

STS Members Participate in **T*S*D*A BOOT CAMP**

Recognizing the ongoing need for basic yet intensive training early in a cardiothoracic surgeon's career, the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association (TSDA) held its second Boot Camp, July 30-Aug. 2, in Chapel Hill, NC.

Nearly 60 leaders in cardiothoracic surgery education volunteered as faculty members over the weekend to lead Boot Camp courses and participate in faculty development sessions that identified critical issues concerning the future of cardiothoracic surgery education.

The program, introduced in 2008 by TSDA and this year funded by a grant from the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education, Inc. (JCTSE), provided 32 resident participants with training in five specific areas: cardiopulmonary bypass, anastomosis, open lobectomy, bronchoscopy/mediastinoscopy, and aortic valve surgery.

Boot Camp program directors and STS members James I. Fann, MD, Richard H. Feins, MD, and George L. Hicks, MD, crafted the intensive two-and-a-half day course based on emerging needs in CT surgery residency education. The use of simulators for both the cardiac and thoracic sessions provided Boot Camp participants with hands-on experience in basic cardiothoracic operating skills, allowing them to be better prepared when entering the operating room in their home programs.

Several members of STS leadership also attended as faculty members, including Gordon F. Murray, MD, STS President; Douglas E. Wood, MD, STS Secretary; David A. Fullerton, MD, STS Secretary-

Elect; and Richard J. Shemin, STS Director-at-Large. Edward D. Verrier, MD, JCTSE Surgical Director of Education, was also an active participant.

Residency program directors were invited to register one incoming resident on a first come-first served basis. Instruments, tissue, simulators, equipment, and materials were largely donated by industry, including CryoLife, Enthicon-Endo Surgery, Immer-

teder Boot Camp an "outstanding educational experience" and the "best post-graduate experience to date."

Residents also expressed gratitude toward the faculty, were "very impressed with the faculty turnout and involvement" and felt "the one-on-one faculty teaching is critical. It is important that all of the faculty realize how grateful we are for the time they spent with us."



Through participation in the TSDA Boot Camp, 32 residents received hands-on experience in basic cardiothoracic operating skills. The residents shown above were participants in a course which offered open lobectomy training.

Ajit Sachdeva, MD, Director, Division of Education, American College of Surgeons, who attended Boot Camp as an observer, agreed. "The opportunity for the incoming residents to learn and practice these skills in a safe environment under the watchful eye of expert surgeons was very special," said Dr. Sachdeva. "The residents appeared to gain a tremendous amount of knowledge and skills during the experiential and didactic components of the course and appeared to appreciate the opportunity to work closely with nationally renowned faculty. The bonding and camaraderie between the residents was quite evident."

sion Medical, Medtronic, Olympus America, Teleflex Medical, Scanlan International, Sorin Group, and St. Jude Medical. Post-meeting evaluations show that the 2009 TSDA Boot Camp was a success. Resident feedback said they "thoroughly benefited from the experience" and con-

To view photos and syllabus materials from the TSDA Boot Camp 2009, visit www.tsda.org.

For more information, contact Beth Winer, Affiliate and Marketing Manager, at (312) 202-5854 or bwiner@sts.org.