

STS Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues

Activity Report

October 2015

Since the last Workforce activity report submitted in April 2015, this group has focused on the following projects:

STS Resident Symposium

The STS Workforce on Annual Meeting accepted the STS Residents Symposium program as developed by the STS Residents Symposium Planning Task Force, co-chaired by Drs. Sandra Starnes and Sidhu Gangadharan. The symposium will address the needs of thoracic surgery residents as identified in feedback from previous symposium evaluations, including job search/acquisition, contracts, and training issues. The three hour program will offer two sessions: Finding a Job and Transition to Practice. Each session will offer two to three 20-minute presentations, each followed by a 15 minute Q&A period, and break-out sessions for table and group discussions at the conclusion of each session. Presentation topics include: How to Find Your First Job; Keys to a Successful Interview; What You Need to Know about Contracts; Building a Successful Clinical Practice; and Early Career Development. Speakers and table discussion leaders have been recruited and will engage attendees by answering questions and offering a more personalized approach to addressing the needs of residents planning for the next stage in their careers.

STS Residents Luncheon

The 2016 STS Residents Luncheon will be used as a needs assessment for future symposiums and possible future projects for the Workforce. Residents will be seated with leaders in the thoracic surgery community and engage in round table discussions, and will be invited to address questions to all attendees.

Looking to the Future Scholarship Program

The Looking to the Future Scholarship (LTTF) program is now in its 11th year and has been expanded (for the second consecutive year) to accept 30 medical students and 30 general surgery residents, up from 20 in each group in 2014 and 25 in each group in 2015. Looking to the Future Scholarship Task Force members, led by Drs. Rishi Reddy (Chair) and Elizabeth David (Vice-Chair), will evaluate the applications and select scholarship recipients. All applicants will be notified by early December as to whether or not they received a scholarship. Mentors will be identified, and the plans for the program schedule, including a medical student and general surgery resident sessions, are underway.

STS Outreach

Dr. Rishi Reddy represented The Society of Thoracic Surgeons at the 2015 AMA Medical Student Specialty Showcase in June 2015. Dr. Reddy showcased cardiothoracic surgery as a specialty choice and engaged with 40-50 interested medical students. Information was distributed about the various educational pathways in CT surgery and the Looking to the Future Scholarship program. Giveaways included flash drives with STS marketing information and STS pens. New marketing materials were developed for this program, including a new sign and a slideshow.

STS Transitions to Practice Task Force

The STS Transitions to Practice Task Force reports to the Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues

At the request of the ABTS, the STS Transitions to Practice Task Force designed and distributed a survey to identify areas of possible improvement in thoracic surgery resident training, including clinical judgement and technical ability readiness, and professional employment and career development issues. The voluntary survey was distributed in June 2014 to 130 graduates of ACGME-approved thoracic surgery residency programs during the ABTS certifying oral board examination application process. The paper titled, "Gaps in Cardiothoracic Surgical Training: A Report from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Transition to Practice Task Force," examines the survey results and was submitted to the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* for consideration for publication.