



# Newsletter of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association

Thirteen Elm Street, Manchester, MA 01944

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## 1999 Annual Meeting - *In Review*

More than 485 physicians, spouses, residents, guests, and exhibitors joined the Western Thoracic Surgical Association for the 25th Annual Meeting at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Olympic Valley, California from June 23-26, 1999. The meeting combined an excellent scientific program with an exceptional social agenda, taking advantage of the spectacular location.

The scientific program included 26 paper presentations, 2 simultaneous breakfast sessions, and the traditional Presidential Address given by Dr. Kent W. Jones, entitled "Twenty-five Years of Excellence: The Legacy and The Challenge."

The scientific paper presentations covered such diverse topics as "Minimally Invasive Ultra Fast Track Treatment of Atrial Septal Defects in Children: Moving Toward Outpatient Congenital Heart Surgery", "Off-Pump Complete Myocardial Revascularization via Median Sternotomy: Early Results", and "Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase Gene Transfer Ameliorates Lung Isograft Ischemia-reperfusion Injury."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point-Counterpoint Session, held on Saturday, addressed, "Optimal Surgical Approaches to Aortic Valve Disease". The session was moderated by Dr. Edward D. Verrier and the panelists were AATS President Dr. Delos M. Cosgrove from the Cleveland Clinic and WTSA Secretary Dr. Vaughn A. Starnes, from the University of Southern California.

The simultaneous breakfast sessions, held on Friday morning,



covered the following topics: "Political and Economic Challenges: Cardiothoracic Surgery" was moderated by Dr. Kent Jones and included presentations by Drs. Richard P. Anderson and Jack M. Matloff; and "Clinical Trials in Thoracic Oncology" consisted of discussions by Drs. Eric Vallieres, Douglas E. Wood, and Samuel A. Wells, Jr.

The Samson Resident Prize Essay Competition once again attracted an exceptional group of papers and the award was presented to Dr. Leonard Y. Lee from the New York Hospital - Cornell Medical Center, for his paper entitled, "Long Term Regulatable Cardiac Gene Therapy with a Stealth Vector: Adeno-Associated Virus with a Glucocorticoid

Response Elements Promoter." An additional highlight of this year's program was a presentation by the first recipient of the Samson Resident Essay Award in 1975. William R. Brody, M.D., President of Johns Hopkins University, delivered an address on "Bypassing Cardiac Surgery: Musings on Healthcare in America."

In addition, Jack M. Matloff, M.D., Los Angeles, California was awarded the David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award.

The Annual 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, was presented by Dr. Samuel A. Wells, Jr. from the American College of Surgeons on "The Surgical Profession at the Turn of the Century: Challenges and Opportunities."

*(continued inside)*

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND**

**26th Annual Meeting  
June 22-25, 2000  
The Orchid at Mauna Lani, Kohala Coast, Hawaii**

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**Highlights of the Council Meeting - June 23, 1999  
and the Annual Business Meeting - June 26, 1999  
Olympic Valley, California**

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Kent W. Jones expressed his gratitude to the membership for the privilege of serving as President of the Association. He noted the excellent attendance at the scientific meetings and applauded the exchange between the speakers and the various discussants. He acknowledged the healthy relationship between the Association and the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* and paid special tribute to the outgoing Editor, Dr. John A. Waldhausen for his active participation with the Council and support of the Association during the past five years.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Dr. Vaughn A. Starnes reported that the current membership of the Association as of June 4, 1999 was 220 Active, 155 Senior, and 13 Honorary members for a total of 388 surgeons.

The following members had passed away during the year and the Membership stood in a moment of silence in memory of the deceased members.

**Roy B. Cohn, M.D.**

*Palo Alto, California*

**Orville F. Grimes, M.D.**

*San Francisco, California*

**John B. Grow, Sr., M.D.**

*Denver, Colorado*

**John F. Higginson, M.D.**

*Santa Barbara, California*

**Dwight C. McGoan, M.D.**

*Rochester, Minnesota*

**William E. Shinn, M.D.**

*Stockton, California*

**John M. Somerndike, M.D.**

*Orange, California*

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Dr. Steven W. Guyton noted that the Association's assets total \$215,654 which included \$150,151 in the Samson Endowment Fund. He noted total receipts of \$370,824 against total disbursements of \$301,072 resulting in a surplus of \$69,752, due to a successful 1998 Annual Meeting at the Chateau Whistler; this would help the Association move towards the desired goal of having in reserve approximately 100% of its annual operating budget.

Dr. Guyton distributed correspondence regarding the White Memorial Medical Center annual donation in support of the WTSA Postgraduate Program and their desire to

reimburse the WTSA for the exact expenses associated with the Postgraduate Program versus a flat \$5,000 grant per year. Since 1994, the actual costs for the Postgraduate Program had been less than \$5,000 per year and the Association has built up a cumulative unspent portion totaling \$3,723. The Association will invoice White Memorial for the exact dollar amount of the cost of the Annual Postgraduate Course for 1999 which White Memorial will reimburse up to \$5,000.

Dr. Guyton distributed a five year financial summary of assets and activities and noted the steady growth of the Samson Endowment Fund from approximately \$105,000 as of March 31, 1995 to its value of approximately \$152,000 as of March 31, 1999. He noted an upward trend in the overall assets of the Association with approximately \$70,000 surplus for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1998. He suggested that the Annual Meeting needs to generate a surplus of \$40-50,000 per year in order for the Association to achieve its desired goal of having approximately 100% of its Annual operating expense in reserve.

Discussion regarding the annual meeting registration fees and exhibits, resulted in agreement that the registration fee of \$475 established in 1998 would be maintained for the 1999 Annual Meeting and that the registration fee for the 2000 Annual Meeting in Hawaii would be increased to accommodate anticipated increases in expenses for that meeting; the fee should be no more than \$500-525. Exhibitor fees for Hawaii will also increase from the current \$3,000 level.

**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Dr. Edward D. Verrier noted that 158 abstracts were submitted to the Program Committee and 26 were selected for presentation. Of the 26 papers selected, seven were from members and 19 were from non-member physicians. There were seven papers submitted for the Samson Resident Prize Essay competition. Nineteen of the 26 papers were clinical and seven were basic science.

Dr. Verrier commented on the decrease in the number of abstracts submitted; 227 abstracts in 1995, 318 in 1996 (Hawaii), 206 in 1997, 183 in 1998, and 158 this year. The Program Committee was unable to determine if the decline was a result of the venue, the lack of basic science research coming out of many academic medical centers, or the lack of new ideas in cardiothoracic surgery. The Council and the Program Committee need to continue to address this issue to ensure the continuing viability and desirability of presentation of scientific papers at the Annual Meeting.

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## REPORT OF THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Dr. J. Edward Okies reported that 235 physicians were in attendance for this year's Annual Meeting, comparing favorably to the 222 total physicians registered for the 1998 Annual Meeting at the Chateau Whistler. Including spouses, guests, and family members, total attendance was 389.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Dr. Marvin Pomerantz, Chairman, reported that the Nominating Committee consisting of Drs. D. Craig Miller, Richard G. Sanderson, Daniel J. Ulyot and Winfield J. Wells and himself recommended the following slate of Officers, which were subsequently elected by the membership:

<b>President</b>	Bradley J. Harlan, M.D. Sacramento, California
<b>Vice President</b>	David R. Clarke, M.D. Denver, Colorado
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Kent W. Jones, M.D. Salt Lake City, Utah
<b>Secretary</b>	Vaughn A. Starnes, M.D. Los Angeles, California
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steven W. Guyton, M.D. Seattle, Washington
<b>Councillor-at-Large</b>	R. Scott Mitchell, M.D. Stanford, California
<b>Councillor-at-Large</b> <i>(to succeed Dr. David R. Clarke)</i>	Alden Harken, M.D. Denver, Colorado
<b>Councillor/Founder</b>	Arthur N. Thomas, M.D. San Francisco, California
<b>Historian</b>	Richard G. Fosburg, M.D. Del Mar, California

## REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN

Dr. Richard G. Fosburg reported that in his efforts to contact past recipients of the Samson Resident Prize Award, half had contacted him; three of the 25 Resident Prize Award winners had achieved chairmanship of their departments, two were no longer cardiothoracic surgeons, and the first recipient in 1975 - Dr. William R. Brody, is now President of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Fosburg displayed a quilt which included the T-shirts from each of the Samson Fun Runs that had been held since 1978. He also presented an entertaining history of the Bogen Gavel, describing the origins of the gavel and the numerous accomplishments and interests of the late Dr. Emil Bogen.

## REPORT OF THE THORACIC SURGERY FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Dr. Robert B. Wallace, President of the TSFRE, noted that Dr. Richard G. Fosburg was elected to the Board for a three year term in January of 1999. Of the Foundation's grants and awards, 33 were for research and 57 were for health policy education. Since 1993, the total dollar amount of TSFRE and AATS Graham Foundation Education grants totaled \$2,940,150. In 1999 TSFRE grants and awards

included nine research grants and ten health policy scholarships. Three of the health policy scholarships for the March 1999 Course were granted to members of the WTSA: Drs. Margaret D. Allen, Craig R. Saunders, and Michael K. Wood. The Foundation hosted its First Annual Donors Recognition Luncheon on January 26, 1999 at the STS' meeting in San Antonio. A brief promotional video tape on the Foundation is in the final stages of production and will be used to heighten awareness of the Foundation and to raise funds.

The Board is pleased with the progress of the Foundation and its new initiatives, including a partnership with the NIH to support two clinical investigators per year for three to five years; the Foundation is seeking additional outside support to co-fund these \$175,000 per year investigator awards.

## REPORT OF THE EDITOR

Dr. John A. Waldhausen, Editor, reported that for the 1998 meeting, approximately 87% of the AATS and 83% of the WTSA papers were accepted for publication in the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. The number of submitted total manuscripts had increased only slightly over 1997. The origin of full manuscripts is also quite stable with approximately 45% coming from the US and Canada, 20% from Asia, and 32% from Europe. This distribution was not significantly different from previous years.

Manuscript review, including all revision, takes an average of 109 days while a brief communication takes 20 days. Full manuscripts including all revisions are published within 9.5 months of initial receipt to appearing in print including all revisions. The *Journal* is currently on line and the CTS Net, which includes the STS, AATS, and EACTS, is up and running with Highwire of Stanford University. In view of reader demand for greater clinical relevance and more general thoracic surgery, the *Journal* began publishing clinical pathological conferences (CPC) in April 1999. The *Journal* will undertake the publications of a series of Editor directed reviews of basic science related to cardiothoracic surgery as well.

Dr. Waldhausen noted that this year marked the end of his five years as Editor of the *Journal*. Dr. Andrew S. Wechsler will be succeeding him as the new Editor effective January 1, 2000. President Jones thanked Dr. Waldhausen for his extraordinary support of the WTSA.

## REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul B. Kelly, Jr. reported that in reviewing the geographic distribution of the current membership of the Association and the downward trend in the number of Candidates for Membership in the past five or six years, the Council should explore strategies to increase Candidates for Membership. It was suggested that a letter to all Program Directors and Chairs of Departments and Institutions within the geographic confines of the Association be sent to encourage more applications. Following discussion regarding the difficulty adhering to the eligibility requirements, the Council voted to propose the following amendment to the Constitution which would amend membership requirements



as follows:

**Article III , Membership, Section 3, Subsection C**  
...have been engaged in the practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery within the geographic limits of the Association for at least three years following completion of postgraduate training. *If a candidate has completed his or her thoracic surgical residency in an institution within the geographic limits of the Association, such completion may count towards one of the three years of practice as noted above.*"

#### **REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACS BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Dr. Steven W. Guyton, Representative to the ACS Board of Governors, reported that he had been appointed to the Board of Governors Malpractice and Professional Liability Committee. If there were any particular concerns in those areas, he will ensure they are discussed. Continuing areas of concern included practice expense issues, evaluation and management documentation requirements, continued reductions in the Medicare budget, and the need for careful monitoring of the scope of fraud and abuse audits being undertaken by Medicare carriers. He suggested that all ACS members continue to cultivate relationships with their respective Senators and Representatives in Washington.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISCLOSURE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Dr. Daniel J. Ullyot, Chairman, distributed proposed volunteer leadership and senior staff disclosure policy and guidelines, a proposed medical education disclosure policy and guidelines, a proposed policy on disclosure of faculty relationships, and a disclosure statement for authors; it was voted to accept the proposed disclosure policies and guidelines.

## **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

*The following new members and membership changes were approved during the 1999 Annual Business Meeting:*

#### **NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS**

Peter L. Birnbaum, M.D., Fresno, California  
Manly R. Hyde, M.D., Los Angeles, California  
Kevin A. Linkus, M.D., Reno, Nevada  
Rodrigo M. Miranda, M.D., Bakersfield, California  
Salim Walji, M.D., Albuquerque, New Mexico

#### **NEW HONORARY MEMBER**

David C. Sabiston, M.D., Durham, North Carolina

#### **ADVANCED TO SENIOR**

James M. Guernsey, M.D., Martinez, CA  
Robert A. Steedman, M.D., Santa Ana, CA  
Tracy E. Strevey, Jr., M.D., St. Louis, MO

#### **TO BE ADVANCED TO SENIOR IN 1999**

James C. Bonvallet, M.D., Spokane, WA  
Noel H. Fishman, M.D., Santa Cruz, CA  
Philip C. Jolly, M.D., Seattle, WA  
Robert T. Miyagishima, M.D., Vancouver, BC  
Ronald J. Nelson, M.D., Marina del Rey, CA  
U. Scott Page, M.D., Portland, OR  
Nils Parson, M.D., Alamo, CA  
Marvin Pomerantz, M.D., Denver, CO  
Charles M. Rucker, M.D., Phoenix, AZ  
Cecil C. Vaughn, M.D., Phoenix, AZ  
Akio Wakabayashi, M.D., Irvine, CA  
Philip W. Wright, M.D., Honolulu, HI

#### **REQUEST FOR ADVANCEMENT TO SENIOR**

Edward B. Stinson, M.D., Stanford, CA  
Edwin E. Vyhmeister, M.D., Loma Linda, CA

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Stanley D. Carson, M.D., Denver, CO  
Neil G. Steinhoff, M.D., Phoenix, AZ

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

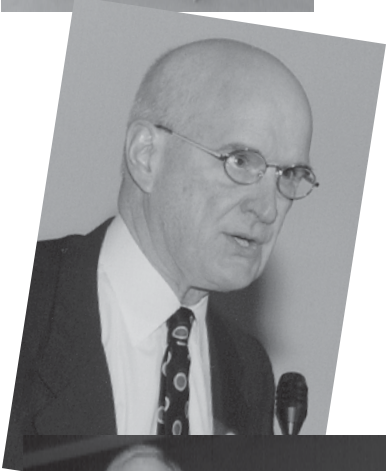
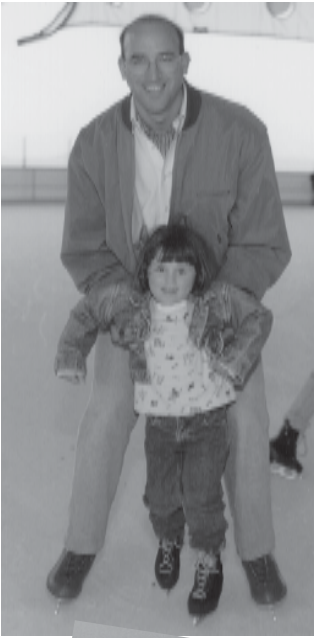
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The social program offered a variety of activities which allowed participants to relax and enjoy the resort or to keep busy with all of the traditional WTSA athletic events. The annual tennis and golf tournaments, and the traditional Samson Fun Run were held at the Resort.

In addition, guests were able to take full advantage of the beautiful scenery and the local offerings during optional tours, which included an evening with Glen Campbell at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada; a nature walk and hike to the Vista Point above Emerald Bay; whitewater rafting on the Truckee River; and horseback riding at Alpine Meadows.

Participants were also treated to the customary President's Reception and Banquet, the New Members' Reception and an Olympic Night at High Camp. This latter event treated guests to a cable car ride, soaring 2000 feet over the Sierra Mountains, to High Camp, 8,200 feet above sea level. Ice skating, live music, and a buffet reception highlighted the evening.





## 1999 - 2000 Officers and Councillors

### President

Bradley J. Harlan, M.D.  
*Sacramento, California*

### Vice President

David R. Clarke, M.D.  
*Denver, Colorado*

### Immediate

#### Past President

Kent W. Jones, M.D.  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

### Secretary

Vaughn A. Starnes, M.D.  
*Los Angeles, California*

### Treasurer

Steven Guyton, M.D.  
*Seattle, Washington*

### Editor

John A. Waldhausen, M.D.  
*Hershey, Pennsylvania*

### Councillors-at-Large

Alden H. Harken, M.D.  
*Denver, Colorado*

R. Scott Mitchell, M.D.  
*Stanford, California*

Douglas E. Wood, M.D.  
*Seattle, Washington*

### Councillor/Founder

Arthur N. Thomas, M.D.  
*San Francisco, California*

### Historian

Richard G. Fosburg, M.D.  
*Del Mar, California*

### ACS Board of Governors

Steven W. Guyton, M.D.  
*Seattle, Washington*

Richard G. Fosburg, M.D., Alt.  
*Del Mar, California*

### ACS Advisory Council

Winfield J. Wells, M.D.  
*Los Angeles, California*

## 1999 - 2000 Committees

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Paul B. Kelly, Jr., M.D., CHAIRMAN

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Colleen F. Sintek, M.D., CHAIRMAN

H. Storm Floten, M.D.

Forrest L. Junod, M.D.

Robert M. Kass, M.D.

Mark T. Metzdorff

J. Scott Millikan, M.D.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Steven R. Gundry, M.D., CHAIRMAN

Robbin G. Cohen, M.D.

David M. Follette, M.D.

John A. Hawkins, M.D.

Robert J. McKenna, Jr., M.D.

Douglas E. Wood, M.D.

Bradley J. Harlan, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*

Vaughn A. Starnes, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*

John A. Waldhausen, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*