A record-breaking attendance of more than 600 physicians, spouses, residents, guests, and exhibitors joined the Western Thoracic Surgical Association for the 26th Annual Meeting at the Orchard at Mauna Lani on The Big Island in Hawaii from June 21-24, 2000. The meeting combined an excellent scientific program with an exceptional social agenda, taking advantage of the spectacular island location.

The scientific program included 24 paper presentations, 2 simultaneous breakfast sessions, and the traditional Presidential Address given by Dr. Bradley J. Harlan, entitled “Statewide Reporting of Coronary Artery Surgery Results: A View from California.”


The C. Walton Lillehei Point-Counterpoint Session, held on Saturday, addressed, “The Best Way To Do Myocardial Revascularization is Off-Pump.” The session was moderated by Dr. David M. Follette, M.D. and the panelists were Steven R. Gundry, M.D. and Daniel J. Ullyot, M.D.

The simultaneous breakfast sessions, held on Friday morning, covered the following topics: “How I Do It: Off Pump Coronary Artery Bypass” presented by Vaughn A. Starnes, M.D. & Robbin G. Cohen, M.D.; and “Minimally Invasive / Maximally Invasive Operations for Lung Cancer” presented by Douglas E. Wood, M.D. and Robert J. McKenna, Jr., M.D.

The Samson Resident Prize Essay Competition once again attracted an exceptional group of papers and the award was presented to Murray H. Kown, M.D. of Stanford University, Stanford, California for his paper “Arginine Polymers Inhibit Vein Graft Atherosclerosis.”

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. Denton A. Cooley from Houston, Texas on “Current Status of Therapy for Thoracic Aneurysms”.

In addition, the program included a presentation by Jack M. Matloff, M.D. on "Economic-Political Update for the Year 2000 and Beyond", which was moderated by Richard P. Anderson, M.D.

The social program offered a variety of activities which allowed participants to relax and enjoy the island or to keep busy (continued inside)
Highlights of the Council Meeting - June 21, 2000
and the Annual Business Meeting - June 24, 2000
The Big Island, Hawaii

Report of the President
Dr. Harlan expressed his gratitude for having had the privilege of serving as President of the Association. He gave special thanks to the Council, as well as all Committee Chairs and Members for their extraordinary effort in assuring a successful year and annual meeting.

Dr. Harlan also reported that the Association had clarified and reaffirmed its relationship with the White Memorial Medical Center Foundation and Lyman A. Brewer Fund which supports the Annual Postgraduate Course.

Report of the Secretary
Current membership statistics of the Association as of June 20, 2000: 208 Active, 167 Senior, and 13 Honorary members for a total of 388 surgeons.

The following amendment was approved at the Annual Business Meeting:
Amend Article III, Membership, Section III, Paragraph C: Have 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/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.

The following proposed amendments to the By-Laws would be acted upon at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Association.
Article II, Members, Section 2, Senior Members: Senior membership shall be obtained by written request and Council approval for a member retired from active practice at age 60 or shall be automatic at age 65, provided that the continuing act of membership without respect to age shall be granted an unwritten request.

Article I, Application for Active membership, Section 5. Candidates Not Elected: The Secretary shall notify the primary sponsor of candidates not recommended for election and separately notify the candidate.

The Board has voted to officially join CTSNet as www.westernthoracic.org. The advantages of the WTSA participating with the CTSNet include the ability to enhance the profile of the Association as well as facilitate information among its membership, including the Annual Program Committee structure and other important information.

The Board nominated Dr. Stephen W. Guyton, as the Association’s representative to the ACS Board of Governors with Dr. Winfield J. Wells, Jr., as the alternate.

Report of the Treasurer
As of December 31, 1999, the Income Statement reflected total receipts of $359,522 against total disbursements of $325,153 resulting in a surplus of $34,369. The surplus was due in large measure to a successful 1999 Annual Meeting at Squaw Creek and will help the Association move towards the desired goal of having, in reserve, approximately 100% of its annual operating budget.

Program Committee
A record 303 abstracts were submitted and 24 were selected for presentation. Six papers were submitted for the Samson Resident Prize Essay Competition. The number of papers was decreased to 24 to allow time for a new Controversies in Thoracic Surgery Session and the Point / Counter Point Lillehei Debate. A separate session was held on Saturday morning for a general discussion of sociopolitical and economic issues facing the Association.

The Postgraduate Course was presented by Denton A. Cooley, M.D., of Houston, Texas, on the “Current Status of Therapy for Thoracic Aneurysms.” The C. Walton Lillehei Point / Counter Point Session was continued and featured Drs. Steven R. Gundry and Daniel J. Ulliot who debated “The Best Way to Do Myocardial Revascularization is Off-Pump.”

Dr. Gundry solicited suggestions from the Council regarding the potential of adding a poster session. Discussion focused on the advantages of holding a poster session, including encouraging attendance of more young residents.

Local Arrangements Committee
Dr. Paul B. Kelly, Jr. reported that the Annual Meeting had the largest ever attendance for the Association with over 600 in attendance at the Friday night Luau. Dr. Harlan thanked Dr. Kelly and the members of his Committee for their efforts in ensuring an enjoyable and successful social program for the Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee
Dr. Miller reported that the Nominating Committee had solicited recommendations from all Committee Chairs, Past Presidents, and the Council, in preparing the slate of Officers for consideration as follows:

President David R. Clarke, M.D., Denver
Vice President Donald B. Doty, M.D., Salt Lake City
Secretary Vaughn A. Starnes, MD, Los Angeles
Treasurer Douglas E. Wood, M.D., Seattle
Historian Richard G. Fosburg, MD, Del Mar
Councillor/Founder Arthur M. Thomas, MD, San Francisco
Councillor W. R. Eric Jamieson, M.D., Vancouver
(for a 3 year term)
REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN

Dr. Richard G. Fosburg reported that for this year’s Annual Business Meeting, he had prepared a brief talk on the historical background regarding the cardiac pacemaker and the role of Drs. John Callaghan and David Long. Dr. Fosburg also displayed a quilt made from the T-shirts from each Samson Fun Run held since 1978.

REPORT OF THE THORACIC SURGERY FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Dr. Robert B. Wallace, President of the TSFRE, reported that the Foundation had raised $1,384,835 in 1999 in cash and new pledges, which includes a gift from the AATS of $125,000 as well as a new pledge of $125,000 over the next five years. He noted that 288 individual surgeons and their surgical groups had contributed $262,150 in cash gifts and $256,935 in new pledges in 1999 for a total of $519,085. The Foundation cannot rely on individual surgeons alone and will be soliciting support from industry, foundations, and the NHLBI.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Steven W. Guyton reported that fellow Council member, Dr. Alden H. Harkin of Denver, Colorado, had been elected by the Board of Governors to the ACS Board of Regents at its October meeting in San Francisco. He also noted that a great deal of information regarding the College could be obtained from the College’s web site www.facs.org.

OTHER

In reviewing the criteria for the David Dugan Award, the Council noted that the criteria do not explicitly exclude Past Presidents from consideration for this award. There was general consensus that if a Past President, by virtue of his scientific accomplishments and recognition, was eligible for the David Dugan Award then that individual should not be precluded from consideration.

NECROLOGY

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the following members who recently passed away:

John S. Chambers, M.D.  
San Diego, California
Roy B. Cohn, M.D.  
Palo Alto, California
Alphonse C. Gomez, M.D.  
El Paso, Texas
Donald L. Paulson, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas
William E. Shinn, M.D.  
Stockton, California

WTSA’s 27th Annual Meeting
June 20-23, 2001
Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, California

About the Resort and the San Diego Area…..

In addition to access to five JC Resorts Golf Courses (including 45 holes on-site), guests may enjoy two plaza swimming pools, 7 hydro-spas, 12 tennis courts, and the completely remodeled Fitness Center featuring a wide range of new exercise machines and a variety of relaxing services. If you prefer outdoor activities, you can enjoy walking, jogging or biking in the area.

ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Head to the nearby Wild Animal Park and spend a day with all creatures great and small or to the world-famous San Diego Zoo. If you’re looking for an aquatic adventure, head to Sea World, home of Shamu the killer whale, or the Stephen Birch Aquarium, the public education center for the world-renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD.

SIPPING PLEASURES

Did you know that San Diego County is home to a number of excellent wineries? The Temecula Valley is home to 14 wineries renowned for their production of outstanding Chardonnays, Sauvignon Blancs, and Reislings. The Bernardo Winery is within minutes of Rancho Bernardo Inn.

DOWNTOWN

Balboa Park, conveniently located in the center of the city, was recently recognized as the best urban park in the Americas.

SHOPPING

An amazing variety of shopping opportunities are in the area, from the on-site Casa de Regalos and RBI Pro Shops, to the spacious North County Fair shopping mall and the Rancho Bernardo Mercado & Plaza. Also nearby are La Jolla’s famous Prospect Street, and San Diego’s Old Town and Seaport Village.

DINING

No visit to the Rancho Bernardo Inn is complete without at least one dinner in El Bizcocho, named by the 1999 Zagat Survey as San Diego’s best restaurant. Savor the classical French fare of Chef Tom Dowling with an expertly matched bottle of wine from the restaurant’s 500 label collection.

HISTORY

The city of San Diego takes pride in its history, and includes several historical attractions: the Mission Basilica San Diego De Alcala, the Cabrillo National Monument, and the much-photographed Point Loma Lighthouse.

And for a real getaway, the Mexican border is only 20 minutes away.
with all of the traditional WTSA athletic events. The annual tennis and golf tournaments, and the traditional Samson Fun Run were held, and of course, a traditional Hawaiian Lu'au.

In addition, guests were able to take full advantage of the beautiful scenery and the local offerings during optional tours, which included an afternoon snorkel tour and a complete "Kids Only" program.

Participants were also treated to the customary President’s Reception and Banquet, the New Members’ Reception and a Luncheon on Saturday on the Coconut Grove.
MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following new members and membership changes were approved during the 2000 Annual Business Meeting:

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS

Joseph S. Auteri, M.D., Scottsdale, Arizona
Carlos Blanche, M.D., Los Angeles, California
Robert S. Brooks, M.D., Grand Junction, Colorado
Fardad Esmailian, M.D., Los Angeles, California
James I. Fann, M.D., Stanford, California
Clark B. Fuller, M.D., Los Angeles, California
Richard N. Gates, M.D., Orange, California
Ali Gheissari, M.D., La Canada, California
John R. Handy, Jr., M.D., Portland, Oregon
Joseph J. Hessel, M.D., Paradise Valley, Arizona
Mark E. Hill, M.D., Seattle, Washington
Frederick M. Howden, M.D., San Diego, California
Gary S. Kochamba, M.D., Studio City, California
John D. Mitchell, M.D., La Jolla, California
Pasala S. Ravichandran, M.D., Portland, Oregon
Ivan M. Rebeyka, M.D., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Ali S. Sadeghi, M.D., Beverly Hills, California
James R. Stewart, M.D., Colorado Springs, Colorado
Pierre R. Tibi, M.D., Phoenix, Arizona
Richard I. Whyte, M.D., Stanford, California
Kwok L. Yun, M.D., Los Angeles, California

NEW HONORARY MEMBER

Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ADVANCED TO SENIOR

James C. Bonvallet, M.D., Spokane, Washington
Noel H. Fishman, M.D., Santa Cruz, California
Philip C. Jolly, M.D., Seattle, Washington
Robert T. Miyagishima, M.D., Vancouver, British Columbia
U. Scott Page, M.D., Portland, Oregon
Nils Parson, M.D., Alamo, California
Marvin Pomerantz, M.D., Denver, Colorado
Charles M. Rucker, M.D., Phoenix, Arizona
Edward B. Stinson, M.D., Stanford, California
Cecil C. Vaughn, M.D., Phoenix, Arizona
Edwin E. Vyhmeister, M.D., Loma Linda, California
Akio Wakabayashi, M.D., Irvine, California
Philip W. Wright, M.D., Honolulu, Hawaii

ADVANCED TO SENIOR IN 2000

William W. Angell, M.D., Tampa, Florida
Noel Nellis, M.D., Dublin, Georgia
William E. Ostermiller, Jr., M.D., Orange, California

REQUESTS FOR SENIOR

Cordell H. Bahn, M.D., Tacoma, Washington
Herbert A. Berkoff, M.D., Sacramento, California
Joseph D. Marco, M.D., Tucson, Arizona
Edwin McGough, M.D., Salt Lake City, Utah
Robert D. Pipkin, M.D., Fremont, California
Robert J. Stallone, M.D., Oakland, California
Robert Szarnicki, M.D., San Francisco, California

RESIGNATIONS

M. Terry McEnany, M.D., Altoona, Wisconsin
Julie A. Swain, M.D., Bethesda, Maryland

Visit the Association's New Website

www.westernthoracic.org

Western Thoracic Surgical Association

For the latest information on the activities of the WTSA, including 2001 meeting information, officers and committees, member listing, upcoming events, and on-line access to the following journals:
2000 - 2001 Officers and Councillors

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

**Vice President**
Donald B. Doty, M.D.
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

**Immediate Past President**
Bradley J. Harlan, M.D.
*Sacramento, California*

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

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

**Editor**
Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D.
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**Councillors-at-Large**
W.R. Eric Jamieson, M.D.
*British Columbia, Canada*
Alden H. Harken, M.D.
*Denver, Colorado*
R. Scott Mitchell, M.D.
*Stanford, California*

**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*

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2000 - 2001 Committees

**LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**
Myles S. Guber, M.D., CHAIR

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
Colleen F. Sintek, M.D., CHAIR
Forrest L. Junod, M.D.
Robert M. Kass, M.D.
Mark T. Metzdorf, M.D.
J. Scott Millikan, M.D.
E. Lance Walker, M.D.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**
Steven R. Gundry, M.D., CHAIR
David N. Campbell, M.D.
David M. Follette, M.D.
John A. Hawkins, M.D.
Robert J. McKenna, Jr., M.D.
Douglas E. Wood, M.D.
David R. Clarke, *EX OFFICIO*
Vaughn A. Starnes, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*
Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*

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