

Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues

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

STS Residents Symposium and STS Residents Luncheon – STS Annual Meeting

Both the STS Residents Symposium and the STS Residents Luncheon had excellent turnout at the STS 53rd Annual Meeting. The STS Residents Symposium focused on five topics addressed by subject matter experts, followed by small group discussions led by senior surgeons and faculty. Presentation topics included: Why I Chose Private Practice; Why I Chose Academics; The Mechanics of Finding a Job; What You Need to Know About Finances; Building a Successful Clinical Practice; Early Career Development; and Achieving Work/Life Balance. Attendees gave high marks to the presentations and table discussions. The WFTSRI would like to acknowledge Drs. Sidhu Gangadharan and Ed Chen for their leadership as co-chairs of the STS Residents Symposium Planning Task Force.

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 training, the current state of the job market, how CT surgeons should invest their efforts on behalf of the specialty, and what role should a professional society play in graduate medical education. 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 concerns about transition from training to practice, how to structure training and practice for work/life balance, preparing for fellowship, and mentorship.

Looking to the Future Scholarship Program

Sixty “Looking to the Future” Scholars attended the STS 53rd Annual Meeting (30 medical students, 30 general 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 (7%) or very valuable (93%). Demographics included 37% female recipients among the resident group, and 47% female recipients among the medical student group. 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.

The Workforce would like to acknowledge the efforts of members whose terms expired in January 2017: Drs. Ara Vaporciyan (Chair), Ed Chen, Elizabeth David, Michael Fischbein and Curt Tribble.