touch: Where Has Humanism Gone?”

Thursday, November 8, 2007
12:00 pm All Attendee Luncheon
1:45 pm – 3:45 pm Spouses’ Postgraduate Program
*Ticketed Event
2:00 pm – 4:15 pm Exhibits Open
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Third Scientific Session A
Cardiac Breakout
Thoracic Breakout
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Break & Visit Exhibits
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Third Scientific Session B
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm STSA Business Meeting
STSA Members Only
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm President’s Mixer

Saturday, November 10, 2007
6:30 am – 11:00 am Registration
6:45 am – 10:30 am Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall
7:15 am – 8:15 am Ethics Session: “Should Smoking Tobacco Products in Public Areas be Legally Banned?”
7:15 am – 8:15 am Coding Workshop: “Update on CPT and Physician Payment Issues for 2008”
8:30 am – 9:45 am Fourth Scientific Session A
9:45 am – 10:15 am Break & Visit Exhibits
10:15 am – 11:30 am Fourth Scientific Session B
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Program Adjourns
12:30 pm – 6:00 pm Golf, Tennis and Fishing Tournaments *Ticketed Event
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Annual Black Tie Dinner
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner and Awards *Ticketed Event
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm Dinner and Awards

*Ticketed Event
Plan to attend the STSA Annual Business Meeting on Friday, November 9, 2007. The Meeting will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, Calusa ABCD, in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Members will hear reports and updates from Committee Chairs. Included in the reports will be the Nominating Committee’s presentation of a slate of candidates to fill vacant leadership positions in 2008. Additionally, the Membership Committee will present for election a list of candidates to become new members of STSA. Members attending their first Annual Meeting will also be recognized and presented with a membership certificate. Please note that the Annual Business Meeting is open to STSA members only.

Activities and Entertainment

Each year, the STSA Annual Meeting provides attendees and guests with opportunities for networking and relaxation that are among the meeting’s most enjoyable memories. With a wide array of planned activities and numerous adventures available at the resort and in the area, the 54th Annual Meeting promises to have something for everyone. Please review the enclosed information about planned activities and entertainment and be sure to register in advance!