



Newsletter of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association

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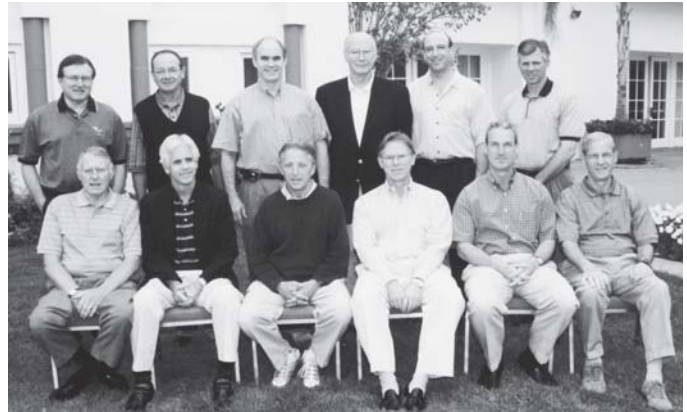
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2003 Annual Meeting - *In Review*

More than 375 physicians, spouses, residents, guests, and exhibitors joined the Western Thoracic Surgical Association for the 29th Annual Meeting at the LaCosta Resort in Carlsbad, California June 18-21, 2003. The meeting combined an excellent scientific program with an exciting social agenda offering something for everyone.

The scientific program included a moderated poster forum session, traditional paper presentations, breakfast sessions, the point-counterpoint debates, and a postgraduate course. Twenty-two papers and eight posters were presented covering such topics as: "Comparison of Bilateral Thoracic Grafting with Percutaneous Coronary Interventions in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus"; "Seven-Year Experience with Aortic Arch Reconstruction: Safety of Moderate Hypothermia with Antegrade Cerebral Perfusion During Systemic Circulatory Arrest"; "The Impact of Barrett's Esophagus on Outcomes for Adenocarcinoma"; "Role of Activating Transcription Factor (ATF) - 3 in Myocardial Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury"; and "Coronary Artery Bypass with Ventricular Remodeling is Superior to Coronary Artery Bypass Alone in Patients with Ischemic Cardiomyopathy."

Simultaneous breakfast sessions, covering adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease were held on Friday morning. Participants could choose between: "Destination LVAD Therapy" and "Are There Patients that Need and Want Long-Term LVAD Support?" or "Neoadjuvant Therapy for Esophageal Carcinoma" or "Treatment of Adult Congenital Heart Disease - Medical and Surgical."



The Presidential Address, given by Dr. Edward Verrier was entitled "Who Moved my Heart?... Adaptive Changes to Disruptive Challenges."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point-Counterpoint Session, sponsored by St. Jude Medical, Inc., addressed, "Valvular Heart Disease Will be Treated with Percutaneous Strategies Within Five Years." The session was moderated by Dr. Verrier and panelists were Drs. Peter Fitzgerald, on the pro side, and Stephen Colvin, on the con side.

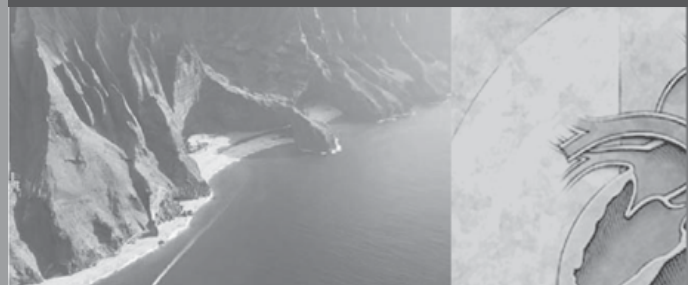
The Samson Resident Prize Essay Competition attracted an exceptional group of papers and the award was presented to Dr. Albert J. Chong from the University of Washington for his paper, "Toll-Like Receptor 4 (TLR4) Mediates Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in the Heart."

(continued inside)

June 23-26, 2004
Wailea Marriott Resort
Maui, Hawaii

Abstract Deadline: January 9, 2004

30TH ANNUAL MEETING



ON-LINE SUBMISSION ONLY - Go to www.westernthoracic.org

*Highlights of the Council Meeting - June 18, 2003
and the Annual Business Meeting - June 21, 2003
Carlsbad, California*

Report of the President

Dr. Verrier reported that all preparations for the Annual Meeting including the Scientific Sessions, the social events, and recreational activities had all been organized as a result of a very productive site visit during which Dr. Verrier, his wife, Local Arrangements Chair, Dr. Douglas E. Wood, and his wife met with management and meetings staff. Dr. Verrier thanked the Council, Committee Chairs, and Association Representatives for their support during his year as President particularly in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Verrier charged the membership with encouraging members to become more active and to participate in the Annual Meetings of the Association. The Program Committee will be developing new initiatives and strategies to enhance the scientific content and expand an interest in the program.

Report of the Secretary

Dr. Mitchell reported that as of May 13, 2003, there are 212 Active, 188 Senior, and 15 Honorary Members for a total of 415 Surgeons.

The Council stood in a moment of silence in memory of the following deceased members:

Byron H. Evans, MD, Fresno, California
Robert W. Jamplis, MD, Palo Alto, California
Thomas R. Meagher, MD, Oakland, California
Merle H. Peterson, MD, Sonora, California
C. Thomas Read, MD, Sun City, Arizona
Victor Richards, MD, Sonoma, California

Dr. James B.D. Mark delivered a moving eulogy for Past President Robert W. Jamplis, M.D.

Report of the Treasurer

Dr. Douglas E. Wood submitted a review conducted by Russell, Brier and Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002 and noted that the Association's total assets were \$295,760. The Income Statement reflected receipts of \$365,079 against total disbursements of \$341,210, resulting in a surplus of \$23,868 for the fiscal year. For the first quarter ending March 31, 2003 the Association's total assets were \$264,968.

Dr. Wood presented an eight-year summary of the Association's financial status noting that total assets reached a high of almost \$300,000 in 1996. The Association incurred a deficit in 1997 of over \$103,000 and since 1997, has been aggressively working towards its 1996 asset base.

A number of innovative fundraising strategies and initiatives will be considered for the Samson Endowment Fund. These included an expanded planned giving or estate planning option for members. A small working group was established to review and Dr. Verrier charged Drs. Robbin Cohen and Doug Wood with this responsibility.

Report of the Program Committee

Dr. Robert C. Robbins reported that of the 196 abstracts received, 22 or 11% were accepted for podium presentation and 8 abstracts were accepted for posters; 6 of the 22 oral presentations were Samson Resident Prize Essay finalists and of the 8 posters accepted, 6 were basic science and 2 were clinical. Of the 30 papers, 11 were from WTSA members and 19 non-members including 5 international papers. The overall acceptance rate was 15%.

The Council discussed a number of suggestions to add additional value to the Scientific Sessions of the program and Dr. Verrier charged the Program Committee with investigating a variety of opportunities to enhance the program including consideration of a mini symposium at the beginning of the Annual Meeting i.e., a half day PG course or symposium on the Wednesday afternoon preceding the start.

Report of the Local Arrangements Chair

Dr. Douglas E. Wood reported that pre-registration figures were up from last year with 169 physicians compared to 156 last year but that pre-registration for spouses and family members was down significantly. 86% of those pre-registered took advantage of the early bird discount. In addition, the Annual Meeting had 50-65 children in attendance. The Samson Fun Run had over 50 runners; the golf tournament had 66 golfers; and the tennis tournament had 12 players.

Report of the Editor

A report from the Editor of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* reviewed the accomplishments of 2002, the Editorial Board reviewer performance, and the deliberations of the Section Editor meeting in January 2002. In reviewing acceptance rates for the 2002 Meeting papers for both the AATS and the WTSA, it was noted that the AATS acceptance rate was approximately 66% and the WTSA 50%. The WTSA acceptance rate compared favorably to the overall acceptance rate for all papers including unsolicited ones submitted to the *Journal*, which averaged 33%.

**Report of the Representative to the
ACS Board of Governors**

Dr. Steven W. Guyton reported that the American College of Surgeons has reorganized as a 501(c)(6) organization, the American College of Surgeons Professional Association and the original ACS, a 501(c)(3) organization, now has a new Political Action Committee.

(continued on next page)

Meeting Highlights

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Report of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education

Dr. John R. Benfield, President, reported that \$275,000 in Grants and Awards were offered by the TSFRE including: five Research Grants at \$135,000, three Nina Starr Braunwald Research Fellowships at \$105,000, and one Alley-Sheridan Harvard MPA Scholarship at \$35,000. The two jointly sponsored NHLBI/K08 Award recipients were both from the Section: Drs. Michael Mulligan, University of Washington and Anthony Azakie, University of California San Francisco.

Dr. Benfield congratulated the WTSA for its contributions over the years and asked the Council to consider renewing a pledge of a fixed amount of dollars per member to the TSFRE and also to consider adding a block for a voluntary contribution to the TSFRE to the WTSA membership dues invoice.

It was agreed that the WTSA would make a \$5,000 contribution to the TSFRE during 2003 and a working group, headed by Dr. Robbin Cohen, will be charged with addressing innovative fundraising strategies and initiatives that would include the potential of including a TSFRE donation opportunity as part of the WTSA membership dues invoice.

New Business

Dr. Verrier reported that Dr. Steven W. Guyton would be completing his term as the WTSA Representative to the ACS Board of Governors in October and he had submitted the names of Dr. John A. Hawkins of Salt Lake City, Utah as the Representative and Dr. Gabriel Aldea of Seattle, Washington as the Alternate to the American College of Surgeons. Without objection, the Council reaffirmed these nominees to the ACS Board of Governors.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Dr. Winfield J. Wells reported that the Nominating Committee, consisting of Drs. Donald B. Doty, David R. Clarke, Bradley J. Harlan, Kent W. Jones, and himself recommended the following slate of officers:

President	Vaughn A. Starnes, MD
Vice President	Steven W. Guyton, MD
Immediate Past President	Edward D. Verrier, MD
Secretary	R. Scott Mitchell, MD
Treasurer	Douglas E. Wood, MD
Historian	Richard G. Fosburg, MD
Councillors-at-Large	Robbin G. Cohen, MD Elliot T. Gelfand, MD Colleen F. Sintek, MD
Councillor / Founder	Arthur N. Thomas, MD

Dr. Wells provided a brief history of the David Dugan Award, listing the four past recipients. The Nominating Committee has recommended that the David Dugan Award be presented in 2004 to Dr. Leonard L. Bailey of Loma Linda, California.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following new members and membership changes were approved during the 2003 Annual Business Meeting:

Active Members

David A. Arzouman, MD, Tucson, Arizona
Anthony Azakie, MD, San Francisco, California
Scot A. Brewster, MD, La Jolla, California
Luis J. Castro, MD, Redwood City, California
Riyad C. Karmy-Jones, MD, Seattle, Washington
Arun K. Mittal, MD, Torrance, California
Suvro S. Sett, MD, Vancouver, British Columbia
J. Kent Thorne, MD, Salt Lake City, Utah
Ross M. Ungerleider, MD, Portland, Oregon

Advanced to Senior

Hewes D. Agnew, MD, Billings, Montana
Charles E. Blair, MD, Lompoc, California
Aurelio Chaux, MD, Santa Monica, California
Pat O. Daily, MD, San Diego, California
Donald P. Doty, MD, Salt Lake City, Utah
Theodore L. Folkert, MD, Oceanside, California
Bruce L. Frazier, MD, Bakersfield, California
Richard E. Hicks, MD, Eugene, Oregon
George Kafrouni, MD, La Canada, California
Christopher T. Maloney, MD, Tucson, Arizona
Dev R. Manhas, MD, Seattle, Washington
Michael B. Pliam, MD, Daly City, California

To Be Advanced to Senior Membership in 2003

Tom R. DeMeester, MD, Los Angeles, California
Frederick L. Grover, MD, Denver, Colorado
E. Carmack Holmes, MD, Los Angeles, California
W.R. Eric Jamieson, MD, Vancouver, British Columbia
Siavosh Khonsari, MD, Los Angeles, California
Robert L. Mitchell, MD, Mountain View, California
James H. Oury, MD, Stevensville, Montana
Aguedo A. Retodo, MD, Hayward, California
Rolf Sommerhaug, MD, Concord, California
Rostik Zajchuck, MD, Chicago, Illinois

Requests for Resignation

Ronald M. Becker, MD, Chico, California
Robert L. Fortune, MD, Phoenix, Arizona
Bradley O. Hofer, MD, Denver, Colorado
J. Edward Okies, MD, Portland, Oregon

Photo Highlights of the 2003 Annual Meeting



2003 Meeting Highlights

(continued from page one)

The Postgraduate Course was once again sponsored by the White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation - Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund. The course, held on Friday morning, included a presentation by Richard D. Weisel, MD, on "Cell Transplantation to Prevent Heart Failure."

In addition, the program included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery presentation, moderated by Dr. Richard I. Whyte on "The NETT Trial: Now We Have Data." Dr. Robert J. McKenna Jr. presented "Results of Open versus Thoracoscopic Surgical Operations for Lung Volume Reduction;" Dr. Douglas Wood presented "Medical versus Surgical Treatment of End Stage Pulmonary Failure;" and Dr. Joel D. Cooper presented "Was the NETT Trial Worth the Wait?"

The social program offered a variety of activities and additional tours which allowed participants to relax and enjoy the area and keep busy with all of the traditional WTSA athletic events. The annual tennis and golf tournaments, and the traditional Samson Fun Run were held, as well as a fabulous Carnival Theme Dinner, featuring real and virtual carnival games, video games, tattoos, magic displays, a DJ, and the chance to "dunk" one of the WTSA leaders in the dunking booth. Participants were also treated to the customary President's Reception and Banquet, the New Members' Reception, and a Mexican Fiesta Luncheon on Saturday at the Resort.

Thank you

*to the following companies for their support
as exhibitors at the 2003 Annual Meeting:*

Atricure
ATS Medical, Inc.
Baxter
Carbomedics
Cardiogenesis Corporation
Coalescent Surgical, Inc.
Cryocath
CryoLife, Inc.
Edwards Lifesciences
Ethicon Products
Genzyme Biosurgery
Guidant Cardiac Surgery
Jostra Corporation
Medical Carbon Research Institute, LLC
Medtronic Cardiac Surgery
MedicalCV, Inc.
Scanlan International, Inc.
Somanetics Corporation
St. Jude Medical
Terumo Cardiovascular Systems
Vitalcor, Inc. & Applied Fiberoptics

WTSA's 30th Annual Meeting June 23-26, 2004 Wailea Marriott Resort Maui, Hawaii

Experience the finest tradition of Hawaiian hospitality on the Island of Maui. From the moment you arrive, sweeping views of the blue Pacific and lush gardens lure you into the beauty of this spectacular oceanfront setting. During your Hawaiian stay, relax in guest rooms that provide a peaceful haven for leisure moments. Dine in casual surroundings at Hula Moons Restaurant, Mele Mele Lounge, and poolside Kumu Bar & Grill. Take advantage of the championship golf courses, the world-renowned Mandara Spa, the elegant Shops at Wailea, or just relax and enjoy this tropical location. Features of the Resort include:

- ♦ 22-acre oceanfront resort
- ♦ 521 rooms and suites
- ♦ Two restaurants and lounges
- ♦ Five swimming pools including an activity pool with slides for children
- ♦ Cowabunga Kids Club
- ♦ Hawaiian culture program
- ♦ Mandara Spa and Salon
- ♦ Fitness center
- ♦ Wailea Golf Club
- ♦ Wailea Tennis Club
- ♦ The Shops at Wailea retail center

Visit the Association's Website
www.westernthoracic.org

The screenshot shows the Western Thoracic Surgical Association website. At the top left is the logo for the Western Thoracic Surgical Association, featuring a circular emblem with the letters 'WTS' and the text 'THE WESTERN THORACIC SURGICAL ASSOCIATION' and 'FOUNDED 1974'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Western Thoracic Surgical Association'. Below the logo and text is a navigation menu with the following items: 'Annual Meeting Information', 'News and Events', 'Officers and Members', 'Committees', 'History of the WTSA', 'By-Laws and Constitution', 'Journals', and 'Feedback'. At the bottom of the page, there is contact information for the Western Thoracic Surgical Association, including the address '13 Elm Street, Manchester MA 01944', telephone number '(978) 526-8330', fax number '(978) 526-8018', and email address 'wtso@wtsa.com'. There is also a logo for 'CTSNet' (Cardiothoracic Surgery Network) and a copyright notice: 'Copyright © 2000 by the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. All rights reserved.'

2003 - 2004 Officers and Councillors

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Los Angeles, California

Vice President

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Seattle, Washington

Immediate Past President

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Seattle, Washington

Secretary

R. Scott Mitchell, MD
Stanford, California

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Seattle, Washington

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Alberta, Canada
Colleen F. Sintek, MD
Los Angeles, California

Councillor/Founder

Arthur N. Thomas, MD
San Francisco, California

Historian

Richard G. Fosburg, MD
Del Mar, California

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Seattle, Washington
Richard G. Fosburg, MD, Alt.
Del Mar, California

ACS Advisory Council

Winfield J. Wells, MD
Los Angeles, California

2003 - 2004 Committees

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Winfield J. Wells, MD, CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

David M. Gartman, MD, CHAIR
Jeffrey C. Milliken, MD
Mark B. Ratcliffe, MD
Dominic J. Tedesco, MD
Alfredo Trento, MD
Eric Vallieres, MD

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Kent W. Jones, MD, CHAIR
David R. Clarke, MD
Donald B. Doty, MD
Bradley J. Harlan, MD
Edward D. Verrier, MD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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John C. Chen, MD
James I. Fann, MD
John D. Mitchell, MD
Richard I. Whyte, MD
R. Scott Mitchell, MD, *EX OFFICIO*
Vaughn A. Starnes, MD, *EX OFFICIO*
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