



Western Thoracic Surgical Association Annual Meeting

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Sun Valley Resort on June 21-24, 2006. The WTSA Annual Meeting, designed to provide a forum for communicating the latest developments in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, included oral presentation of 22 original papers, panel discussions, a post-graduate course, breakfast sessions and 25 poster presentations. The meeting combined a didactic scientific program with opportunities for questions and open discussion.

Educational highlights included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery session that debated "VATS vs. Open Lobectomy for Lung Cancer." The debate was moderated by Douglas Wood. John Mitchell advocated VATS; Robert Cerfolio favored open lobectomy.

Three Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions were held. The Adult Cardiac Session focused on "Current Techniques and Long Term Results of Valve Sparing Aortic Root Surgery" with invited speaker D. Craig Miller. The General Thoracic Session on "Evolving Role of PET Scanning and Lung Cancer Staging" was given by Robert Cerfolio. The Congenital Heart Disease Session, presented by Marc. P. Pelletier, reviewed the "Current Status of Pediatric Mechanical Support Devices."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counter-

point Session debated the "Optimal Treatment of Multi-Vessel Coronary Disease." It was moderated by David A. Fullerton with David P. Taggart and John Carroll. The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund featured Irving L. Weissman, from Stanford, Calif. who captivated his audience with an account of stem cell research and its implications for cardiothoracic surgery. Additional highlights included the Presidential Address by R. Scott Mitchell entitled "In Critical Condition."

Several awards were also presented. The first Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best Paper given by a WTSA member was awarded to John A. Hawkins, Salt Lake City for his presentation "Long-Term Results of Repair for Aortic, Neo-Aortic and Truncal Valve Insufficiency in Children." The Samson Resident Prize Essay Award went to T. Brett Reece, Charlottesville, Va. for his paper, "Central Aortic Cannulation Does Not Increase Adverse Events in Repair of Acute Ascending Dissection." The Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to James I. Fann from Stanford, Calif.

The 2006-2007 Officers elected during the meeting include: President Elliot T. Gelfand, Edmonton, AB, Canada; Vice President Douglas E. Wood, Seattle, Wa.; Immediate Past President R. Scott Mitchell,



R. Scott Mitchell (left) congratulates incoming WTSA president Elliot T. Gelfand.

Stanford, Calif.; Secretary John A. Hawkins, Salt Lake City, Utah; Treasurer Robbin G. Cohen, Los Angeles, Calif.; Councillor-Founder Arthur N. Thomas, Hillsborough, Calif.; Historian Marvin Pomerantz, Denver, Colo.; ACS Governor Gabriel S. Aldea, Seattle, Wash.; and Editor Andrew S. Wechsler, Philadelphia, Pa. Councillors-at-Large are David A. Fullerton, Denver, Colo.; David M. Follette, Sacramento, Calif.; and J. Scott Millikan, Billings, Mont.

Sun Valley provided a wonderful setting for meeting activities, including the New Member's Reception around the lovely Opera House Lawn, the golf and tennis tournaments, the Samson Fun Run, a Trail Creek Theme Dinner, and the President's Reception and Banquet at the River Run Lodge. ■