Report to the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association

January 2014

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 projects were active in 2013 and continue into 2014:

- **TSDA/JCTSE Curriculum Committee**: The national Thoracic Surgical Curriculum (TSC) was developed and implemented between May – August 2013. It has been distributed to and well received by cardiothoracic (CT) residents, program directors, faculty, program coordinators and newly matched CT surgery residents in North America. An e-newsletter is delivered every Thursday with assignments for the upcoming week, based on an 88-week curriculum. The TSRA Clinical Scenarios were added in December 2013 with assessment functions scheduled to be added over the next few months. Usage of the curriculum is being tracked with over 60% of residents having logged into the site and over 15% of them using the site at least one-time per week. Plans are being discussed with regard to how to further engage those provided access to TSC. In addition, a program is scheduled as part of the STS 50th Annual Meeting which will illustrate how TSC may be implemented into program directors’ residency training programs.

- **Assessment Committee**: The Assessment Committee was formerly the Assessment of Resident Training Subcommittee of the I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee. This Committee continues to address assessment issues for both the I-6 Year as well as traditional training programs.

- **Early Curriculum Committee**: In March 2012 and again in March 2013, a JCTSE I-6 introductory packet was sent to the newly matched medical students scheduled to begin their I-6 training the following July. The JCTSE I-6 introductory packet will be updated and sent in March 2014 to the newly matched medical students. This Committee has worked to develop the Innovators in Thoracic Surgery Education with the primary purpose of this effort being to provide leaders in thoracic surgical education with tangible rewards and recognition for their work on a national level. Due to priority being placed on the Thoracic Surgical Curriculum efforts, this project was placed on-hold in 2013.

- **Faculty Development Committee**: For the fourth year, the Educate the Educators (EtE) program was held in conjunction with the TSDA Boot Camp. The EtE 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 programs have been well received by the 132 cardiothoracic surgeons who have participated, as well as by the four program coordinators who participated in EtE 2013. As we did with the EtE 2012 program, we jointly sponsored the EtE 2013 program with STS so that participants were eligible to claim continuing medical education (CME) credit for their participation in the program. Program costs continue to decrease with the 2012 and 2013 attendees being responsible for hotel, travel and incidental expenses and the 2013 participants also being charged a $250 registration fee.

- **I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee**: Dr. John Ikonomidis took over as Chair of this Committee to carry-on the efforts begun by Dr. Carolyn Reed. In 2013, the number of I-6 programs continued to increase with an estimated 25 programs as of the time of this report. In 2012, a preliminary review of the I-6 programs was conducted by the JCTSE and TSDA. This survey will be repeated in 2014 as will an assessment of each I-6 programs’ rotation schedules, curriculum, case loads and overall satisfaction. In addition, this committee will continue to coordinate communication among the various institutions that have adopted six-year integrated programs.

- **Simulation Committee**: Educational endeavors involving Simulation Committee members include the TSDA Boot Camps conducted in July 2012 and 2013. The inaugural Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident “Top Gun” Competition was held in May 2013. First-year residents enrolled in a two- or three-year cardiothoracic surgery training program in the United States were given a Vessel Anastomosis Simulation Module in collaboration with the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association (TSDA). Residents were invited to participate in this event with five finalists selected to compete in a live competition held in conjunction with the AATS 93rd Annual Meeting. This competition will be held again in 2014 at the AATS 94th Annual meeting. In addition, two committee members wrote a cardiothoracic surgery simulation needs assessment survey. The purpose of this survey was twofold in that it identified and prioritized which basic, ICU, thoracic and cardiac skills were best suited for simulation and determined which of these skills could be taught using a simulator. Committee members completed this survey via Survey Monkey with results posted on the JCTSE web site.
Educational Programs held at AATS’ and STS’ Annual Meetings:
- The following programs have been and will be offered at the AATS 93rd and 94th Annual Meetings: Teaching Residents to Teach and Thoracic Surgery Educators Breakfast Club. In 2013, the Thoracic Surgery Educators Breakfast Club session was approved for CME credit by AATS. We will seek approval in 2014 for attendees to claim CME credit for their participation in the program.
- At the STS 49th Annual Meeting and at the STS 50th Annual Meeting, the following programs were infused into the STS program: Cardiothoracic Surgical Education and JCTSE Implementation of a Surgical Curriculum in Cardiothoracic Surgery respectively.

JCTSE ITE: The JCTSE ITE was an initiative to see if early exposure to a board review type course would improve the knowledge base of residents. All first year (PGY6) residents took the exam in July 2012 and July 2013. Each year, 20 of the programs selected to send one of their residents to the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Core Curriculum Review course in Salt Lake City, Utah. Comparison between the spring 2013 and spring 2014 examinations and the July 2012 and July 2013 examinations should allow validation of the efficacy of the early exposure to a board review course.

Respectfully submitted, January 2014, Edward D. Verrier, MD, Surgical Director of Education, JCTSE