

The WTSA 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, June 22-25. The WTSA 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 activi-

ties. The New Member's Reception was graced by a visit from "Queen Elizabeth," who recounted some exploits of prominent WTSA members and "knighted" WTSA President Steve Guyton. The Theme Dinner celebrated the history of British Columbia at the Royal BC Museum, featuring a Native American hoop dance and a floorshow by two "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 Be Considered in Good Surgical



Candidates." The debate was moderated by John D. Mitchell. Drew B. Schembre argued in the affirmative; Donald E. Low took the opposing viewpoint. Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions Friday covered three disciplines. The Adult Cardiac Session focused on "How to Organize a Thoracic Endovascular Program" with R. Scott Mitchell. The General Thoracic Session featured "Optimal Management of the Small (<2cm) NSCLC: Is Sub-Lobar Resection a Reasonable Option?" with speaker Eric Vallieres, and 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 the White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation—Lyman A. Brewer III Fund, featured John E. Mayer Jr., of Boston, who discussed "Progress Toward a Tissue Engineered Heart Valve."

Other highlights included Steve Guyton's Presidential Address on "Tough Questions, Tougher Answers" and the presentation of the David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award to Bruce A. Reitz of Stanford, Calif. ■