

## **STS Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues**

### ***STS Residents Symposium and STS Residents Luncheon***

Both the STS Residents Symposium and the STS Residents Luncheon had excellent turnout at the STS 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. The STS Residents Symposium focused on five topics addressed by subject matter experts, followed by roundtable discussions led by senior surgeons and faculty. Presentation topics included: How to Find a Position; Keys to a Successful Interview; What You Need to Know about Contracts; Team Building & Adding New Technologies; and Early Career Development. Attendees gave high marks to the presentations and table discussions. The STS Residents Luncheon also received excellent reviews from attendees and provided an opportunity for residents to network with surgeon leaders and address a number of issues, including different approaches to training, gaps in educational paradigms, and how CT surgeons should invest their efforts on behalf of the specialty. Surgeon leader attendees included members of the STS Board of Directors, Workforce Chairs, Looking to the Future Mentors, and TSDA and TSRA leaders. Suggested topics for future luncheons included academic vs. private practice jobs; interviewing tips; traditional and I6 application process; and resident/faculty interaction during training. The STS Residents Symposium Planning Task Force established three-year terms for the chair and co-chair, with the co-chair advancing to the chair position after three years. The current Chair is in year 2.

### ***Looking to the Future Scholarship Program***

Fifty “Looking to the Future” Scholars attended the STS 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting (25 medical students, 25 general surgery residents). 2014 represents the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the LTF program, and the program continues to gain in popularity as demonstrated by the high quality of the applications. This year the program was expanded to accommodate 10 additional scholars (5 medical students, 5 general surgery residents) to broaden the specialty’s outreach to prospective CT surgery residents. Programming included a Medical Student Program, a General Surgery Resident Program, receptions, networking opportunities, parallel sessions, plenary sessions, and STSU for General Surgery Residents. The mentor portion of the program received excellent feedback from scholars with all rating the program valuable (14%) or very valuable (86%). Demographics included 32% female recipients among the resident group, and 36% female recipients among the medical student group. Due to the continued popularity and success of the LTF program, STS is considering expanding the program by +5 medical students and +5 residents in 2016, for a total of 60 scholars. The LTF Task Force is working toward establishing a database to house all LTF data going back to the program’s inception, including applicants, scholars and mentors. The database will be used to evaluate the value of the program and to contact scholars as they approach the time when they start applying for CT surgical training.

Dr. Rishi Reddy was installed as the new LTF Task Force chair (2015-2018), and a new co-chair will be identified in the near future. The WFTSRI would like to acknowledge Dr. Jennifer Lawton’s leadership as chair from 2013-2015.