

# The WTSA 2008 Annual Meeting in Review

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort and Spa in Kona, Hawaii on June 25-28, 2008. The Meeting included oral presentation of 20 original papers, panel discussions, a postgraduate course, breakfast sessions, and 39 concurrent "brief communications" in the disciplines of adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease. The annual meeting attracted more than 240 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 the hallmark of the WTSA annual meeting.

Educational highlights of the program included a "Controversies in Thoracic Surgery" session that debated "The Optimal Therapy for N2 Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer is Induction Chemotherapy Followed by Surgery" moderated by Donald Low, with Kemp Kernstine presenting the pro side and Ross Bremner arguing against.

Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions were held in the three disciplines. Adult Cardiac focused on "Total Arterial Revascularization: Is the Bang Worth the Buck?" with invited speaker David Ross. The General Thoracic Session was entitled "Building a Comprehensive Program in Cardiothoracic Surgery" with Douglas Mathisen. Gordon Cohen presented the Congenital Heart Disease Session, focusing on "New Technology for Pediatric Circulatory Support."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session debated whether "Aprotinin Should Be Outlawed" and was moderated by Lawrence Cohn with Dennis Mangano arguing in favor and Christina Mora-Mangano opposing. The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund, featured Rainer Storb from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington presenting "Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation for Malignant and Nonmalignant Hematologic Disorders." Additional highlights included the Presidential Address by Douglas Wood entitled "Cardiothoracic Surgery: A Specialty Divided or as One."

Several awards were presented during the meeting and included: the Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to John D. Mitchell, from the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine for his proposal on "The Development of Web-Based Educational Content Designed to Increase the Understanding of Nontuberculous



**(Seated, l. to r.) Drs. Robbin G. Cohen, Elliot T. Gelfand, Douglas E. Wood, David A. Fullerton, Marvin Pomerantz (standing, l. to r.) David M. Follette, Arthur N. Thomas, John C. Chen, Robert C. Robbins, Gabriel S. Aldea (missing) John A. Hawkins.**

Mycobacterial Infection in the Cardiothoracic Surgical Community;" the Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best Paper given by a WTSA member was awarded to Joseph S. Carey of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California for his presentation "Equalization of Risk-Adjusted In-Hospital Mortality for PCI and CABG in California;" and the Samson Resident Prize Essay Award was given to John Keech from the University of Washington, Seattle for his paper, "Differential Toll-like Receptor Activation in Lung Ischemia Reperfusion Injury."

The 2008-2009 Officers elected during the meeting include: President David A. Fullerton, Denver, Colorado; Vice President J. Scott Millikan, Billings, Montana; Immediate Past President Douglas E. Wood, Seattle, Washington; Secretary Thomas A. Burdon, Palo Alto, California; Treasurer John D. Mitchell, Denver, Colorado; Councilor/Founder Arthur N. Thomas, Hillsborough, California; Historian Marvin Pomerantz, Denver, Colorado; Governor, American College of Surgeons Gabriel S. Aldea, Seattle, Washington; Editor Lawrence S. Cohn, Boston, Massachusetts; and Councilors-at-Large John C. Chen, Honolulu, Hawaii, Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, San Diego, California, Robert C. Robbins, Stanford, California.

Also during the 34th Annual Meeting, twenty-eight new members were elected to WTSA membership: Peter L. Baay, Craig J. Baker, B. Jason Bowles, Lamar J. Bushnell, Larry Frederic Cohler, Joelle M. Coletta, Randall S. Fortuna, Richard D. Gregory, Sean C. Grondin, John S. Ikonomidis, Kristopher Kallin, Peter C. Kouretas, Bahirathan Krishnadasan, Brian E. Louie, Michael M. Madani, James Matthew Maxwell, Susan D. Moffatt-Bruce, John J. Nigro, Jemi Olak, Brian L. Reemtsen, Paul H. Schipper, Craig H. Selzman, Daniel L. Serna, Michela Straznicka, Mithran S. Sukumar, Stephen A. Tahta, Timothy L. Van Natta, and Michael J. Weyant. ■