

Report to the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association

April 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 continue into 2014:

- **TSDA/JCTSE Curriculum Committee:** This committee continues to focus its efforts on the Thoracic Surgical Curriculum (TSC). Please note the following updates: Released over 1,000 multiple choice questions with general feedback from SESATS 6, 7, 8 and 9. Each question was carefully reviewed by a topic editor for updates and improvements. The quizzes are spread throughout the 88-week curriculum and allocated according to the topic they address. Approximately 100 Clinical Cases for Discussion will be released in the coming months, complete with imaging and laboratory data. They will be available to download as PowerPoint presentations. Work continues in collaboration with developers to create a reporting method that will allow program directors, faculty and residents to view site usage and quiz scores. In addition, reports will be available for program directors to globally compare statistics with other residents across the country. Plans are underway to create more summative quizzes to help guide residents’ self-directed learning. Surgeon leaders continue to develop new questions that address topics aligned with the ACGME Milestones. Finally, the committee is developing tools within the TSC Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) to assist program directors and faculty in assessing resident Milestones achievement.
- **Assessment Committee:** This Committee continues to address assessment issues for both the I-6 Year as well as traditional training programs. New reporting and OSAST tools for documenting technical skill assessment is being tested for usability and validation.
- **Early Curriculum Committee:** As in 2012 and 2013, this committee prepared and sent out a JCTSE I-6 introductory packet to the newly matched medical students scheduled to begin their I-6 training in July 2014. A similar introductory packet will be developed to send out to all residents matching in traditional programs in 2014.
- **Faculty Development Committee:** For the fourth year, the Educate the Educators (EtE) program is scheduled to take place; however, it will no longer be held in conjunction with the TSDA Boot Camp. This year, EtE will be held October 9 – 12, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare. The registration fee will be raised from \$250 to \$350 per attendee. Invitations will be extended to cardiothoracic surgery faculty members and program coordinators as well as to a select group of international cardiothoracic surgeon educators. This course is modeled after the ACS Surgeons as Educators course and has received superb evaluations in the past.
- **I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee:** In 2012, a preliminary review of the I-6 programs was conducted by the JCTSE and TSDA. This survey was repeated in 2014 as was 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:** The second annual *Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident “Top Gun” Competition will be held Sunday, April 27, 2014 at the AATS 94th Annual meeting.* First-year residents enrolled in a two- or three-year cardiothoracic surgery training program in the United States were given a *Pocket Vessel Anastomosis Trainer* in collaboration with the TSDA. Residents were invited to participate in this event. Five finalists were selected to compete in a live competition. The 2013 and 2014 Top Gun competitions were performed with a cardiac simulator while the 2015 competition will hopefully be done with a thoracic simulator. This program aligns with JCTSE efforts to develop better assessment and reporting tools for technical skill performance in residency training as well as the introduction of new technical skills such as robotics.
- **Educational Programs to be held at the AATS 94th Annual Meeting:** The following two programs will be offered at the 94th AATS Annual Meeting in Toronto: Thoracic Surgery Educators Breakfast Club will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 between 7:00am - 9:00am and The Next Step in Curriculum Development: Teaching the Teachers will be held on Monday, April 28, 2014 between 6:30pm - 10:00pm. Both of these programs will focus on thoracic surgery curriculum implementation and documentation of ACGME mandated Milestones for thoracic surgery residents and program accreditation.



- **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 were 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. Final results of this initiative will be completed in 2014.
- **JCTSE Robotic Curriculum:** Thoracic Surgery has been named as one of five surgical subspecialties that will be awarded a grant from the Department of Defense to develop a cognitive and technical skills curriculum in robotic surgery. This curriculum will be modeled after the “Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery” and will use the already developed “Fundamentals of Robotic Surgery” as a foundation. This curriculum will be developed in 2014.

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