

The WTSA 2009 Annual Meeting in Review

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Fairmont Banff Springs in Banff, Canada, June 24-27, 2009. The meeting included oral presentation of 22 original papers, panel discussions, a postgraduate course, and 24 additional papers presented during concurrent forums in the disciplines of adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease.

The annual meeting attracted more than 250 physicians and allied health professionals and provided an outstanding educational program with ample opportunities for open discussion, scientific debate, and the social ambiance that is characteristic of the WTSA Annual Meeting.

Educational highlights of the program included a "Controversies in Thoracic Surgery" session that debated whether "The Time is Now for Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery to Part Ways" and was moderated by Douglas Wood, with David Latter presenting the pro side and Robbin Cohen arguing against. In addition, the Presidential Address, given by David A. Fullerton, was entitled "An Endangered Species."

Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions were also held in the three disciplines. Adult Cardiac focused on "Controversies in Cerebral Protection during Cardiac Surgery," with Roderick MacArthur. The General Thoracic Ses-



2008-2009 WTSA Council. (seated, l. to r.) John D. Mitchell, David A. Fullerton, J. Scott Millikan, Thomas A. Burdon. (standing, l. to r.) John C. Chen, Arthur N. Thomas, Douglas E. Wood, Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, Robert C. Robbins, Marvin Pomerantz

sion, presented by Ross Bremner, asked "Is Very Early Esophageal Cancer a Surgical Disease?" And Gordon Cohen led the Congenital Heart Disease Session, focusing on "Hybrid Treatments of Congenital Heart Disease."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session debated whether "Graduating Cardiothoracic Surgeons Should Get a Learner's Permit, not a Driver's License" and was moderated by Arvind Koshal, with Ross Ungerleider arguing in favor and Edward Verrier opposing. The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation – Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund, featured Francis G.

Spinale from the Medical University of South Carolina presenting "Cardiac Surgery and Translational Research – A Critical Partnership in Critical Condition."

Several awards were presented during the meeting. The David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award was presented posthumously to Richard P. Anderson for his outstanding contributions made to the specialty during his lifetime. In addition, the Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to Robbin Cohen from the Keck/USC School of Medicine, for his proposal on the educational curriculum for thoracic surgery residents choosing, maintaining, and sustaining a clinical practice; the Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best

Paper co-authored by a WTSA member was awarded to Anthony D. Caffarelli of Stanford University for his presentation "Outcomes of Deliberate Nonoperative Management for Blunt Thoracic Aortic Injury in Trauma"; and the Samson Resident Prize Essay Award was given to David Mauchley from the University of Colorado, for "Inhibition of Group IIA Secretory Phospholipase A 2 Suppresses Proliferation in Human Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Cells."

The 2009-2010 Officers elected during the meeting include:

President

J. Scott Millikan, *Billings, Montana*

Vice President

Robbin G. Cohen, *Los Angeles*

Immediate Past President

David A. Fullerton, *Denver*

Secretary

Thomas A. Burdon, *Palo Alto, California*

Treasurer

John D. Mitchell, *Denver*

Councillor/Founder

Arthur N. Thomas, *Hillsborough, California*

Historian

Marvin Pomerantz, *Denver*

Governor

American College of Surgeons

Gabriel S. Aldea, *Seattle*

Editor

Lawrence H. Cohn, *Boston*

Councillors-at-Large

Michael S. Mulligan, *Seattle*

Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, *San Diego*

John C. Chen, *Honolulu*

Also during the 35th Annual Meeting, 13 new members were elected to WTSA:

Farzaneh F.B. Banki, *Los Angeles*

Eric L.R. Bedard, *Edmonton, Alberta*

James M. Brown, *Baltimore*

Steven R. DeMeester, *Los Angeles*

Gary A. Gelfand, *Calgary, Alberta*

Cynthia S. Herrington, *Los Angeles*

Paul S. Koh, *Springfield, Oregon*

Hari Reddy Mallidi, *Stanford, California*

Jane L. Schwabe, *St. Joseph, Missouri*

Joseph B. Shrager, *Stanford, California*

Arun K. Singhal, *Salt Lake City*

Michael A. Smith, *Phoenix*

David D. Yuh, *Baltimore*