

**Thoracic Surgery Residency Administrators/Coordinators Section  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 28, 2007, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
San Diego Convention Center, Room 29 B**

Thirty-one Thoracic Surgery Residency Programs were represented by 29 Program Coordinators and two Program Directors at the 2007 TS-RACS Annual meeting. These included Rush University Medical Center, University of California at San Diego, University of Pittsburgh, NYU, University of Southern California, M. D. Anderson, University of Miami, Arizona Health Science Center, Medical College of Wisconsin, Yale University, University of Maryland, Wayne State, Texas Heart and Baylor College of Medicine, University of Minnesota, University of California—Davis, University of Wisconsin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education, Vanderbilt, Carolinas Medical Center, Mass. General, University of Virginia, Loma Linda Medical Center, University of Alabama, University of California, Mt. Sinai, Ohio State, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center, and Maimonides Medical Center.

Carla MacLean opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Dr. Jeffrey Gold, President of the TSDA, reviewed some of the discussion held at the General Session on Saturday, January 27, 2007, and talked about current trends in Thoracic Surgery.

Robbie Maki, Resident Education Program Coordinator from Vanderbilt University, presented a program on “Using Checklists and Direct Observation to Assess Operative Skills”. Her presentation showed how her institution assessed operative skills of the residents through their training period and how these assessment results were used to improve resident performance in accordance with the requirements by the ACGME.

Renee Overton, ERAS Director, presented “Preliminary Statistics on Thoracic Surgery Applicants”. Also, from ERAS, Alana Diaz-Sutton, Senior Client and Technical Support Analyst, presented “ERAS Tips” with a question and answer session for any ERAS issues. She included a handout which gives helpful tips using PDWS software (ERAS Program).

Dr. Inderpal (Netu) S. Sarkaria, Administrative Chief Resident, Dept. of Surgery, New York Presbyterian Hospital—Cornell Campus, presented a program entitled, “Expectations of a Thoracic Surgery Interview—An Applicant’s Perspective”.

Richard Nelson, PhD, an Independent Consultant, presented a program, “Preparing for a Site Visit”. An outline of “Site Visit Preparation” was given out, as well as a “Checklist of Accreditation Documentation”. He discussed site visit preparation and during our working lunch an informal question and answer session with Dr. Nelson was held.

After lunch the Discussion Session of the meeting began. Nancy Puckett, Executive Director of TSDA, was scheduled to join the coordinators, but had a conflict at the last minute and was not able to be present. However, anything we wish to have posted to the web site should be e-mailed to her. She will review and send to be posted on the TSDA or TS-RACS site. Nancy will also explore having the

STS office supply name tags for coordinators attending the TSDA General Session and/or the TS-RACS annual meeting. The hope is that these name tags would also allow admission to the Exhibit Halls.

Carol Blasberg, Managing Editor of CTSNet, discussed the Toolkit and home pages for Coordinators. She asked that every program use the Toolkit and instructions on how to access it will be added to our web site. She also encouraged each Coordinator to have a home page.

There was also discussion about the Operative Log. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed (Robbie Maki, Christine Morrison, and Mitzi Clendening) to discuss the problem of case reporting inconsistencies (resident categories not matching RRC categories). The Committee will propose that numbers are categorized the same way across the board, and which may result in additional categories being added, if necessary. The Ad Hoc Committee will propose a solution and make a recommendation to Dr. Gay with the assistance of Carol Blasberg.

Carol also confirmed that any resident or fellow (including non-accredited fellows) can use the CTSNet operative log to code their cases. This will be especially important if the proposed RRC Program Requirement changes are approved, which will require coding of cases for all non-accredited fellows as well.

Carol offered that anyone with suggestions or a “wish list” for CTSNet could contact her directly.

Carla MacLean commented on the number of changes in new coordinators during this past year. New Coordinators were offered an opportunity to have a mentor assigned to them. Anyone interested in this can contact Carla or Suzanne.

Christine Morrison reported that she felt ERAS now understands fellowship programs are different than major residency programs and that they are working better with us now. If anyone has concerns with ERAS, please continue to send to Christine Morrison.

There was one item of concern for ERAS regarding the NRMP number being a required field for our applicants. It currently is not. Carla will address the Executive Committee about this issue and see if we can have the TSDA support us in making the NRMP # a mandatory field for the applicants. It was noted that this may not be possible since the ERAS Post Office opens for the applicants before they can register for the NRMP.

4+3 Program issues were briefly discussed. Those included how they do case coding (2 places) and what years to take the in-training exam.

Changes to the RRC Program Requirements were briefly discussed, especially Section III C regarding the sponsoring institution providing support for a coordinator designated to the thoracic surgery program.

JCAHO Procedure Competency Skills List was briefly discussed.

The AATS web site offers venue for advertisement for residency and fellowship positions. This site is currently being reviewed and updated and the link and additional information will be forwarded to Coordinators in the future.

Other items of discussion without specific notations were Site Visits, Competencies, Recruitment Efforts, NRMP issues, Congenital Accreditation, and Visa issues.

#### Business Meeting

Last year's meeting minutes were approved.

#### Standing Committee Reports:

The Curriculum Committee reports that updating the curriculum is under way and, at this time, there was nothing new to report.

The Ethics Committee has not met. Chris Johnson, who was on this committee, does not have a program currently and cannot serve. Janet Donovan from the Medical College of Wisconsin volunteered to serve on this Committee.

The Evaluation Committee—has no committee to work with at this time.

#### Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Web Content—Robbie Maki will be meeting with Alfred Ticoalu of the IT Department of the STS, for updating the TS-RACS web site. Any suggestions for items to be included on the web should be sent to Robbie Maki.

ERAS—nothing new to report.

Mary McConnell gave a TAGME Update. The TAGME Application Form has been posted to the TS-RACS web site. Any Thoracic Surgery Coordinator who is interested in taking the TAGME examination may contact Mary for more details.

Nominations for Vice President, Secretary and Councillors (2). It was the feeling of Carla MacLean, President, as well as the members of TS-RACS, that in order to maintain continuity in the leadership of our group, the Councillor positions should become three-year terms rather than two-year terms. The Vice President and Secretary terms would remain two years. A motion was made and seconded for these changes. The motion was carried after a vote. The bylaws will be revised to implement these changes.

Nominations for Vice President: Robbie Maki

Nominations for Secretary: Mary McConnell

Motions were made and seconded for Robbie Maki and Mary McConnell to fill the offices of Vice President and Secretary, respectively. The motions were carried after a vote. Carla MacLean will become the Immediate Past President, Suzanne Giannotti, President, Robbie Maki, Vice President, Mary McConnell, Secretary, Shelby Long, Councillor, and Leslie Sotomayor, Councillor.

Certificates of Attendance were presented to all who attended the meeting.

Next year's meeting will be at the STS in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on Sunday, January 27, 2008.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Long, C-TAGME