The Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education, Inc. (JCTSE) remains committed to “advancing thoracic surgical education.” The JCTSE Board continues with monthly conference calls and is involved in fulfilling the mission of the JCTSE. The following are ongoing projects for JCTSE:

- **TSDA/JCTSE Curriculum Committee:** This committee has been focusing its efforts on the development of the new learning management system (LMS). JCTSE has bi-weekly conference calls with the Astute Technology (Asthute) development team to discuss the data transfer and functionalities of the system. The initial version of the LMS will be demonstrated during The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) 52nd Annual Meeting. The fully functional system will roll-out in early 2016, with the first two-year cycle beginning on July 1, 2016. This committee has also been focusing its efforts on updating the *Pearson’s Thoracic and Esophageal Surgery* textbook. Led by Dr. Gail Darling, the associate editors have monthly conference calls to discuss updates for the new e-book. JCTSE will identify a platform for the e-book by January 2016. The new platform will be accessible through the LMS. This committee has completed 27 of the 36 weeks for the Advanced Congenital Curriculum. The rest of the curriculum is scheduled to be completed before the STS 52nd Annual Meeting. Craig Baker and Ara Vaporciyan lead this committee.

- **Assessment Committee:** This committee continues to address assessment issues for both the I-6 as well as traditional training programs. The committee continues to validate and expand the overall use of the assessment tools. Richard Lee and Nahush Mokadam lead this committee.

- **Early Curriculum Committee:** This committee continues to investigate the development of a preparatory prerequisite curriculum for medical students who will enter an integrated cardiothoracic training program. Discussions are planned on how the JCTSE I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee members might assist with this effort. Stephen Yang leads this committee.

- **Faculty Development Committee:** This committee was responsible for the development of the sixth annual Educate the Educators (EtE) program that was held on September 24 – 27, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. Since 2010, a total of 178 cardiothoracic surgeon faculty members and 10 program coordinators have attended the EtE program. Ara Vaporciyan leads this committee. Stephen Yang and Ara Vaporciyan are Co-Directors for the EtE program.

- **I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee:** This committee will provide input to the JCTSE/TSDA Curriculum Committee on how the I-6 program curriculum needs can be incorporated into the new LMS. In addition, discussions are planned with members of the JCTSE Early Curriculum Committee on the development of a preparatory prerequisite curriculum for medical students who will enter an integrated cardiothoracic training program. John Ikonomidis leads this committee.

- **Simulation Committee:** In April 2015, JCTSE introduced the JCTSE Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident “Jeopardy” Competition. This cognitive skills competition was such a success that the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) decided to hold its first EACTS “Jeopardy” Competition during the EACTS Annual Meeting in Amsterdam. JCTSE held its second “Jeopardy” competition during the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association (STSA) 62nd Annual Meeting. The winning North America (from the STSA Competition) and EACTS teams have been invited to compete in the North America versus EACTS Jeopardy Championship to be held during the STS 52nd Annual Meeting. There will be two-rounds of Jeopardy held at the Phoenix Convention Center in a Product Theatre venue within the Exhibit Hall. The team with the best overall score will be designated the 2016 Jeopardy Winners. In addition, this Committee has been responsible for the Top Gun competitions for the past several years. The fourth annual *Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident Top Gun Competition* will be held Sunday, May 15, 2016 between 5:00pm - 7:00pm during the AATS 96th Annual Meeting. Five finalists will compete in this live competition. Jim Fann leads this committee.

- **Educational Program to be held at the STS 52nd Annual Meeting:** The following program will be held as part of the STS 52nd Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 between 1:00pm - 3:30pm: Accountable Surgical Education - How Can Cardiothoracic Surgery Move Forward?

Respectfully submitted, January 2016, Edward D. Verrier, MD, Surgical Director of Education, JCTSE.