



Winter Newsletter - January, 2007

January 10, 2007

TSDA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year!

The next national meeting of the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association will be held in San Diego on Saturday January 27th at 1 PM in Room 29C/D of the San Diego Convention Center. Please plan to attend, as much has happened since our last plenary meeting in April.

The beginning portion of the meeting will consist of reports by those organizations directly interfacing with the program directors, including updates from the ABTS and the RRC. Changes in the structure of the TSDA and the newly acquired TSDA responsibility for the development and distribution of the annual in-training examination will also be discussed. We will of course host our annual awards ceremony, honoring the best research and clinical resident abstracts to be presented at the STS meeting and honoring the 2007 winner of the Socrates award for resident education.

The mid-portion of the meeting will focus on the results of our recent resident and program director survey. A discussion of mentoring of thoracic surgery residents will follow, focusing on the current best practices and national trends for surgical residents. A senior statistician from the AAMC will review the findings of the most recent workforce studies, with special relevance for program development.

What is the appropriate role for the program directors association in teaching new technology, teaching theory and practice as it is being developed? An interactive panel discussion, balancing the past and future roles of the TSDA in development and implementation of didactic and technical curriculum will hopefully stimulate thought, discussion and possibly a trajectory change for the TSDA.

The Thoracic Surgery Directors Association continues to grow and serve as program directors, residents, pre-residents and coordinators. Your continued support and engagement is critical to insure the future strength of graduate education in our specialty. We look forward to seeing you, your coordinator and your residents in San Diego.

Jeffrey Gold, MD
President

PLAN TO ATTEND!

TSDA GENERAL SESSION

Saturday, January 27, 2007

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Room 29 C/D, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California

Also in San Diego...

TSDA Executive Committee will meet Monday, January 29, 7:00 am – 8:30 am

Room 25B, San Diego Convention Center

TSDA Curriculum Committee will meet Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 am – 8:30 am

Room 25B, San Diego Convention Center

TSDA GENERAL SESSION AGENDA

Reports

Welcome / Introductions

ABTS Report

RRC Report

JCTSE Report

TSRA Report

TSFRE Report

Speakers

Jeffrey Gold, MD

Carolyn Reed, MD

David Fullerton, MD

William Baumgartner, MD

Daniel Boffa, MD

Lawrence Cohn, MD

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

John H. Calhoon, MD

Bylaws Changes

Nomination of Program Director to Nominating Committee

Special Report from the Committee on

Ethics and Professionalism

Mark Orringer, MD

Recognition Awards

Edwards Life Sciences Recognition

Resident Awards

Socrates Award

Presenters

Jeffrey Gold, MD

Jeffrey Gold, MD

Daniel Boffa, MD

Break

Special Presentations

TSDA In-Training Examination

AAMC Workforce Survey Report

Emerging Technology and

Graduate Medical Education

Speakers

John Brown, MD

Atul Grover, MD

Panel Discussion:

Richard Prager, MD

Craig Smith, MD

Grayson Wheatley, MD

Cynthia Herrington, MD

Mentoring

Adjournment

TSDA IN-TRAINING EXAM

TSDA has assumed responsibility from ABTS for the Residents' In Training Exam (ITE). The 2007 ITE will be administered on **Saturday, April 14, 2007**. (The back-up date will be Saturday, April 21.) Registration packets with forms and additional information are scheduled to mail by January 15. The deadline for registration is **February 23, 2007**.

As in previous years, the In-Training Exam is designed to assess knowledge among current residents in thoracic surgery. Subject matter is equally divided between general thoracic and cardiac surgery. The exam will be offered only in a computer-based format and is to be completed within a 3-hour period. Note that the exam must be given the training program site and must be actively proctored by a Board-certified thoracic surgeon. Home computer access is *not allowed*.

An important consideration in planning the ITE at your institution is the uninterrupted availability of a hard-wired high-speed internet connection at your site. A standard modem connection will *not* suffice.

A practice exam will be made available in March. All residents are required to take the practice exam and must take it on the equipment to be used for the actual exam. If technical problems interfere with the actual examination, it will be made available again on the following Saturday, April 14, 2007. A Help Hotline will be available for technical questions on the day of the exam as well.

The fee for the 2007 In Training Exam is \$200 per registrant. This is the same fee as for the 2006 exam.

If you have questions about the TSDA ITE, please contact Nancy Puckett, TSDA Executive Director, at npuckett@tsda.org, or John Brown, MD, TSDA President-Elect and Chair, ITE Committee, at jobrown@iupui.edu.

PROPOSED REVISION OF TSDA BYLAWS

Program Directors will soon be asked to review and vote on proposed revisions to the TSDA By-Laws. The revisions are Article III: Membership, Privileges and Responsibilities, Sections 1, 2 and 3. The intent of the revision is to expand membership to include Program Directors of Thoracic Surgery subspecialties program and to allow for a Member emeritus category. The proposed revisions are highlighted with underlining in the excerpts below. If you have questions or would like to discuss the proposed revisions, please contact TSDA President Jeff Gold (Jeffrey.gold@utoledo.edu) or TSDA Secretary/Treasurer John Calhoon (Calhoon@uthscsa.edu).

Proposed revisions to the TSDA By-Laws (proposed changes are underlined):

Article III

Membership, Privileges and Responsibilities

Section 1 : Membership

Each Director of an approved Thoracic Surgery residency program or Thoracic Surgery subspecialty program is a member of the TSDA and is expected to participate in its deliberations and endeavors, including a uniform Matching Program for resident selection as specified in the TSDA Policies and Procedures Manual. Termination of membership in the TSDA will occur if (1) an individual ceases to be a Program Director, (2) a Director fails to participate in the Match without the specific authorization of the Executive Committee, (3) a Director fails to pay annual dues or meet his/her fiscal responsibility to the TSDA, or (4) a Director or his designee (authorized as a result of prior request to the Secretary/Treasurer) fails to attend three consecutive meetings. Should an individual with specific ongoing responsibilities to the TSDA cease to be a Program Director, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, discharge of these responsibilities may continue until their completion. Associate Membership: Associate Member status shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Such membership is available to (1) faculty members sponsored by a Director and is limited to two associate members per approved residency; (2) Directors of approved Canadian residencies in cardiac or general thoracic surgery; and (3) Directors of programs whose approved status is withdrawn by the RRC. Under special circumstances approved by the executive committee, a program may petition for three associate members. A Director of a program which loses its approved status is eligible for Associate Member status for a period of time not to exceed three years, by which time it is expected that his/her program will have regained its approved status. These (number 3 in paragraph above only and as described in this paragraph). Associate Members will pay annual dues, may attend meetings and receive publications of the TSDA, serve on temporary or standing committees. They (Associate Program Directors whose programs have lost accreditation) are not eligible to hold office, serve on the Executive Committee, or vote on the deliberations of the TSDA. These Associate Memberships will be reviewed by the Executive Committee every three years to determine whether they should be renewed. Member emeritus: if a member of our society ceases to be a program director after 10 or more years of service, they may petition the executive committee for continued membership as a nonvoting and non dues paying member. They would be eligible for service on committees or in any other capacity and would remain emeritus members until at the discretion of the executive committee. Honorary Member: Persons of extraordinary service to Thoracic Surgery Education would be eligible for this designation after being nominated to the executive committee, and forwarded by unanimous vote to the general membership which would then elect them to this status by a 75% margin.

Section 2: Voting Privileges

Each approved program and/or subspecialty program is accorded one vote for transacting the business of the TSDA. This vote is executed by the Director. No proxies or substitutions are permitted without prior written or electronic notice to the Secretary-Treasurer by the Director.

Section 3: Approved Programs

For purposes of membership in the TSDA, an "approved program" is defined as a Thoracic Surgery residency program or subspecialty program which is recommended for approval by the Residency Review Committee (RRC) for Thoracic Surgery and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The Director of such an approved program is identified by the RRC as that individual authorized to sign the applications of his/her graduates for the certifying examination by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

2007 RESIDENT MATCH SCHEDULE

Please note the following dates for the NRMP 2007 Thoracic Surgery Match Schedule

- *January 3, 2007*: Match Begins
- *April 11, 2007*: Rank Order List Opens
- *May 16, 2007*: Quota Change Deadline
- *May 30, 2007*: Rank Order List Closes
- *June 13, 2007*: Match Day

For more information visit the National Resident Matching Program Web site,
www.nrmp.org.

Note: The dates provided in the original electronic version of the TSDA January 2007 Newsletter were incorrect. The information here is updated and accurate as of 1/9/07

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