



# TSDA News

## Thoracic Surgery Directors Association

Volume 4 • Issue 1 • Spring 2009

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### President's Greeting

John Brown, MD

Greetings from the TSDA leadership, and thank you for your participation at TSDA's meetings in January in San Francisco. Many of you attended the first-ever [Program Directors Workshop](#) which delivered useful information about the accreditation process. The General Session provided us with another chance to discuss the challenges and opportunities we face as program directors, and we look forward to offering updates from ABTS, JCTSE, TSFRE, RRC and the TSRA at the next [General Session](#), scheduled for **Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm in Boston, MA**. Please plan to attend.

This General Session will be my last as President, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented TSDA for the past two years. At the General Session in May, you will elect a new President as well as a new President-Elect and Councilor-at-Large. Each will serve a two-year term. TSDA leadership will continue to design valuable programming for you and your team; we welcome and encourage your input. Your continued involvement is essential to ensure the future strength of graduate education in our specialty. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. I can be reached at [jobrown@iupui.edu](mailto:jobrown@iupui.edu) or 317-274-7150.

I look forward to seeing you in May in Boston.

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## **Plan to Attend the TSDA General Session**

Saturday, May 9, 2009

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Hynes Convention Center

Room 207

Boston, MA

### **NOTE NEW TIME**

## **TSDA General Session Preliminary Agenda**

Welcome/President's Remarks: John Brown, MD

### *Special Reports*

ABTS Report: Richard Feins, MD

Six-Year Integrated Programs: Richard Feins, MD

JCTSE Report/New CT Surgery Education Director: Edward Verrier, MD

TSFRE Report: Michael Mack, MD

AATS Report

American Board of Medical Specialties

Residency Review Committee: Irving Kron, MD

Program Director Survey: George Hicks, MD

### *TSDA Reports*

Boot Camp Report: George Hicks, MD

Curriculum Committee: Curt Tribble, MD

Professionalism and Ethics Committee: Mark Orringer, MD

In-Training Exam Committee: John Calhoun, MD

TSRA: Bret Mettler, MD

### *TSDA Business Meeting*

(TSDA Members Only)

Secretary/Treasurer: George Hicks, MD

Nominating Committee: Edward Verrier, MD

Election of President \*

Election of President-Elect\*

Election of Councilor-at-Large\*

Presidential Transition

President's Closing Remarks: John Brown, MD

\*Vote of membership required.

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## **TSDA Upcoming Meetings**

### **TSDA General Session**

Saturday, May 9, 2009

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Hynes Convention Center

Room 207

Boston, MA

### **TSDA Executive Committee**

Sunday, May 10, 2009

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

Sheraton Boston Hotel

Conference Room 7

Boston, MA

### **TSDA Curriculum Committee**

Monday, May 11, 2009

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

Sheraton Boston Hotel

Conference Room 1

Boston, MA

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### **2009 TSDA Membership Dues Statements Mailed**

TSDA membership invoices for 2009 were mailed to program directors in early March. Annual dues are \$1,300. Please remit payment prior to the General Session in May. Questions? Contact Beth Winer, Affiliate and Marketing Manager, at [bwiner@tsda.org](mailto:bwiner@tsda.org) or 312-202-5855.

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### **2009 Match Update**

#### **2009 Match Dates for 2010 Appointment Year**

*National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)*

*Thoracic Surgery Match Schedule*

Match registration opened: January 7, 2009

Rank order list system opened: April 8, 2009

Quota change deadline: May 13, 2009

Rank order list closes: May 27, 2009

Match Day: 12:00 p.m. ET, June 10, 2009

The 2010 appointment year rank order list system is currently open through May 27. It is especially important that all program directors act with the utmost integrity during this phase of the Match. The NRMP maintains the highest professional standards in the conduct of the Match and in its interactions with all Match participants: applicants, program directors, institutional officials, and student affairs deans. The NRMP expects all Match participants to conduct their affairs related to the Match in an ethical and professionally responsible manner. All Match participants are urged to read the NRMP [Statement on Professionalism](#).

A few reminders:

- Applicants and program directors may express their interest in each other; however, they must not make statements implying a commitment.
- It is a breach of the applicable Match Participation Agreement for either party to suggest or inform the other

that placement on a rank order list is contingent upon submission of a verbal or written statement indicating ranking intentions.

- Program directors and applicants frequently engage in the practice of sending letters following the applicant's interview with the program. Those letters often contain statements that can be misinterpreted by either party. Match participants must understand that such letters are not binding and have no standing when final rank order lists are submitted.

For more information about the ethics of the Match, visit the [The Integrity of the NRMP Match](#) section of [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org).

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### **2009 In-Training Exam Update**

The 2009 In-Training Exam was held April 4, with a back up exam held April 11. A total of 267 residents and fellows sat for the exam, 12 less than the number of exam candidates in 2008. Sixty-nine U.S. programs and eight Canadian programs were represented on exam day.

Program directors can review their residents' exams at <http://www.ctsnet.org/examdirector/tsda/16>. Comparative performance reports will be mailed in late May or early June. Percentile ranks will relate the performance of residents to that of other residents according to year of residency. Performance reports are confidential and are to be distributed and reviewed one-on-one with each exam candidate. It is expected that the program director will meet with individual residents to go over exam results, provide feedback, and identify areas in need of remediation. TSDA does not send score reports to individual residents.

The TSDA In-Training Exam Committee is already planning for next year's exam, tentatively scheduled for April 2010.

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### **Program Directors Workshop a Success**

The TSDA hosted an accreditation review workshop on January 24, 2009 in San Francisco for more than 90 program directors, associate program directors, faculty, and coordinators. Attendees were mailed a Certificate of Attendance in early March.

The workshop, facilitated by Walter Merrill, MD and a faculty of experts, covered a variety of important accreditation topics, including educational and administrative expectations for thoracic surgery residency programs, an overview of the accreditation process, and first-hand account of a site visit, among other topics. Workshop faculty included William Baumgartner, MD, ABTS Executive Director; John Brown, MD, TSDA President; John Calhoon, MD, TSDA President-Elect; Irving Kron, MD, ACGME/RRC Thoracic Surgery Committee; Seenu Reddy, MD, University of Texas-San Antonio; Doris Stoll, PhD, GME consultant and former thoracic surgery RRC Executive Director; and Curt Tribble, MD, TSDA Curriculum Committee.

The four-hour workshop was well received by attendees. The workshop overall earned a 4.5 rating on a 5-point scale, and many found the level of detail about the accreditation process and site visits very helpful. Comments included:

“Important to know from experts how to best prepare for review and about the workings of the RRC and ABTS.”

“Extremely valuable!”

Workshop presentations are posted on the [Meetings Archive](#) section of [www.tsda.org](http://www.tsda.org).

Click agenda items below to view presentations.

- [Agenda](#)
- [Role of the Residency Review Committee](#), Irving Kron, MD, University of Virginia
- [Internal Review Process, Basics of Accreditation](#), Doris Stoll, PhD, GME Consultants
- [Methods of Using the TSDA Weekly Curriculum in Your Residency Program](#), Curt Tribble, MD, University of Florida
- [Site Visit Survival, Tales from the Front](#), Seenu Reddy, MD, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
- [American Board of Thoracic Surgery](#), William Baumgartner, MD, Johns Hopkins Hospital
- [Integrated Curriculum](#), John Calhoun, MD, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

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### January 2009 Presentations Posted on TSDA Web Site

Visit [www.tsda.org](http://www.tsda.org) to view presentations from the January 2009 TSDA General Session in San Francisco. All presentations are in pdf format for easy downloading and viewing. You can also view TS-RACS presentations by visiting the [TS-RACS Archive](#) section of [www.tsda.org](http://www.tsda.org).

#### TSDA General Session

**January 24, 2009**

San Francisco, CA

- [Agenda](#)
- [Boot Camp/Simulation as a Teaching Modality for CT Surgery Residents](#), George Hicks, MD, University of Rochester
- [Residency Review Committee](#), Irving Kron, MD, University of Virginia
- [STS Looking to the Future Scholarship Program](#), Stephen Yang, MD, Johns Hopkins Hospital
- [TSDA Curriculum Committee](#), Curt Tribble, MD, University of Florida
- [TSDA Committee on Professionalism and Ethics](#), Mark Orringer, MD, University of Michigan

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