



Newsletter of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association

900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U, Beverly, MA 01915

www.westernthoracic.org

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The 32nd Annual Meeting to be Held in Sun Valley, Idaho

General Information

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association will be held at the Sun Valley Resort, June 21-24, 2006. Half-day scientific sessions will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with afternoons free to enjoy the many activities available in and around Sun Valley.

Scientific Highlights of the Program include:

- ♦ **Controversies in Thoracic Surgery** - "VATS vs. Open Lobectomy for Lung Cancer" moderated by Douglas E. Wood. John D. Mitchell will present VATS and Open Lobectomy will be presented by Douglas J. Mathisen.
- ♦ **The Presidential Address** - "In Critical Condition" presented by R. Scott Mitchell.
- ♦ **Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions:** Adult Cardiac Session - "Current Techniques and Long Term Results of Valve Sparing Aortic Root Surgery" with invited speaker D. Craig Miller; General Thoracic Session - "Evolving Role of PET Scanning and Lung Cancer Staging" with speaker Robert Cerfolio; and Congenital Heart Disease Session - "Current Status of Pediatric Mechanical Support Devices" with speaker Marc. P. Pelletier.
- ♦ **Postgraduate Course**, Sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III Fund with Irving L. Weissman, Stanford, California.
- ♦ **Concurrent Poster Forum Sessions** in General Thoracic, Adult Cardiac and Congenital.
- ♦ **C. Walton Lillehei Point/CounterPoint Session** "Optimal Treatment of Multi-Vessel Coronary Disease", moderated by David A. Fullerton; Pro: David P. Taggart and Con: John Carroll.

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2005 Annual Meeting: *In Review*

More than 475 physicians, spouses, residents, guests, and exhibitors attended the 31st Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia on June 22-25, 2005. The WTSA Annual Meeting, designed to provide a forum for communicating the latest developments in the art and science of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, included oral presentation of 22 original papers, a postgraduate course, panel discussions, breakfast sessions and 16 poster presentations. The meeting combined an excellent didactic scientific program with many opportunities for questions and open discussion.

The Empress Hotel provided an impressive backdrop for the week's activities. The New Member's Reception was graced by a visit from "Queen Elizabeth", who regaled the crowd with the exploits of numerous prominent WTSA members and "knighted" WTSA President Steve Guyton. Spectacular views accompanied a superb golf course at the Bear Mountain Country Club. The Theme Dinner celebrated the history of British Columbia at the Royal BC Museum, featuring an exhausting Native American hoop dance and a floorshow by two visiting Mounties who were searching for a dastardly criminal.

Educational highlights of the program included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery session that debated whether "Endoscopic Therapy for High Grade Dysplasia in Barrett's Esophagus Should

(continued inside)

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

Highlights of the Council Meeting - June 22, 2005 and the Annual Business Meeting - June 25, 2005

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Report of the President

Dr. Guyton reported that over the last year the WTSA had identified a number of surgeons living and working in the Western area who belonged to the STS but not WTSA. He has e-mailed several members about local surgeons in this category for possible recommendation as Western members. The Association would continue to work on this list of potential candidates. He opined that participating members are the lifeblood of the WTSA.

Corporate sponsorships are being accepted for the first time at this meeting with sponsorship dollars being received from Guidant as a platinum sponsor and from Medtronic as a silver sponsor. Guidant has indicated the likelihood of continuing to sponsor the Western meeting at the platinum level. Medtronic has also committed funds for next year for an educational award honoring Don Doty's educational achievements. The details and application procedures for this award will be on the website later this year.

Inasmuch as membership dues of \$250 had been in place since 1995 and from 1984 to 1994 had been \$200. The Council has recommended a dues increase to \$275 per year starting in 2006. Dr. Guyton noted that this recommendation requires approval of a majority of the membership. He opened the floor for any questions or discussion. It was voted to approve the dues increase to \$275 per year starting in 2006.

Report of the Secretary

Dr. John A. Hawkins, Secretary, informed the Membership that there are presently 211 Active, 196 Senior and 13 Honorary members of the Association for a total of 420 Surgeons. Eleven new Active members were elected in 2004 and 10 Active members were advanced to Senior membership. Six Active members will be advanced to Senior membership at the end of the year.

During the past year the following members of the Association had passed away and a moment of silence was observed:

Elmore M. Aronstam, MD, *Los Osos, California*
John M. Baker, MD, *Carmichael, California*
Ralph T. Cunningham, MD, *Bakersfield, California*
Lowell L. Davis, MD, *Los Angeles, California*
Ronald P. Grunwald, *Valleyford, Washington*
Reinold J. Jones, *San Francisco, California*
Harold G. Peters, *Orange, California*

Dr. Hawkins provided a report of the actions taken by the Council at its meeting earlier in the week. He noted that the Council:

- ♦ Revisited a review of the AdVaMed Medical Technology Association's recently updated "Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals." This code, which went into effect last July, sets out clear expectations for the ethical interactions between industry and healthcare providers. It follows on the pharmaceutical industry's PharmaCode, which has been in effect for 4 years. The Council voted to endorse the Code and commend it to the membership.

- ♦ Voted to upgrade the WTSA website to make it more user friendly and include a "members only" capability. Additionally, the Council agreed to streamline the membership application process by providing the membership application in a downloadable format and providing clear instructions and expectations for both sponsors and potential candidates for membership.
- ♦ Appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to develop the Awards criteria, application process and timeline for the new Donald B. Doty Education Award to be on the website later this year.
- ♦ Received a favorable report from the Editor of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (JTCVS) noting that the acceptance rate of 81% for papers submitted from the Maui meeting was the highest acceptance rate in recent history for the WTSA and exceeded the 73% acceptance rate of AATS manuscripts for its own 2004 meeting in Toronto.
- ♦ Acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Past President and Past Historian, Dick Fosburg, for his extraordinary efforts in chronicling the history of the Samson Fun Run through the crafting of a quilt of all the t-shirts for the run. Last year, the quilt ran out of space and Sigrid Guyton and her sister-in-law took on the task of refurbishing the quilt. The Council extends its special thanks to them for the revitalized quilts. The WTSA is seeking t-shirts from the 1983 and 1985 runs at the Broadmoor and Incline Village at Lake Tahoe.

Report of the Treasurer

Dr. Robbin G. Cohen, Treasurer, presented a Review by the CPA firm of Russell, Brier, and Company, noting total assets of \$301,540. Total income for the year was \$446,194 against expenses of \$442,174 resulting in a surplus of \$4,020.

Dr. Cohen presented a nine-year summary of the Association's financial status noting that total assets reached a high of almost \$300,000 in 1996. The Association incurred a deficit in 1997 of over \$103,000, and since 1997, the Association had been aggressively working back up towards its asset base of 1996 with the asset base in 2004 at \$301,540.

In reviewing the overall finances and investments of the Association, the Council established an Ad Hoc Finance Committee, chaired by the Treasurer and charged with exploring strategies for:

- ♦ An expanded fundraising and sponsorship role of industry to assist in underwriting Annual Meeting costs.
- ♦ Revisiting the pricing structure of the registration fees for the Annual Meeting with an eye to developing a family-friendly schema.
- ♦ Exploring the potential of having the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE) manage the investments of the Association's Samson Endowment Fund while still maintaining complete control over the distribution of funds from the Endowment.

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Meeting Highlights

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- ♦ Developing a schedule to review membership dues on a regular basis and consider increasing dues based on a reasonable index. This would only be done if the membership approves such recommendation by a majority vote.

The Council also voted to make contributions of \$5,000 and \$1,000 respectively to the TSFRE and the American College of Surgeons Leadership Scholarship Fund.

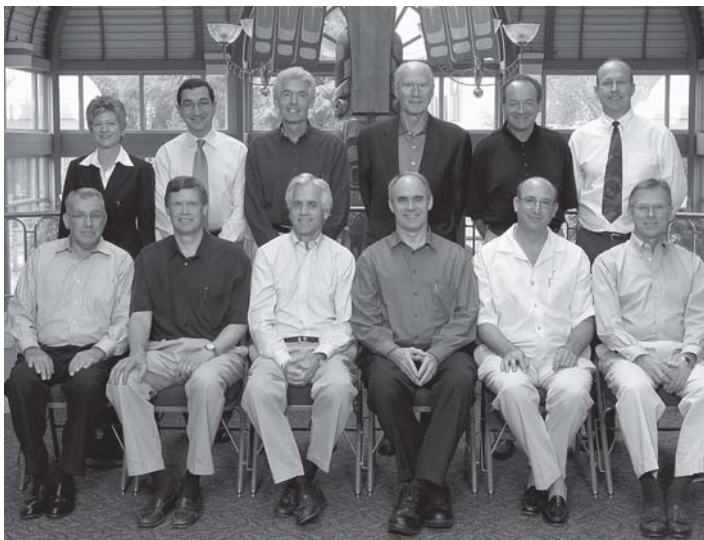
Program Committee

Dr. Robert C. Robbins, Chairman, reported that this year, with the addition of three separate Moderated Poster Sessions, a total of 44 papers were accepted consisting of 22 papers for Podium Presentation and 22 Posters. Of the 22 podium presentations, 3 were from WTSA members, and 16 non-members, and 3 international papers. He noted that 263 abstracts had been submitted 73 of which were resident abstract submissions. Fourteen of the 73 were accepted, 7 for podium and 7 for poster presentation. The overall acceptance rate was 17%.

Local Arrangements

Dr. W.R. Eric Jamieson, Chair, reported on the attendance figures for the Annual Meeting noting there were 220 professionals and 463 total registrants in attendance, the highest figures in the latest five years (excluding the 2004 Maui Meeting). In addition, the Annual Meeting had 50-75 children in attendance. He iterated that the Samson Fun Run had over 75 runners participating; the golf tournament had 47 golfers; and the tennis tournament had 11 players. He reported that the prizes for these events would be awarded at the Family Luncheon following the Annual Business Meeting.

2005-2006 WTSA Council



Report of the Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. Gabriel S. Aldea was unable to attend the Business Meeting. Dr. Steven R. Gundry, Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery reported that the Advisory Council met in association with the AATS Annual Meeting on April 12, 2005 in San Francisco. The majority of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the decline in attendance and overall participation of cardiothoracic surgeons at the Annual Clinical Congress and Surgical Forum sessions. The Council had voted to implement a number of strategies to attempt to encourage larger attendance.

Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education

Dr. John R. Benfield, President, reported that there were currently five recipients of the TSFRE/NHLBI K08 Awards with the first two of these awards having gone to Western Thoracic Surgery Association investigators: Drs. Michael Mulligan of Seattle Washington and Anthony Azakie of San Francisco, California. The first TSFRE/NCI K23 Award is to be funded later this year and that additional applications at NHLBI and NCI are pending. Dr. Benfield thanked the WTSA for its continuing support of the Foundation.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following new members and membership changes were approved during the 2005 Annual Business Meeting:

NEW MEMBERS

Amir Abolhoda, MD	<i>Orange, California</i>
Michael H. Buch, MD	<i>Ogden, Utah</i>
Robert B. Cameron, MD	<i>Los Angeles, California</i>
Gordon A. Cohen, MD	<i>Seattle, Washington</i>
James M. Douglas, Jr., MD	<i>Bellingham, Washington</i>
Timothy B. Icenogle, MD	<i>Spokane, Washington</i>
Robert C. King, MD	<i>Bremerton, Washington</i>
Lester C. Permut, MD	<i>Seattle, Washington</i>
Luis J. Rosado-Lopez, MD	<i>Tucson, Arizona</i>
Barry L. Winton, MD	<i>Billings, Montana</i>
Ronald K. Woods, MD	<i>Tacoma, Washington</i>

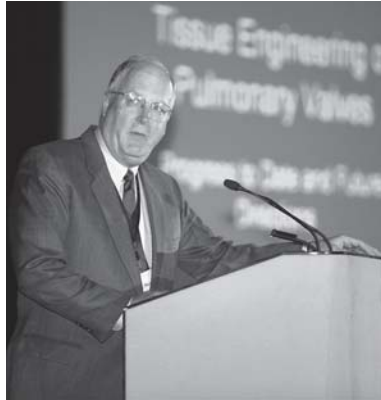
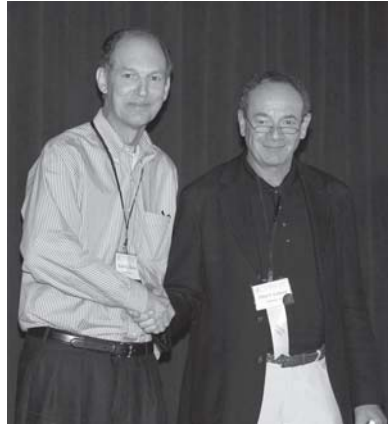
To Be Advanced to Senior Membership In 2005

Walter B. Cannon, MD	<i>Palo Alto, California</i>
Robert J. Ellis, MD	<i>San Francisco, California</i>
Randall B. Griep, MD	<i>New York, New York</i>
Albert H. Krause, MD	<i>Portland, Oregon</i>
Donald W. Miller, Jr., MD	<i>Seattle, Washington</i>
William Y. Moores, MD	<i>San Francisco, California</i>

Requests for Senior Membership

James T. Anderson, MD	<i>Colorado Springs, Colorado</i>
John C. Opie, MD	<i>Scottsdale, Arizona</i>

Photo Highlights of the 2005 Annual Meeting



Be Considered in Good Surgical Candidates.” The debate was moderated by John D. Mitchell. Drew B. Schembre argued in the affirmative while Donald E. Low presented the opposing viewpoint.

Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions were held on Friday morning and covered three disciplines. The Adult Cardiac Session focused on “How to Organize a Thoracic Endovascular Program” with R. Scott Mitchell. The General Thoracic Session questioned “Optimal Management of the Small (<2cm) NSCLC: Is Sub-Lobar Resection a Reasonable Option?” with speaker Eric Vallieres, and at the Congenital Heart Disease Session speaker Richard Ohye reviewed “Minimally Invasive Congenital Cardiac Surgery”.

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session questioned whether “Minimally Invasive OPCAB Should Be the Standard of Care Within the Next Two Years” and was moderated by Donald B. Doty, with a positive response by Roxanne Newman and the negative by Vincent Gaudiani.

The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund featured John E. Mayer, Jr., of Boston, Massachusetts, who discussed “Progress Toward A Tissue Engineered Heart Valve.”

Additional highlights included the Presidential Address by Steven W. Guyton entitled “Tough Questions, Tougher Answers”, the presentation of the David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award to Bruce A. Reitz, Stanford, California and the Samson Resident Prize Essay Award Winner, M.G. Whitten from the University of Utah Health Sciences for his paper, “Ischemia-Inducible Gene Therapy for Myocardial Infarction.”

Thank you

to the following companies for their support as exhibitors and sponsors of the 2005 Annual Meeting:

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R. Scott Mitchell, MD, *EX OFFICIO*
Andrew S. Wechsler, MD, *EX OFFICIO*

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Steven R. Gundry, MD, Representative

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Edward D. Verrier, MD, Representative

Western Thoracic Surgical Association
Founded as the Samson Thoracic Surgical Society

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WISA Membership
The WISA associates persons in the western United States and Canada who desire to advance the quality and practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery as a specialty, encourages research and study of thoracic and cardiovascular functions and disorders so as to increase knowledge and improve treatment, and holds scientific meetings for the presentation and discussion of topics of interest to thoracic and cardiovascular surgeons and to encourage publication to these proceedings. [Apply Now](#) for membership in the WISA.

32nd Annual Meeting
Preliminary Program posted online
June 21-24, 2006
Sun Valley Resort
Sun Valley, Idaho
• Register Now!
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The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
• Current Issue

Visit the
WTSA
Website

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Social Program Highlights *(included in registration fee)*

- ♦ **New Members' Reception** on Wednesday, June 21 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The reception will be held around the lovely Sun Valley Pond that meanders behind the Inn. Children ages 5-12 are invited to their own Kids' Welcome Reception, to be held in the Sun Valley Lodge Bowling Alley. (Additional cost of \$28 per young person.)
- ♦ **Samson Fun Run** on Thursday, June 22 6:00 am. This year's Fun Run will inspire and rejuvenate you as you jog along the gentle rises of the Sun Valley Resort Grounds and the beautiful scenery around Sun Valley. The 5K Run is open to all physician attendees, spouses, guests, family members and exhibitor representatives; pre-registration is requested.
- ♦ **Trail Creek Theme Dinner** on Thursday, June 22 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm at the Trail Creek Grounds. Guests will be transported to the dinner and into the old west aboard horse drawn wagons. Cowboys, young and old, should be prepared to test their skills, learning how to line dance - country western style, and rope horses.
- ♦ **Saturday Luncheon** on June 24 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm, in the resort's beautiful outdoor ice rink. The entire family is invited to lace up their skates or sit back and watch your colleagues and friends. Awards for the golf and tennis tournaments and the Fun Run will be presented. Registered physicians, spouses, guests, family members and exhibitors are welcome.
- ♦ **President's Reception and Banquet** on Saturday, June 24 7:00 - 11:00 pm. The 32nd Annual Meeting will conclude with the Presidential Reception and Banquet at the stunning River Run Lodge, located at the base of Bald Mountain. The legendary California band, Papa Doo Run Run, will keep you dancing for hours. Their act encompasses all the great Classic Rock hits of the '60s and '70s, with a special emphasis on their award winning re-creation of the hits of the Beach Boys. Their best kept secret... Papa Doo Run Run is who the Beach Boys call when they need someone to fill in for their band. You will not want to miss this evening! Dress is black tie optional. Transportation to and from the banquet will be provided.
- ♦ The **Annual Golf Tournament** (separate subscription required) will take place on Friday, June 23, at 1:00pm at the beautiful Sun Valley Golf Course. Preregistration is required with indication of handicap. \$140 per person includes greens fees, box lunch, cart and prizes.
- ♦ The **Annual Tennis Tournament** (separate subscription required).will take place on Friday, June 23 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at Resort's courts within walking distance of the Lodge or Inn. Pre-registration is required with indication of level of play. \$50 per person includes courts, refreshments and prizes.

Western Thoracic Surgical Association
900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915

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