



January 11, 2012

Dear Thoracic Surgery Program Director:

The 2012 Thoracic Surgery Directors Association (TSDA) In-Training Examination (ITE) is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2012, with a backup exam date of Saturday, April 21, 2012. The ITE is designed to assess the knowledge of current residents in thoracic surgery. Subject matter will be equally divided between general thoracic and cardiac surgery. The exam is offered only as a computer-based exam, and it must be completed within a 4.5 hour period. The exam must be launched between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in each respective time zone. Backup date arrangements must be pre-approved by the TSDA office.

TSDA will offer the examination online through Internet Testing Systems. Residents **MUST** be pre-registered with TSDA by their program in order to sit for the exam. The enclosed **Registration Form** must be completed by a training program representative. The exam must be given at the training site, and must be actively proctored by a Board-certified thoracic surgeon. Home computer or other off-site access is not allowed.

Please review and share the enclosed **Minimum System Requirements for Online Testing** with your institution's IT manager, Program Coordinator and exam proctor. It is essential that these requirements are met prior to exam day. A program representative is responsible for running a System Test to ensure your institution's operating system will function properly, and for launching the test on exam day. See the enclosed **General Information** sheet for additional information on this process.

The enclosed **Registration Form** and **Letter of Agreement** both must be completed and returned to TSDA by no later than **February 17, 2012**. Mail, fax and e-mail copies of the forms are acceptable. Please keep copies for your own files. Payment by check must be received prior to the exam date, or residents' access may be denied.

Please contact me at bwiner@tsda.org or 312-202-5855 with any questions.

Thank you,

Beth Winer
TSDA Senior Manager