

STS Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues

Activity Report

January 2018

Since the last Workforce activity report submitted in October 2017, this group has focused on the following projects:

STS Residents Symposium

The STS Residents Symposium Planning Task Force, led by chair Dr. Sidhu Gangadharan and vice-chair Dr. Ed Chen, finalized the 2018 program that will occur during the STS 54th Annual Meeting. The symposium will address the needs of thoracic surgery residents as identified in feedback from previous symposium evaluations, including job search/acquisition, contracts, and training issues. The three hour program will offer two sessions: Finding a Job and Transition to Practice. Each session will offer four presentations, each followed by a Q&A session, and a table discussions after each session. Presentation topics include: Why I Chose Private Practice; Why I Chose Academics; The Mechanics of Finding a Job; Negotiating a Contract; Building a Successful Clinical Practice: Challenges and Solutions; Early Career Development; What You Need to Know About Finances: Coding, Billing, Reimbursement and Margins; and Achieving a Successful Work/Life Balance. Speakers and table discussion leaders have been recruited and will engage attendees by answering questions and offering a more personalized approach to addressing the needs of residents planning for the next stage in their careers.

STS Residents Luncheon

The 2018 STS Residents Luncheon, to be held in conjunction with the STS 54th Annual Meeting, will be used as a needs assessment for future symposiums and possible future projects for the Workforce. Residents will be seated with leaders in the thoracic surgery community and engage in round table discussions, and will be invited to address questions to all attendees. Each table will engage in small-group discussions covering a list of suggested topics and questions to consider, including, how important is additional fellowship training after residency; what is the role of dedicated research time during residency training; what is the role of training programs in teaching interventional and catheter based skills; compare and contrast different training approaches at your institutions; gaps in training outside of clinical care; that state of the job market; where should cardiothoracic surgeons invest its efforts; and what role should a professional society like STS play in graduate medical education. The large-group discussion will be initiated led by a moderator using an ‘open mic’ format to capture resident comments. Comments will be recorded by Workforce staff and organized after the meeting for review by Workforce members. Members of the STS Board of Directors, Council Chairs, Looking to the Future mentors and TSDA Executive Committee members have been invited to attend the event. STS and TSRA will promote the event to residents attending the Annual Meeting.

Looking to the Future Scholarship Program

The Workforce awarded 2018 Looking to the Future Scholarships to 30 medical students and 30 general surgery residents. The program received 87 medical student and 60 general surgery resident applications. LTTF Scholarship Task Force members, led by Dr. Elizabeth David (Chair) and Dr. Ahmet Kilic (Vice Chair), created a dynamic agenda for the scholars, including a four-hour program specifically for medical students, a separate program for general surgery residents, as well as networking opportunities, and time to attend parallel sessions, symposiums, plenary sessions, and receptions. Mentors have been identified, and will assist in implementing this important program.