



TSDA

Thoracic Surgery Directors Association

The TSDA News

Volume 4. Number 1

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The TSDA
Integrated
Curriculum
Authors &
Developers
News, Events
& Bulletins
TS Program
Directors
TS Residents
& Pre-Residents
TS Coordinators
& Administrators

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TSDA Officers

President: *Mark B. Orringer, MD*
 President Elect: *Gordon N. Olinger, MD*
 Secretary/Treasurer: *Edward D. Verrier, MD*
 Councilor-at-Large: *Frederick L. Grover, MD*
 Councilor-at-Large: *D. Glenn Pennington, MD*

TSDA News is a quarterly publication of the
 Thoracic Surgery Directors Association
 4900B South 31st Street
 Arlington, VA 22206
 (703) 820-7400.

Schedule for the TSDA/STS Meeting Events, January 1999

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas was the site of the January 1999 meeting of the TSDA, in association with the STS meeting.

Curriculum Implementation Task Force
 Saturday, January 23
 8:00 - 11:00AM
 Marriott Riverwalk/Bowie Room

TSDA General Session Meeting
 Saturday, January 23
 1:30 - 5:00 PM
 Convention Center/Fiesta D & E

Executive Committee
 Monday, January 25
 7:00 - 9:00 AM
 Marriott Riverwalk/Bowie Room

Prerequisite Committee
 Monday, January 25
 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Marriott Riverwalk/Bowie Room

TSRA Meeting
 Monday, January 25
 2:00 - 4:00 PM Convention Center/Plaza (

TSDA Resident Research Award

Each year the TSDA designates one outstanding resident research presentation sponsored a thoracic surgery residency program in the United States or Canada for an award at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons meeting. The best paper is selected by the members of the TSDA Executive Committee. This award is generously supported by a grant from Medtronic, Inc. This year's winner is Victor Chu, for his paper, entitled, "Angiogenic Response to Transmyocardial Revascularization (TMR): Laser Versus Mechanical Punctures." Dr. Chu is resident at Montreal General Hospital/ McGill University where Ray C.J. Chiu, M.D., Ph.D. is Program Director. This is the second consecutive year that a resident from Dr. Chiu's progra has won this prestigious award

The 2000 Thoracic Surgery Resident Match Fast Approaches

The Thoracic Surgery specialty Match for 2000 has begun with an announcement from the National Resident Matching Program. The Universal Resident Application that was designed and approved by the TSDA in 1996 to simplify the application process for residents will continue to be used. Application forms are available from the NRMP office and are mailed to applicants when they register.

The schedule for the Match is as follows:

October 7, 1998

Program and applicant agreements are available from the NRMP (202-828-0676).

February 1, 1999

Deadline for receipt of completed applications (programs do not consider candidates whose applications are completed after this date)

February 10, 1999

Directors return Program Agreements to NRMP office to be included in List of Participating Programs.

February-May, 1999

Resident interviews conducted.

March 10, 1999

Programs and Applicants receive their rank order list forms.

June 2, 1999

Final date for NRMP to receive rank order lists from Programs and Applicants. NOTE: No rank order lists, agreements, withdrawals, or changes will be accepted after this date.

June 30, 1999

Match results. NOTE: No action to fill empty positions 15 to be taken prior to 12 noon EST on this date.

July 1-August 31, 1999

Program Directors send letters of appointment to matched applicants.

20th Anniversary Meeting in Chicago Sets Stage for Future Standalone Meetings

In 1978 the TSDA was formally organized and incorporated under the leadership of Dr. Hassan Najafi. A majority of the TSDA membership gathered in Chicago on September 19-20 for a very successful stand-alone meeting devoted entirely to residency educational issues. Techniques of resident education, principles of mentorship, and administrative solutions to problems all directors face were discussed in lectures and panel presentations. Dr. Curt Tribble served as the Organizing Chair and Moderator and compiled an outstanding program which incorporated lectures from experts in the field of education.

Time was taken to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the TSDA during a Saturday evening reception and dinner at which Dr. Hassan Najafi was recognized and thanked for his

founding leadership. Dr. Najafi has Honorary Life Member status in the organization. The dinner was followed by a unique presentation by Doug Newburg, Ph.D., which summarized the key concepts of achievement by high intensity performers - be they Olympic athletes or thoracic surgery residents. Video clips enhanced this entertaining and informative after dinner "speech."

The TSDA members who attended the Chicago meeting were most complimentary and supportive of continuing the concept of a free-standing annual TSDA meeting in the future.

TSDA Ties/Scarves Available

To commemorate our 20th Anniversary, attractive TSDA neckties for the men and scarves for women have been designed. The registration fee for the Fall Meeting in Chicago entitled all attending TSDA members to obtain one of the new ties/scarves. Extra ties/scarves were ordered and are available for purchase (\$30.00) through the TSDA office.

New ABTS Representative Elected

Congratulations to Keith Naunheim, M.D., who at the October 1998 ABTS meeting was elected to the ABTS as the TSDA Representative replacing James Cox, M.D. whose term has ended. Dr. Tim Gardner continues his term as a TSDA Board representative.

AGS/Hartford Project - Geriatrics and Thoracic Surgery

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS), in conjunction with the John A. Hartford Foundation New York City, has launched an initiative to increase geriatrics expertise in non-primary care specialties. The TSDA has been contacted as one of 10 targeted specialties regarding this project, and efforts will be made to incorporate specific geriatrics principles into the Comprehensive Thoracic Surgery Curriculum, which is now being updated. One goal of the AGS/Hartford Residency Outreach Program is to have some formal geriatrics education during residency in certain specialties.

RRC Site Visit Preparatory Course

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is offering a course on "Mastering the Accreditation Process," specifically for Directors whose programs have a pending site visit. The course will be held on March 5, 1999 at the Palmer House in Chicago. You may contact the office of Dr. John Boberg, Executive Director, RRC for Thoracic Surgery at the ACGME (312-464.4687) directly for more information.

TSRA Takes Off

The TSDA has encouraged the establishment of a Thoracic Surgery Residents Association (TSRA), a national organization consisting of all thoracic surgery residents. The purpose of the TSRA is to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and information among the residents and to improve communication between the residents (the students) and the Program Directors (the teachers).

The initial meeting of the TSRA was held in Boston in conjunction with the AATS meeting. A second meeting of this group has been scheduled for Monday, January 25 at the San Antonio

Convention Center, Please encourage any of your residents who will be attending the STS meeting to attend the TSRA meeting as well. For further information please contact Scott Arnold (UVA) at wsa6p@virginia.edu or (804) 924-0000.

Update on Standing Committees

Curriculum Implementation Committee (CIC)

With the passage of the revised bylaws at the May TSDA meeting that was held in Boston the former Curriculum Implementation Task Force has made the transition to committee status. The Curriculum Implementation Committee, still under the leadership of Dr. Irv Kron, has continued to build upon the Task Force's work. An ambitious project to adapt the Comprehensive Curriculum to interactive electronic format is underway. Many Directors and their faculty will be involved with this effort.

The Committee met at the American College of Surgeons meeting in Orlando in October and has begun to establish the necessary timetable, series of assignments and staffing support needed to implement the components of the project. Considerable funding commitments have been received from several corporate sponsors, and more is being sought.

The Prerequisite Curriculum Committee (PCC)

This committee, also established under the revised bylaws, has been charged with the responsibility of defining, developing and implementing the core knowledge for both general and thoracic surgery deemed essential for residents beginning their thoracic surgical education.

With Dr. Jeff Gold as the Chair, this committee has been extremely productive in defining a plan for development of a Prerequisite Curriculum for general surgery residents accepted into thoracic surgery residency. The committee last met at the American College of Surgeons meeting in Orlando in October and discussed its Prerequisite Curriculum resident survey, project funding, budget and corporate support and, finally, a timeline for the prerequisite curriculum production.

The Requisite Curriculum Committee (RCC)

Responsible for updating the Thoracic Surgery Comprehensive Curriculum, this Committee co-chaired by Drs. Doug Behrendt and Doug Mathisen, has been revising the original Curriculum first published in 1994. A new Comprehensive Curriculum should be ready for production in the coming year.

Nominating Committee to be Activated

In accordance with our bylaws, a new President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer and Councilor will be elected at our meeting in April, 1999. The Nominating Committee consists of the two consecutive Past Presidents (John Benfield and Gordon Murray), the most senior of which (Gordon Murray) will serve as Chair; one individual elected by the Directors; and one Director appointed by the President. At the TSDA meeting in San Antonio in January, a representative to the Nominating Committee will need to be elected. Please start thinking about possible candidates for this important position.

Results in for Questionnaire on 1998 NRMP Match Program

We have compiled the edited comments made by residents who were sampled concerning the last Match. Of those 71 that responded:

- 67 (97%) felt that the Match was effective in achieving its goals
- 3 (4%) felt that they had experienced undue pressure to commit outside of the Match

- 40 (59%) would be interested in some sort of standard time or regionalization of the interview process
- 28(41%) did not prefer some sort of standard time or regionalization of the interview process

The number of Programs at which residents interviewed ranged from 1 to 17 (avg 9). The total cost of these interviews to the applicants ranged from \$0 to \$15,000 (avg = \$4,123).

These results indicate that most programs actively participated within the rules and spirit of the Match. Clearly, a few programs did not honor that spirit. You know who you are! The Ad Hoc Committee on the Match, chaired by Dr. Bartley Griffith, will be considering ways to simplify this process for the residents as well as to make it fairer. We have elected to continue to use the National Resident Match Program for 2000. Dr. Griffith will give a report on recommendations for the Match at the January meeting in San Antonio.

TSDA Clearinghouse Activities

The TSDA has acted as a clearinghouse for thoracic surgery faculty and fellowship positions within the United States. It has also attempted to match late or previously unmatched thoracic surgery applicants with unexpected openings in residency programs. For example, there are presently 14 residency programs in the United States seeking a general thoracic surgery faculty member, and 6 have indicated a need for more general thoracic faculty beginning in July, 1999. A list of these programs is available from the TSDA Headquarters office.

We believe that tracking this information is important not only because it helps residents locate faculty positions, but also because it is helpful in determining trends in academic faculty manpower needs and the possibility of investing in resident research time.

TSDA Database Survey

Available Faculty & Fellowship Positions - 1998-1999

General Thoracic Surgery Faculty Positions	Available 1998	14	
	Anticipated 1999	5	
Cardiac Surgery Faculty Positions	Available 1998	Primarily Adult	13
		Primarily Congenital	5
	Anticipated 1999	Primarily Adult	12
		Primarily Congenital	0
Research Faculty	Available 1998	3	

	Anticipated 1999	9
Clinical Fellowships Available 1998		
Congenital Cardiac	Completed Residency Required	4
	Completion Not Required	3
General Thoracic	Completed Residency Required	4
	Completion Not Required	4
Transplant	Completed Residency Required	8
	Completion Not Required	6
Adult Cardiac	Completed Residency Required	6
	Completion Not Required	16
Research Fellowships Available 1998		
	Funded	10
	Not Funded	16