



TSDA News

Thoracic Surgery Directors Association

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President's Greeting

George L. Hicks, Jr., MD

I am pleased to bring you the Fall 2010 issue of *TSDA News*. Since the last issue, TSDA hosted the 2010 Boot Camp, which has grown into a well-oiled collaboration between TSDA and the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education, Inc. Boot Camp has gained national recognition among CT educators and residents alike, and follow-up survey results indicate a strong support for simulation as a teaching modality. Plans are in the works for additional Boot Camp programs, and TSDA hopes to accommodate residents from both traditional and integrated programs.

Collecting and posting current talks for the TSDA Education Universe remains a priority, and there are now 34 new talks posted on TSDA.org. Additional talks are expected to be posted in the coming weeks, so please encourage your residents to visit the New Talks section of TSDA.org often. Faculty members are encouraged to submit talks for posting, and simple, step-by-step instructions are posted on TSDA.org.

Please plan to attend the upcoming TSDA General Session, scheduled for January 29 in San Diego, CA. We will be addressing several important issues, including the status of the TSDA Education Universe, plans for future programs, and budgetary issues. Suggestions for the meeting agenda are welcomed; [contact me](#) directly to discuss any issues you feel should be addressed by TSDA.

On behalf of TSDA's 2010 officers, we look forward to seeing you in January in San Diego.

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TSDA Meeting Dates

TSDA Congenital Program Directors Meeting

Sunday, October 24, 2010

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Division Room

Westin O'Hare

Chicago, IL

TSDA Curriculum Committee Meeting

Friday, November 5, 2010

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Grand Harbor Salon 6

Disney's Yacht & Beach Club

Orlando, FL

TSDA General Session

Saturday, January 29, 2011

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Room Assignment Pending

San Diego Convention Center

San Diego, CA

TSDA Executive Committee

Monday, January 31, 2011

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Room Assignment Pending

San Diego Convention Center

San Diego, CA

TSDA Curriculum Committee

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Room Assignment Pending

San Diego Convention Center

San Diego, CA

Interested in viewing presentations from previous TSDA meetings? Visit the [Meetings Archive](#) section of TSDA.org.

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Save the Dates

In-Training Exam

April 9, 2011

April 16, 2011 (back-up date)

2011 Match for 2012 Appointment Year

[National Resident Matching Program](#)

Match Opens: January 5, 2011

Ranking Option Opens: April 6, 2011

Quota Change Deadline: May 11, 2011

Ranking Option Closes: May 25, 2011

Match Day: June 8, 2011

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TSDA Hosts Third Annual Boot Camp

32 first-year residents gather for hands-on training.

Recognizing the continued need for basic yet intensive training early in a cardiothoracic surgeon's career, the TSDA held its third Boot Camp, July 8-11, 2010 in Chapel Hill, NC. The program, developed by TSDA and funded in-part by an educational grant from the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education, Inc. (JCTSE), provided resident participants with training in five specific CT surgical areas: cardiopulmonary bypass, anastomosis, open lobectomy, bronchoscopy/mediastinoscopy, and aortic valve surgery. More than 30 volunteer faculty members and guests donated their time and expertise to lead the resident courses.

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

The TSDA Boot Camp was held in conjunction with the JCTSE's Educating the Educator program, a faculty development course focused on delivery of skill-based teaching techniques and methods to convert educational efforts into career advancement. Residents and faculty of both programs networked throughout the weekend.

Resident evaluations were collected from all attendees and feedback was universally positive. All residents indicated they would recommend Boot Camp to another resident, and 100% agreed that Boot Camp was time well-spent. Residents considered Boot Camp an "excellent course for learning cardiothoracic surgery" and "a fantastic and rewarding event." Program director survey results were also positive. Eighty-two percent responded that their resident exhibited improved technical skills following participation in Boot Camp; 95% indicated they would send a resident to a future Boot Camp; and 82% expressed interest in participating as Boot Camp faculty.

Residency program directors were invited to register one incoming resident to Boot Camp on a first-come, first-served basis. Instruments, tissue, simulators, equipment, and materials were largely donated by industry, including CAE Healthcare, The Chamberlain Group, CryoLife, Ethicon-Endo Surgery, Karl Storz Endoscopy, Maquet Cardiopulmonary, Medtronic, Olympus America, Teleflex Medical, Scanlan International, Sorin Group, and St. Jude Medical. The University of North Carolina Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery also provided in-kind support.

Visit the [2010 Boot Camp](#) section of TSDA.org to view photos and syllabus materials. For more information, contact Beth Winer, Affiliate and Marketing Manager, at bwiner@tsda.org or 312-202-5855.

2010 Boot Camp Program Directors:

James I. Fann, MD, Stanford University; Richard H. Feins, MD, University of North Carolina; George L. Hicks, Jr.,

MD, University of Rochester

2010 Boot Camp Faculty:

Ron E. Angona, Jr., CCP, University of Rochester; Manjit S. Bains, MD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Harold M. Burkhart, MD, Mayo Clinic; Andrea J. Carpenter, MD, University of Texas-San Antonio; Alfonso D. Chiscano, MD, University of Texas-San Antonio; Daniel N. Coore, PhD, University of the West Indies; Thomas M. Daniel, MD, University of Virginia; Alberto de Hoyos, MD, Northwestern University; L. Penfield Faber, MD, Rush University; James Gangemi, MD, University of Rochester; Eugene A. Grossi, MD, New York University; Mark D. Iannettoni, MD, University of Iowa; Irving L. Kron, MD, University of Virginia; George J. Magovern, MD, Allegheny General Hospital; Frank Manetta, MD, North Shore Long Island Jewish Hospital; Walter H. Merrill, MD, University of Mississippi; Daniel L. Miller, MD, Emory University; Joseph I. Miller, MD, Emory University; Nahush A. Mokadam, MD, University of Washington; Robert S. Poston, MD, Boston Medical College; Paul S. Ramphal, DM, University of the West Indies; Carolyn E. Reed, MD, Carolinas Medical Center; Daniel Richards, University of Rochester; W. Steves Ring, MD, University of Texas Southwestern; Jonathan Salud, Northwestern University; Lawrence Salud, Northwestern University; Peter M. Scholz, MD, UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Richard J. Shemin, MD, University of California-Los Angeles; Mark D. Turrentine, MD, Indiana University; Jennifer D. Walker, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital; Cameron Wright, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital; Nirmal Veeramachaneni, MD, University of North Carolina

2010 Camp Residency Programs:

Albany Medical Center; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Boston University; Brigham & Women's Hospital; Duke University; Indiana University; Loma Linda University; Massachusetts General Hospital; Mayo Clinic; Medical University of South Carolina; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Mount Sinai Medical Center; New York University; North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center; Northwestern University; Oregon Health & Science University; University of California-Davis; University of California-Los Angeles; University of Colorado; University of Kentucky; University of Michigan; University of Minnesota; University of North Carolina; University of Pennsylvania; University of Pittsburgh; University of Rochester; University of Southern California; University of Texas-San Antonio; University of Virginia; Vanderbilt University; Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital; Yale/New Haven Hospital

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In-Training Exam Set for Spring 2011

New exam now in development.

The TSDA 2011 In-Training Exam (ITE) now in development is scheduled to be administered on April 9, with a back-up exam date offered on April 16. Information and registration packets are scheduled to mail in early 2011.

The ITE is designed to assess knowledge among current residents in thoracic surgery. Test questions are equally divided between general thoracic and cardiac surgery. The cardiac section will be chaired by Dr. V. Seenu Reddy (University of Texas-San Antonio); the thoracic section will be chaired by Dr. Sandra Starnes (University of Cincinnati).

The computer-based ITE must be given at the training program site and actively proctored by a Board-certified thoracic surgeon. Home computer access is not permitted. A mandatory pre-exam survey will also be conducted to gauge the residents' opinions of their job-search experiences and other issues. Exam proctors will be required to take a Sample Assessment to ensure each institution's IT operating system will function properly on exam day.

As in previous years, individual results will be sent only to the residency program director. It is expected that program directors will meet individually with residents to go over exam results, provide feedback, and identify areas

in need of remediation.

Comparative performance reports for the 2010 ITE were mailed to program directors in June. [Resident survey results and percent correct graphs by residency year are posted on TSDA.org.](#)

For more information about the ITE, contact Beth Winer, TSDA Affiliate Manager, at bwiner@tsda.org or 312-202-5855.

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TSDA Curriculum Update: Operation Renewal

Additional talks posted on TSDA.org.

A total of 34 talks are now posted on the [New Talks section of TSDA.org](#) and are accessible using current operating systems for PC and Mac computers. The TSDA Curriculum Committee recruited faculty members to create new talks as part of the Education Universe renewal project, and additional talks are expected to be posted in the coming months. Faculty members are encouraged to submit talks for the TSDA Education Universe. [Click here](#) to view instructions on how to create a talk.

To view the 88-week curriculum, talks, readings, and archived issues of the TSDA Weekly Curriculum, visit the [Weekly Curricula section of TSDA.org](#). The TSDA Curriculum Committee will meet on November 5 in Orlando, FL during the STSA 57th Annual Meeting. For more information, contact TSDA Curriculum Committee Chair Dr. Curt Tribble at ctribble@surgery.umsmmed.edu or 601-984-5171.

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Response to Proposed Changes to Resident Duty Hour Standards

TSDA recently joined seven other cardiothoracic surgery organizations in a response to ACGME proposed changes to its resident duty hour standards. The letter, sent on August 20, 2010 and available on TSDA.org or by [clicking here](#), was signed by George L. Hicks, Jr., MD, TSDA President, as well as Douglas J. Mathisen, MD, President, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons; Irving L. Kron, MD, President, American Association for Thoracic Surgery; Valerie W. Rusch, MD, Chair, American Board of Thoracic Surgery; Michael J. Mack, MD, President, Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education; Keith S. Naunheim, MD, President, Southern Thoracic Surgical Association; Robbin G. Cohen, MD, President, Western Thoracic Surgical Association; and Carlos Mery, MD, President, Thoracic Surgery Residents Association.

The ACGME created a Web site devoted to this topic, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The Web site shares background and detail regarding proposed new standards developed by a special task force convened to review, deliberate and draft new standards that will go into effect on July 1, 2011. Dr. Seenu Reddy, Associate Program Director at the University of Texas San Antonio, is featured in the Perspectives on Residency section of the site.

On a related note, TSDA is currently working on a booklet, tentatively titled *Fighting Fatigue: A Guide for CT Surgery Residents*, that will help residents prepare for and deal with the demands of working long hours, often without ample sleep. The booklet is expected to be available in at the General Session, January 29, 2011.

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TSRA Appoints New Officers to Executive Committee

The Thoracic Surgery Residents Association recently appointed new officers to its Executive Committee. Members include President Dr. Carlos Mery (University of Virginia); Vice President Dr. Shamus Carr (University of Pittsburgh); Secretary Dr. Jason Williams (Duke University); Immediate Past President Dr. Joe Turek (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia); and Executive Committee members Dr. Lucas Duvall (University of Texas-San Antonio); Dr. Robroy MacIver (University of Washington); Dr. Jenifer Marks (MD Anderson Cancer Center); Dr. Stephen McKellar (Mayo Clinic); Dr. Bret Mettler (Children's Hospital of Boston); Dr. Tom Nguyen (New York Presbyterian-Columbia); Dr. Ramesh Singh (University of Colorado); and Dr. Bryan Whitson (University of Minnesota).

For more information on TSRA, visit www.tsranet.org.

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JCTSE Six-Year Integrated Program Manual Now Posted on TSDA.org

Free resource now available for download.

The Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education's [Manual for Creating a Comprehensive Six-Year Integrated Curriculum in Cardiothoracic Surgery](#) is now posted on TSDA.org. The online version of the Manual is divided into multiple sections on the Web site, including an overview of new requirements; pertinent articles; annotated bibliography; discussion and negotiation resources; funding issues; and tips on preparing a Program Information Form (PIF). Each section is posted as a pdf file and can be viewed, downloaded, and printed.

TSDA and JCTSE hope the information provided in this resource will help those program directors planning a possible transition to a comprehensive six-year integrated program.

Contact Rebecca Mark, JCTSE Administration and Education Manager, at rmark@jctse.org or 312-202-5893, with any questions.

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ACS 96th Annual Clinical Congress Scheduled for Oct. 3-7, 2010

STS/ACS/AATS sponsor hands-on CT surgery session at ACS Clinical Congress.

General surgery residents and medical students can get hands-on experience and learn more about the exciting specialty of cardiothoracic surgery at the upcoming American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Washington, DC. On Oct. 4, STS, ACS, and AATS will present the special interest course, "Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Future: Technology Overview for Residents and Medical Students."

This course, taught by leading experts in conventional as well as less invasive cardiac and general thoracic surgery procedures, will introduce surgery residents and medical students to the exciting procedures that are available to cardiothoracic surgeons today, and provide information about new technologies and the integrated cardiothoracic surgery training programs.

If you know of a general surgery resident or medical student with a possible interest in CT surgery, please pass on this information. The cost of the course, which will run from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. on Oct. 4, is \$25. Visit the [Clinical](#)

[Congress section of the ACS Web site](#) for more information and to register.

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STS Now Offers Pre-Candidate Membership

As a Program Director or Associate Program Director, you are a mentor. Effective mentors want to help residents build a resource network, and one of the best ways to do this is through STS membership. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons recently created a Pre-Candidate Membership category for medical students and general surgery residents. Benefits include a free online subscription to *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, discounted travel options and waived or reduced registration rates for STS educational events, as well as access to a growing number of resources available via www.sts.org. Membership dues are only \$25 per year. With a rolling admissions process, new Pre-Candidate Members can take advantage of STS membership benefits almost immediately. If you know a medical student or general surgery resident considering CT surgery, [click here](#) for more information. Also, please share with any potential medical student members the latest installment of [Pre-Op: A Cardiothoracic Surgery Newsletter for Medical Students](#).

STS also offers Candidate Membership for residents who are matched or enrolled in an ACGME-accredited cardiothoracic surgery education program. Membership benefits include reduced registration and networking opportunities at the STS Annual Meeting, a subscription to *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, and advocacy efforts in Washington, DC. Annual membership dues are only \$100. For more information, visit the [Candidate Membership section of www.sts.org](#), and please share with any potential members the latest installment of [Candidate Connection: A Newsletter for STS Candidate Members](#).

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Dr. Francis Robicsek Retires as Program Director from Carolinas Medical Center

TSDA congratulates Dr. Francis Robicsek who has stepped down after 50 years as Program Director of the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. Dr. Robicsek will continue to serve as Chair Emeritus of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. TSDA thanks Dr. Robicsek for his commitment to cardiothoracic surgery education for five decades.

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