

## THORACIC SURGERY RESIDENCY ADMINISTRATORS/COORDINATORS SECTION

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 23-24, 2016

Phoenix, Arizona

The meeting was called to order by Acting President, Catherine Cooper at 8:30am. Due to the weather conditions on the East Coast several coordinators as well as our current President, Honor Sanderford were not able to be physically present. Honor called in and was able to participate via telephone conference.

Following TS-RACS Board introductions, Rachel Pebworth from the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association was introduced. Rachel explained her position with the TSDA as Senior Coordinator and what her position entails. She also informed the coordinators that she keeps up the TSDA database. Coordinators were encouraged to contact her if they have any questions regarding the TSDA.

**Business Meeting:** The minutes of the previous TS-RACS meeting from January 24-15, 2015 were read. It was noted that Penny Potvin from East Carolina University in North Carolina was introduced as the next Councilor-at-large taking over for the expiring term of Phyllis Weigum. Penny was not able to attend but her term will run 2016-19. There being no objections to the minutes it was moved by Mitzi Clendening and seconded by Christine Carey to approve the minutes of the 2015 meeting. The motion passed.

Honor stated that we have 14 new coordinators who signed up to attend this year's meeting. It is a tribute to the TSDA and all of our Program Directors that we are all here and able to network with each other. We will be adding the new coordinators to our "Google Group" so that we can continue to network throughout the year. A question was raised if outside corporations or institutions can ask for and receive our fellows' names and email addresses. No information should be given out. If you would like to send out information, the TSDA can send it out or you can send the information to individual institutions through their coordinator. The Coordinator will then disburse the information. No fellow names or email addresses should be given out.

Dr. Walter Merrill was unable to be here today and our agenda was revised.

Donna Lamb, Executive Director, ACGME Review Committee for Plastic Surgery, Surgery and Thoracic Surgery was introduced. The ACGME case log system was started in 2014 and Donna reviewed with the coordinators the basics of how we use it and what the Residency Review Committee looks at. Several coordinators had questions in regard to specific procedures and how they should be coded to make sure credit is given to the fellow for their log. It was also noted that due to the change over to the new ACGME log there were procedures done in General Surgery such as with a 4/3 fellow that changed and did not match up with those in Thoracic Surgery. This caused the resident report to be different from the report that the ACGME ran for the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. The ABTS will be reviewing this information to make sure that a resident is not denied the ability to sit for the Board exam if he/she does indeed have the case numbers. Donna suggested that coordinators and program directors continue to monitor the activity report and minimums report for each resident to make sure they are keeping up on their numbers. In addition, residents were sent information on what procedures could be counted

twice. It would be helpful if the coordinators also had this information. Donna will find out when the ABTs sent this out to them. Donna also noted that the ABTS only looks at the graduating residents. She showed a General Surgery report as an example of what the Review Committee sees. It is not broken down by year but as a total. A copy of Donna Lamb's slides will be forwarded to Honor for posting on the TSDA website under our coordinator meetings.

APE, PEC & CCC Presentations: Due to the unusual circumstances of travel difficulties, these presentations were completed with Honor moderating via conference call while slides were projected. Each of the acronyms were reviewed and specific requirements of each committee were detailed. The **Annual Program Evaluation**: Should review the curriculum and quality and what makes the faculty a better teacher.

**Program Evaluation Committee**: Must have at least two faculty members and one resident member and must meet annually. They should review resident performance, faculty development and graduate performance which includes a 65% written and oral pass rate on the first attempt for the most recent five years. The results of the resident and faculty assessment yearly must have a plan of action and address what the result is each year and if it was achieved.

**The Clinical Competency Committee**: Must have a minimum of 3 faculty members but other faculty from the program or associated programs may also be members. Only a Chief Resident who has completed the core program and is eligible to sit for Board exams may be a member. The committee reviews individual resident performance and forwards this to the Program Director. It is recommended the committee meet at least twice a year to allow feedback to the resident.

At this point the coordinators broke into individual groups to network regarding these committees and were led by a TS-RACS board member or other team leader.

1/24/16

Acting President, Catherine Cooper again opened the meeting at 9:00am and introduced the first speakers who joined us remotely. Dukhbhanjan Kaur, Director, ERAS Programs Relations and Jennifer Nelson.

**ERAS**: This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for ERAS which started in 1996. Everyone is now on a web based platform. The speakers gave an overview of last year vs. this year stating there are now 8000 programs compared to 6082 from last year. In addition there has been 951 new enhancements to the ERAS system since going web based. What followed were many questions by the coordinators as to how to manage and utilize ERAS to the best possible advantage. Dukhbhanjan and Jennifer both acknowledged that there have been some problems with going to the web based system however their feeling was that with the new enhancements many of the coordinator issues could be resolved. Many of the coordinators have been unhappy with the system and have indicated it is not user friendly and sometimes takes double the amount of time and effort to input the information or get the information out of the system. It was suggested that the coordinators continue to work with ERAS and utilize the ERAS PDWS Announcements section for questions. Many of the coordinators did not feel our questions were answered but will continue to try and work with the program.

**ACGME**: Dr. Walter Merrill and Donna Lamb from the ACGME along with Pat Watson from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery held a panel discussion. Pat Watson discussed the new guidelines for

osteopathic programs and indicated that programs should be especially careful when matching a resident to make sure the last three years of the resident's training were in an accredited program otherwise they cannot sit for the Board exam. Several coordinators had questions about faculty and resident scholarly activity and what constitutes this activity. The ACGME does not see specific information from this. They only know that the program did the scholarly activity or did not do it. Other questions dealt with compliment increases and Integrated programs that also have traditional programs and how these will balance out in the future. ABTS oral exams will be given June 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The new application deadline for taking the Board exam has been moved from August to September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The written exam will be December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with results posted January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Programs were encouraged to carefully monitor their resident operative logs to make sure they are getting the right amount of specific operative cases logged. Finally, the coordinators were encouraged to remind their faculty that evaluations to the ABTS on graduating residents must be received by the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline or the Board cannot start the applicant's review to take the exam.

Adjournment: Catherine thanked everyone for their patience and attendance at this event. Because of the weather difficulties the schedule was revised and everyone adjusted accordingly as this is what coordinators do. The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.