TRANSFER OF EDITORIAL OFFICE

on January 1, 2000

to

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

All new manuscripts
submitted after October 1, 1999
should be directed
to

Andrew S. Wechsler, MD, Editor-Elect

Editorial Office
The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
MCP Hahnemann University
MS 111
230 N Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY

Annual meeting notes


The Twenty-seventh Annual Symposium on Congenital Heart Disease was conducted on Sunday, April 18, 1999. Directed by Frank L. Hanley, MD, this popular course attracted almost 300 physicians and had a faculty of 17 distinguished members and guests. In addition to this postgraduate course, a General Thoracic Surgery Symposium was also conducted on Sunday, April 18. Directed by Dr David J. Sugarbaker, the symposium had a faculty of 16 members and guests and attracted close to 200 physicians. An Adult Cardiac Surgery Symposium also took place this year on Sunday. Chaired by Dr Irving L. Kron, this symposium included 17 faculty and covered such topics as prevention of neurologic injury during cardiac surgery and prevention of spinal cord injury during repair of thoracic aortic aneurysms. This symposium was attended by close to 1000 physicians.

The Cardiac Biology and General Thoracic Surgery Biology Clubs met on Sunday, April 18 and entertained significant informal discussion on research issues in their respective fields.

The ever-popular Cardiothoracic Residents’ Luncheon on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, attracted nearly 100 residents, who were able to enjoy informal dialogue with selected leaders in the specialty.

The President, Dr Lawrence H. Cohn, presented his views on the future of the cardiothoracic surgeon in his Presidential Address, entitled “What the Cardiothoracic Surgeon of the Twenty-first Century Ought To Be.” In his address, Dr Cohn emphasized those characteristics that the cardiothoracic surgeon of the future must embrace to provide optimum care to his or her patients. The Honored Guest Speaker was Dr Judah Folkman of Boston, Massachusetts. He spoke eloquently in his presentation, entitled “Experimental and Clinical Application of Angiogenesis Research.”

Dr P. Michael McFadden chaired the Local Arrangements Committee, which provided a varied and entertaining array of social events. Mrs McFadden chaired the Spouses’ Hospitality Committee and provided all spouses with a host of opportunities in New Orleans. A “Welcome to New Orleans” Reception was conducted Sunday evening in the Exhibit Hall of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and the Attendee Reception was conducted Tuesday evening at Mardi Gras World. The Association extends its thanks to Dr and Mrs McFadden and their committee for their outstanding efforts on behalf of this meeting.

At the annual Executive Session, the following officers were elected: Delos M. Cosgrove III, MD, President; James L. Cox, MD, Vice President; Tirone E. David, MD, Secretary; and Richard A. Jonas, MD, Treasurer. Lawrence H. Cohn, MD, was elected to the Council for a 1-year term succeeding Floyd D. Loop, MD, and Timothy J. Gardner, MD, was elected to a 4-year term on the Council. J. Gordon Scannell, MD, remains Historian, and Andrew S. Wechsler, MD, became Editor-Elect of The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery to replace John A. Waldhausen, MD, effective January 1, 2000.

An amendment to the Association’s by-laws was adopted, which clarified the fact that members of the Association must be physicians. A second amendment to the Association’s by-laws established an Editorial Advisory Committee, whose responsibility will be to review the publications of the Association and make recommendations to the Editor and Council.

The Eightieth Annual Meeting of the Association will be conducted April 30–May 3, 2000, at the Royal York Hotel and Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Abstracts may be submitted only electronically this year via diskette or the World Wide Web. AATS will provide a diskette in either MS Windows or MAC or the diskette software may be downloaded at the Association’s Web site at www.aats.org/annual meeting/abstract submission. The electronic submission diskette contains
all necessary instructions and you may copy the diskette to submit more than one abstract or share with a colleague.

The abstract deadline for the 2000 Annual Meeting is October 18, 1999.

The following 35 new active members were elected, bringing total membership in the Association to 1121:

**Active Members**

David H. Adams, **Boston, Mass**  
Zohair Y. Al-Halees, **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
G. Hossein Almassi, **Milwaukee, Wis**  
Antonio M. Calafiore, **Chieti, Italy**  
Gregory S. Couper, **Boston, Mass**  
Willem J. Flameng, **Leuven, Belgium**  
Eugene A. Grossi, **New York, NY**  
George B. Haasler, **Milwaukee, Wis**  
Ari L. J. Harjula, **Helsinki, Finland**  
Lynn H. Harrison, Jr, **New Orleans, La**  
Stephen R. Hazelrigg, **Springfield, Ill**  
Guo-Wei He, **Aberdeen, Hong Kong**  
Bobby J. Heath, **Jackson, Miss**  
Michael E. Jessen, **Dallas, Tex**  
Kent W. Jones, **Salt Lake City, Utah**  
Sami S. Kabbani, **Damascus, Syria**  
Shaf Keshavjee, **Toronto, Ontario, Canada**  
Guillermo O. Kreutzer, **Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
Bruce J. Leavitt, **South Burlington, Vt**  
Roger B. B. Mee, **Gates Mills, Ohio**  
Joao Q. Melo, **Carnaxide, Portugal**  
Freidrich Mohr, **Leipzig, Germany**  
Charles J. Mullany, **Rochester, Minn**  
Marcos Murtra, **Barcelona, Spain**  
Tsuguo Naruke, **Tokyo, Japan**  
Yutaka Okita, **Osaka, Japan**  
Richard N. Pierson III, **Nashville, Tenn**  
Vadiyala M. Reddy, **San Francisco, Calif**  
Robert C. Robbins, **Stanford, Calif**  
Todd K. Rosengart, **New York, NY**  
William F. Sasser, **St Louis, Mo**  
Thoralf M. Sundt, **St Louis, Mo**  
Clifford H. Van Meter, **Metairie, La**  
Herbert B. Ward, **St Paul, Minn**  
Winfield J. Wells, **Los Angeles, Calif**

**Honorary Member**

Judah Folkman, **Boston, Mass**

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**Announcement of 2000 Annual Meeting**

The Eightieth Annual Meeting of The American Association for Thoracic Surgery will be held April 30–May 3, 2000, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, at the Toronto Convention Centre. Headquarters for the meeting will be the Royal York Hotel. The meeting of the Association is open to all physicians. House Officers and Fellows will be admitted without payment of a registration fee upon presentation of a letter from their Chief of Service either during pre-registration or at the time of registration. Nonmember physicians will be required to pay a $250 registration fee. Members, nonmember physicians, and invited speakers will have the privilege of discussing papers.

**Requests for preregistration forms and hotel reservations**

Information on the 2000 Annual Meeting, including registration, hotel accommodations, and the social program, will be available in January of 2000. Requests should be forwarded directly to:

American Association for Thoracic Surgery  
Thirteen Elm Street  
Manchester, MA 01944  
(978) 526-8330; fax (978) 526-7521;  
e-mail: aats@prri.com

Registration and hotel information will be available on our website at aats.org.

**Call for abstracts**

Authors submitting abstracts for the 2000 Annual Meeting must use electronic submission. Abstracts submitted electronically for consideration for presenta-
Announcements

The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
September 1999

Electronic submission

Deadline for submission is October 18, 1999. Please submit your abstract either on diskette or via the world wide web. AATS will provide a diskette in either MS Windows or MAC or you may download the diskette software at www.aats.org/annual meeting/abstract submission. The electronic submission diskette contains all necessary instructions and you may copy the diskette to submit more than one abstract or share with a colleague. All abstract submissions must be in the structured format as required by The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. The structured abstract is to contain the following major headings: Objective(s), Methods, Results, and Conclusions, and it should clearly reflect the content of the completed paper. No reference should be made on the abstract to the names or institutions of the authors.

Receipt of each abstract will be acknowledged by e-mail, fax, or mail. Notification of the decision of the Program Committee will be distributed by January 15, 2000.

Essayists selected for the program are reminded that papers presented at the meeting are to be submitted for consideration for publication to The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and must be handed to the Chair immediately prior to their presentation.

C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum

The C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum will be held on Tuesday morning, May 2, 2000. Made possible through an educational grant from St Jude Medical, the Forum will consist of the presentation of original work by residents in thoracic surgical training programs in North America. Abstracts submitted for the award should follow the guidelines of abstract submission for electronic submission noted above. The abstracts submitted for consideration for this Forum will be evaluated by the Program Committee and eight will be selected for presentation during the forum. Each of the selected authors will receive round-trip travel and accommodations for the duration of the AATS annual meeting. Additionally, one presentation will be selected by the Program Committee to receive the AATS C. Walton Lillehei Residents’ Award, a $5000 prize. Thoracic Surgery Program Directors are urged to have their residents participate in this Forum.

Abstract Deadline—Abstracts received after the deadline will not be considered
Electronic Submission: October 18, 1999

Applications for membership

Applications for membership in the Association must have been received by the Membership Committee Chairman no later than October 1, 1999. Applications received after that date will be deferred automatically for consideration until the 2001 meeting.

Applicants must be sponsored by three Active or Senior Members of the Association who are not members of the Membership Committee. Members should write the Chairman of the Membership Committee requesting that an application form be sent to the candidate. Requests may be sent to:

Chairman, Membership Committee
American Association for Thoracic Surgery
Thirteen Elm Street
Manchester, MA 01944
(978) 526-8330; fax (978) 526-4018;
e-mail: aats@prri.com

Tirone E. David, MD, Secretary
THE WESTERN THORACIC SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

Announcement of 2000 Annual Meeting

The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of The Western Thoracic Surgical Association will be held June 21-24, 2000, at The Orchid at Mauna Lani, Island of Hawaii. The scientific sessions are open to all duly qualified physicians. Participation in other Association activities for members, invited guests, and program participants will require payment of a social registration fee. Nonmember physicians will be required to pay a scientific registration fee of $200 in addition to the social registration fee.

Requests for meeting information

Meeting preregistration and hotel registration forms are available from:

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
Thirteen Elm Street
Manchester, Massachusetts 01944
(978) 526-8330; fax (978) 526-7521

Material for the program

Scientific papers will be considered from members and nonmembers. Member sponsorship is not necessary. Abstracts of proposed papers must have been received by the Program Chairman on or before January 12, 2000, and must have been accompanied by a Transmittal of Abstract Form.

All abstracts submitted must be in the structured format as required by The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. The structured abstract is to contain the following major headings: Objective(s), Methods, Results, and Conclusions, and should clearly reflect the content of the completed paper. No reference should be made on the abstract to the names or institutions of the authors. Abstracts must represent unpublished work not previously presented at a major scientific meeting. Unless specified otherwise, the first named author will receive correspondence, give a ten-minute presentation of the paper, and close the discussion. Instructions and Abstract Transmittal Forms are available from:

Chairman, Program Committee
The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
Thirteen Elm Street
Manchester, Massachusetts 01944
(978) 526-8330

Successful essayists must deliver the complete manuscript at the time of presentation. The manuscript must be in a form acceptable to The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and must not exceed 3000 words without illustrations. The essay length must be reduced appropriately when figures or tables are included.

Samson Resident Prize Essay

The Association offers a prize for the best manuscript on a topic of interest to thoracic surgeons in honor of Paul C. Samson, MD. Candidates for the prize must be in a training program in the United States or Canada. The one essayist whose abstract, manuscript, and presentation are judged most outstanding will receive a $2000 cash award following the presentation of all papers in Hawaii. The conditions for abstract submission, presentation, and publication as described above will apply. In addition, the Samson Resident Prize Essay box in the lower left hand corner of the form should be checked. A covering letter from the Chief of Service of the training program indicating the individual's year of training and the proportion of the work performed by the resident must be submitted. The authors of the abstracts chosen for the program will make up the finalists and will be notified by February 11, 2000, that they must submit six completed manuscripts for review by the Prize Essay Committee. The Prize Essay committee will make its selection following the presentation of all papers.

Application for membership

Applications for membership in the Association must have been received by the Membership Committee Chairman no later than March 1, 2000, to be considered at the following annual meeting. Applicants must be sponsored by three members of the Association who are not members of the Membership Committee. Application forms will be issued only to sponsoring members. Address correspondence to:

Chairman, Membership Committee
The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
Thirteen Elm Street
Manchester, Massachusetts 01944
(978) 526-8330; fax (978) 526-4018

Vaughn A. Starnes, MD, Secretary
THE AMERICAN BOARD OF THORACIC SURGERY

Notices

The Part I (written) examination will be held at the Westin Hotel, O'Hare, 6100 River Road, Rosemont, Illinois 60018, on November 21, 1999. The closing date for registration was August 1, 1999. Those wishing to be considered for examination must request an application since it is not automatically sent.

To be admissible for the Part II (oral) examination, a candidate must have successfully completed the Part I (written) examination.

A candidate applying for admission to the certifying examination must fulfill all the requirements of the Board in force at the time the application is received. Please address all communications to the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, One Rotary Center, Suite 803, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

New Requirements for Recertification in the Year 2001

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery who plan to participate in the recertification process within the next few years should pay particular attention to this notice, since the requirements will change effective in the year 2001.

In addition to an active medical license and institutional clinical privileges in thoracic surgery, beginning in 2001, a valid certificate will be an absolute requirement for entrance into the recertification process. If your certificate has expired, the only pathway for renewal of a certificate will be to take and pass the Part I (written) and the Part II (oral) certifying examinations.

In 2001, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery will no longer publish the names of individuals who have not recertified. In the past, a designation of "NR" (not recertified) was used in the American Board of Medical Specialties directories if a Diplomate had not recertified. The Diplomate’s name will be published upon successful completion of the recertification process.

The CME requirements will also change in 2001. The new CME requirements will be 70 Category I credits in either cardiothoracic surgery or general surgery earned during the 2 years prior to applying for recertification. SESATS and SESAPS will be the only self-instructional material allowed for credit. No Category II credits will be allowed. The Physicians Recognition Award for recertifying in general surgery will not be accepted in fulfillment of the CME requirement for recertification. The preceding information only partially outlines the CME requirements. Interested individuals should refer to the 1999 Booklet of Information for a complete description of acceptable CME credits.

Diplomates should maintain a documented list of their major cases performed during the year prior to application for recertification. This practice review should consist of 1 year’s consecutive major operative experiences. If more than 100 cases occur in 1 year, only 100 should be listed.

Candidates for recertification will be required to complete both the general thoracic and the cardiac portions of the SESATS self-assessment examination. It is not necessary for candidates to purchase SESATS prior to applying for recertification since SESATS will be sent to candidates after their application has been approved. Diplomates may recertify up to 3 years before the expiration of their certificate. Their new certificate will be dated 10 years from the time of expiration of their original certificate or most recent recertification certificate. In other words, recertifying early does not alter the 10-year validation.

Recertification is also open to Diplomates with an unlimited certificate and will in no way affect the validity of their original certificate.

The deadline for submission of applications for the recertification process is May 1 each year. A recertification brochure outlining the rules and requirements for recertification in thoracic surgery is available upon request from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, One Rotary Center, Suite 803, Evanston, Illinois 60201 (telephone: 847-475-1520; fax: 847-475-6240; e-mail: abts_evanston@msn.com).
The Thoracic Surgery Foundation announces two opportunities for cardiothoracic surgeons to apply for educational experiences sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. There are indications of interest in having cardiothoracic surgeons apply for the Clinical Scholars Program and/or the Washington, DC–based Fellowships for Mid-Career Health Professionals.

1. **The Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program** is designed to allow young physicians committed to clinical medicine to acquire new skills and training in the nonbiologic sciences important to medical care systems. The program offers 18 to 24 months of graduate level study and research—as part of a university-based, postresidency training program. At least 20% of the Clinical Scholars’ time is spent in relevant clinical activities as part of their experiences.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has supported the Clinical Scholars Program since 1973. Currently, seven institutions participate in the program and will be recruiting Scholars to begin the program in July 2000. These institutions are: the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Chicago; the Johns Hopkins University; the University of Michigan; the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; the University of Washington, Seattle; and Yale University.

At each of these university sites, a study and research program is tailored to meet the Scholar’s specific interests within the priority area the Scholar selects. Faculty and resources are available in a broad array of disciplines, including epidemiology, biostatistics, medical information sciences, economics, the social sciences, anthropology, history of medicine, law, ethics, and the humanities. Although the programs vary in design and emphasis, each has developed core programs to introduce Scholars to basic nonbiologic disciplines and methods used in health care research.

The Clinical Scholars Program will give cardiothoracic surgeons research tools that can be used over their entire careers.

2. **Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows**—mid-career health professionals from academic and community health settings nationwide—spend nearly a year in Washington, DC, learning first-hand how the health policy process works. Fellows have an extensive orientation, which brings them into contact with key policy leaders in the nation’s capital and prepares them for their 9-month work assignments with members of Congress or the executive branch. In recent years, these assignments have covered the breadth of the political spectrum in health policy—including the offices of Senators Dole (Republican-Kansas), Rockefeller (Democrat–West Virginia), Hatch (Republican-Utah), Kassebaum (Republican-Kansas), and Kerrey (Democrat-Nebraska).
The Fellows consistently report that the program has had an enormous influence on their careers. Even when they do not work directly in policy afterward, they are much better able to help their colleagues and home institutions to understand the interplay of forces that are drastically changing our nation’s health system. This is the pinnacle, introductory experience to how our political system works regarding health care.

Both programs are extraordinarily prestigious and will have continuing meaning for the careers of successful candidates. For further details and stipend information on these RWJ programs, contact The Thoracic Surgery Foundation office (phone: 312-644-6610; fax: 312-527-6635; E-mail: Frank_Kurtz@SBA.com).

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Harvard Executive Course

The next offering of the Harvard Executive Course, Understanding the New World of Health Care, will be November 6-14, 1999. Applications from Harvard can be obtained by contacting Eleanor Brimley at 617-496-1069. Alley-Sheridan Scholarship materials are available from The Foundation. Please contact Lainie Castle at 312-644-6610, extension 4798.

Understanding the New World of Health Care will be offered again November 11-19, 2000. Building the New World of Health Care, the next generation of executive course education, will be offered for the first time April 1-9, 2000.

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1999-2000 Research Award Applications

Information and applications for 1999-2000 Thoracic Surgery Foundation Research Grants, Research Fellowships, and Career Development Awards are now available. Please contact Lainie Castle at 312-644-6610 (phone); 312-527-6635 (fax); or lcastle@sba.com (E-mail).