

The WTSA 2007 Annual Meeting in Review

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, on June 27-30, 2007. The Meeting included oral presentation of 22 original papers, panel discussions, a postgraduate course, breakfast sessions, and 24 concurrent "brief communications" in the disciplines of adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease. The annual meeting attracted more than 170 physicians and provided an excellent didactic scientific program with many opportunities for questions and open discussion and an overall perspective of current practices.

Educational highlights of the program included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery session that debated "The Solitary Pulmonary Nodule: Excision vs. Ablation—Do you Need to Know" moderated by Richard I. Whyte, with Douglas Wood arguing for and James D. Luketich against.

Simultaneous breakfast sessions were held in the three disciplines. Adult Cardiac focused on "Percutaneous Valves" with invited speaker Jian Ye. The General Thoracic Session was entitled "The Evolution of Therapy for Achalasia: Surgery is the Treatment of Choice" with speaker Donald E. Low. The Congenital Heart Disease Session, with speakers Ivan Rebeyka and Jeffrey Smallhorn, focused on "How to Use 3D Echo to Improve Atrioventricular Valve Repair in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session debated whether "Technology Has Compromised the Maze Procedure" and was moderated by Steven Guyton with Robbin G. Cohen arguing in favor and Steven R. Gundry opposing. The Postgraduate

Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund, featured Philip F. Halloran from Edmonton, Canada, presenting "Frontiers in Disease Phenotyping: The Example of Organ Transplantation." Additional highlights included the Presidential Address by Elliot T. Gelfand entitled "In Celebration of Our Differences."

The David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award was presented to W. Gerald Rainer from Denver, Colorado. Dr. Rainer was honored for his outstanding contributions to thoracic surgery over the years. Several additional awards were also presented. The Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to Gordon A. Cohen of Seattle, Washington. The Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best Paper given by a WTSA member was awarded to M.J.



Weyant of Denver for his presentation "Secretary Phospholipase A2 is Required to Induce Histologic Changes Associated with Gastroesophageal Reflux in a Murine Model."

The Samson Resident Prize Essay Award was given to both Jayan Nagendran from the University of Alberta for his paper, "Mitochondrial Membrane Potential is Different Between the Right and Left Ventricle in Humans and Rats" and Patrick S. Wolf from the University of Washington for his paper "MAP Kinase Inhibition Ameliorates Lung Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury."

The 2006-2007 Officers elected during the meeting include: President Douglas E. Wood, Seattle, Washington; Vice President David A. Fullerton, Denver, Colorado; Immediate Past President Elliot T. Gelfand, Edmonton, Alber-

ta, Canada; Secretary John A. Hawkins, Salt Lake City, Utah; Treasurer Robbin G. Cohen, Los Angeles, California; Councillor/Founder Arthur N. Thomas, Hillsborough, California; Historian Marvin Pomerantz, Denver, Colorado; Governor, American College of Surgeons Gabriel S. Aldea, Seattle, Washington; Editor Andrew S. Wechsler, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Councillors-at-Large John C. Chen, Honolulu, Hawaii, David M. Follette, Sacramento, California, and Robert C. Robbins, Stanford, California.

New Mexico provided a wonderful setting for the week's activities, including the New Member's Reception around the Resort's Pool Area and Lawn, the golf and tennis tournaments, the Samson Fun Run along the banks of the Rio Grande River, a Route 66 Theme Dinner, and the traditional President's Reception and Banquet. ■



Elliot T. Gelfand, M.D. (left), congratulates incoming Western Thoracic Surgical Association President Douglas E. Wood, M.D.