



# Newsletter of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association

Thirteen Elm Street, Manchester, MA 01944

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## 2001 Annual Meeting - *In Review*

More than 400 physicians, spouses, residents, guests, and exhibitors joined the Western Thoracic Surgical Association for the 27th Annual Meeting at the Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego from June 20-23, 2001. The meeting combined an excellent scientific program with an exceptional social agenda, and guests had the entire Inn at their disposal.

The scientific program included 24 paper presentations, including such topics as: "Is Medical Therapy the Optimal Treatment Strategy for Acute Type B Dissections in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?"; "Neurodevelopmental Outcomes Following Biventricular Repair of Congenital Heart Defects"; "Improved Survival with Total Autologous Repair of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome" and; "Improved Long-Term Survival in Esophageal Cancer Following the Novel Strategy of Induction Chemotherapy Prior to Concurrent Chemoradiation and Surgery."

In addition, simultaneous breakfast sessions, covering "Building an Esophageal Surgery Program: Politics and Techniques"; "Innovations in Aneurysm Management"; and "Challenge the Experts in Congenital Heart Surgery" were held on Friday morning and a breakfast session on Saturday morning covered "Workforce Requirements in a Rapidly Changing Environment." The traditional Presidential Address was given by Dr. David R. Clarke, entitled "Value, Viability, and Valves."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point-Counterpoint Session, held on Saturday, addressed, "Products, Profits, and Professionalism: Surgeons Should Not Benefit Financially from Development of New Technology." The session was moderated by Dr. Richard Sanderson and the panelists were Drs. Robert Sade and Thomas Fogarty.

The Samson Resident Prize Essay Competition once again attracted an exceptional group of papers and the award was presented to Dr. Baiya Krishnadasan for the paper "Cyclosporine A and FK-506 Decrease Lung Ischemia Reperfusion Injury in Rats."

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. Marc R. DeLeval from London, England on "Thinking Beyond the Third Dimension."

In addition, the program included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery presentation, moderated by Dr. Douglas E. Wood on "What Should be the Extent of Resection for Esophageal Cancer?" Dr. Richard Whyte advocated limited resection while Dr. Thomas DeMeester favored aggressive resection.

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 Adventure! Theme Dinner, featuring a West African mask dance ritual, Calypso music, an assortment of unusual live animals, and a Ruin Stone Reader, who entertained guests by reading tarot cards, palms, faces, and hand-writing.

Participants were also treated to the customary President's Reception and Banquet, the New Members' Reception and a picnic buffet luncheon on Saturday at the Resort.

### PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE.....

The 28th Annual Meeting...

**Big Sky Resort  
Big Sky, Montana**

**June 19 - 22, 2002**

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## **Highlights of the Council Meeting - June 20, 2001 and the Annual Business Meeting - June 23, 2001 San Diego, California**

### **Report of the President**

Dr. Clarke noted the passing of Past President Lucius D. Hill, MD, of Seattle, Washington and Dr. Richard Anderson provided a eulogy of Dr. Hill during the Business Meeting.

Dr. Clarke reported that Drs. Mark Orringer, President of STS, and Timothy J. Gardner, President of AATS, would be attending the meeting and Dr. Gardner would provide a brief report on activities of the STS and AATS with respect to Government Relations, HCFA, the RUC, CPT Codes and Reimbursement issues on Friday morning.

Dr. Clarke reminded the Council of the fundraising initiative being coordinated by the Drs. Guyton and encouraged Council participation.

### **Report of the Secretary**

Current membership statistics as of June 4, 2001: 220 Active, 173 Senior and 14 Honorary Members for a total of 407 Surgeons.

The Council voted to reappoint Dr. Winfield J. Wells to serve a second term on the ACS Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery.

### **By-Laws Amendments**

Read for the first time at the Annual Business Meeting in 2000 and approved:

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 on written 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."*

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Dr. Wood reported that total assets were \$277,416 and this compares favorably to the figure of \$255,010 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999 and represents an 8.7% increase. The Income Statement reflected receipts for the year of \$476,400 against Total Disbursements of \$449,006, resulting in the surplus of \$27,394 for the fiscal year.

### **Program Committee**

Dr. Steven R. Gundry, Chairman, reported that 173 Abstracts had been submitted to the Program Committee and 24 were selected for oral presentation. International

Abstracts submissions continued to represent approximately 25%. The Program also included a "Controversies in Thoracic Surgery Session", a Point-Counter Point Lillehei Debate, three simultaneous Breakfast Sessions on each of the sub-specialties and a breakfast session on "Work-Force Requirements in a Rapidly Changing Environment."

Dr. Doty reported that next year's invited Postgraduate Course speakers would be the Editors of the Third Edition of Kirklin and Barratt-Boyes' Cardiac Surgery. The faculty would be Drs. Frank Hanley of San Francisco, California, Robert B. Karp of Snowmass, Colorado, and Nicolas T. Kouchoukos of St. Louis, Missouri.

### **Local Arrangements Committee**

Dr. Myles S. Guber, Chairman, reported on the attendance figures for the Annual Meeting and thanked his Committee Members including the Golf, Tennis & Samson Fun Run Chairs for their help in providing a productive and enjoyable social events calendar.

### **Report of the Editor**

Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D. Editor of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* reported on a number of new initiatives, including: dramatic increase in the number of solicited editorials; the opportunity to provide online videos to accompany authors' manuscripts which can be seen in video format via the *Journal* website or CTSNet; new cover and internal redesign of the *Journal*; and the recognition of the extraordinary contributions of the *Journal's* best reviewers through the "Distinguished Reviewer" program

Dr. Wechsler stated that he would be willing to appoint the WTSA Program Chairman as an Ad-Hoc Reviewer to assist in the process of insuring the timely submission, review and processing of WTSA papers.

### **Report of the Membership Committee Chair**

A discussion on exclusivity versus inclusiveness vis a vis membership in the Association resulted in general agreement that the Association wanted to be as inclusive as possible. The council voted that the letter to potential candidates be modified to reflect solicitation of documentation reflecting academic, community and/or hospital contributions to the community as important criteria for membership consideration. It was further agreed that this letter and extra membership application forms be sent to the membership to encourage members to sponsor potential candidates for membership in the Association.

## Report of the Nominating Committee Chair

Dr. Richard G. Sanderson submitted the report:

President	Donald B. Doty, MD
Vice President	Edward D. Verrier, M.D.
Secretary	R. Scott Mitchell, MD
Treasurer	Douglas E. Wood, MD
Historian	Richard G. Fosburg, MD
Editor	Andrew S. Wechsler, MD
Councilor/Founder	Arthur N. Thomas, MD
Councilor (Past President)	David R. Clarke, MD
Councilor 1 Year (To fulfill R. Scott Mitchell's term)	Elliot T. Gelfand, MD
Councilor 3 Years	Robbin G. Cohen, MD

## Report of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education

Dr. Fosburg outlined the Mentored Clinical Scientist Award Program which the Foundation had successfully secured through a cooperative sponsorship with NHLBI, the William J. von Liebig Foundation, and Data Scope Corporation.

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

Dr. Guyton noted that the recertification process will change over time and be transformed into a "maintenance of certification" process which would be a more pervasive and time consuming process. Dr. Guyton reported that he had been asked to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. He noted that the College is soliciting contributions from specialty surgery groups in support of its Leadership Society and the Council voted to contribute \$1,000 to the American College of Surgeons Scholarship Leadership Society for the year 2001; to revisit the policy of maintaining this contribution on an Annual basis; and to solicit feedback from the College on the Activities of the Fellowship Program.

## Visit the Association's Website [www.westernthoracic.org](http://www.westernthoracic.org)

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CTSNet  
CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY NETWORK

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## WTSA Receives ACCME Accreditation

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association was pleased to receive notification from the ACCME that the Society has "full accreditation with a four year term" through July 2005. This accreditation follows a site visit of the ACCME Accreditation team at the Management Offices in Manchester, Massachusetts. Dr. Steven Gundry, Program Committee Chair, Bob Jones, Executive Director, Eila Zay CME Director, and Monique Vincze-Tonnessen, WTSA Meeting Planner, met with CME representatives and completed the requirements for reaccreditation.

The Accreditation site review team made several recommendations to the Association to become completely compliant with revised ACCME guidelines. These included: the utilization of a Needs Assessments Survey, an Outcomes Assessments Survey, and improved documentation of accreditation procedures.

WTSA has proceeded with these recommendation - the Needs Assessment Survey was distributed to the membership in July and the Outcomes Assessments Survey will be distributed in November 2001 to all members who attended the 2001 annual meeting.

### PLEASE COMPLETE THESE SURVEYS AND RETURN TO THE WTSA OFFICES.

During the Council Meeting, the following WTSA CME Mission Statement was reviewed and reaffirmed:

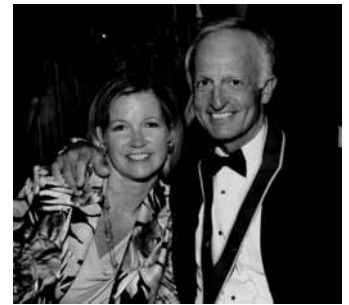
*The CME mission of Western Thoracic Surgical Association is to provide a regional forum, through their monthly scientific journal and their annual meeting, for the presentation, discussion and dissemination of the state of the art and science of cardio-thoracic disease and its treatment to those professionals whose primary mission is the diagnosis and treatment of cardio-thoracic disease.*

The CME goals of WTSA are as follows:

1. Promote the highest standard of training and practice for cardiothoracic surgeons.
2. Foster research.
3. Be a resource for education in cardio-thoracic surgery.
4. Advocate responsible positions on issues related to cardiothoracic surgery for the benefit of our patients, the public, our members and the medical profession.
5. Serve the professional needs of the membership.
6. Celebrate excellence and recognize distinguished contributions to cardio-thoracic surgery.



# Photo Highlights of the Annual Meeting



# MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

*The following new members and membership changes were approved during the 2001 Business Meeting:*

## **New Active Members**

Ahbas Ardehali, MD, *Los Angeles, California*  
James W. Long, MD, *Salt Lake City, Utah*  
Daniel Marelli, MD, *Los Angeles, California*  
Max B. Mitchell, MD, *Denver, Colorado*  
Daniel S. Schwartz, MD, *Los Angeles, California*  
Baljit K. Sharma, MD, *Yakima, Washington*  
Richard D. Stahl, MD, *La Jolla, California*  
Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, MD, *San Diego, California*

## **Advanced to Senior**

William W. Angell, MD, *Tampa, Florida*  
Cordell H. Bahn, MD, *Tacoma, Washington*  
Herbert A. Berkoff, MD, *Sacramento, California*  
Joseph D. Marco, MD, *Tucson, Arizona*  
Edwin McGough, MD, *Salt Lake City, Utah*  
Noel Nellis, MD, *Dublin Georgia*  
William E. Ostermiller, Jr., MD, *Orange, California*  
Robert D. Pipkin, MD, *Fremont, California*  
Neal W. Salomon, MD, *Lutherville, Maryland*  
Robert J. Stallone, MD, *Oakland, California*  
Robert Szarnicki, MD, *San Francisco, California*

## **Advanced to Senior in 2001**

Aftab Ahmad, MD, *Portland, Oregon*  
William A. Gay, MD, *St. Louis, Missouri*  
J. Donald Hill, MD, *San Francisco, California*  
J. Judson McNamara, MD, *Honolulu, Hawaii*  
Richard R. O'Reilly, MD, *Bakersfield, California*  
William G. Plested, MD, *Santa Monica, California*  
Daniel J. Ulyot, MD, *Burlingame, California*

## **Requests for Senior**

William R. Dietrick, MD, *San Marino, California*  
Forrest L. Junod, MD, *Sacramento, California*  
Samuel L. Selinger, MD, *Spokane, Washington*  
Gary M. Silver, MD, *Los Altos, California*  
Burt S. Strug, MD, *Tucson, Arizona*  
Kevin Turley, MD, *Middletown, California*

## **Members who have passed away since the 2000 Annual Meeting**

William E. Bloomer, MD, *Long Beach, California*  
Louis G. Brizzolara, MD, *Oakland, California*  
Lucius D. Hill, MD, *Seattle, Washington*  
Beatty H. Ramsay, MD, *Pebble Beach, California*

## **WTSA's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting June 19-22, 2002 Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana**



Big Sky's Mountain Village lies at the foot of majestic Lone Peak. The two cornerstones are the Shoshone/Huntley/Yellowstone Conference Center complex and the luxurious new Summit at Big Sky. These tall structures combine to total nearly 500 hotel rooms, suites and condominiums. You'll find shops, restaurants, nightclubs, a grocery, deli, cafeteria, rental and repair services, meeting rooms and daycare center in the center plaza.

There are two other geographic areas rounding out the community: The Meadow Village, radiating from the 18-hole Big Sky Golf Course and the Canyon area, along Highway 191 and the scenic Gallatin River.

### **GOLF**

The Scenic 18 hole par 72 golf course at Big Sky was originally designed by Arnold Palmer and has a classic links style, winding along the banks of the West Fork of the Gallatin River. Tee up with beavers, geese, deer, marmots, rainbow trout and the occasional moose as your gallery. The Big Sky Golf Course is located 6,500 feet above sea level which gives you not only spectacular views but longer drives!

### **SCENIC LIFT RIDE – GONDOLA**

Big Sky's scenic gondola ride provides our summer visitor with a bird's eye view of the surrounding mountains. Bring your mountain bike along for some high-altitude riding. Ride the scenic lift round-trip for hiking back down to the village on our new self-guided nature trail or tackle the summit of Lone Peak.

### **MOUNTAIN BIKING**

Mountain Biking in the Big Sky area means miles of back country scenery, wildflowers, wildlife, and a few human encounters. Ski lift access and forest roads offer off-pavement, out-of-traffic experiences.

### **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

Big Sky's close proximity to Yellowstone National Park—the northwest corner of the park is just 18 miles away. Check out the nation's most impressive geysers and hot springs. Take in the spectacular scenic views and admire the easily seen wildlife. An early morning excursion may bring you within viewing range of bison, coyotes, grizzly bears and possibly a wolf. Local specialists can help you learn more about the flora and fauna.

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## 2001 - 2002 Officers and Councillors

### President

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

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Edward D. Verrier, M.D.  
*Seattle, Washington*

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

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

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

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W.R. Eric Jamieson, M.D.  
*British Columbia, Canada*

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Arthur N. Thomas, M.D.  
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### Historian

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

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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*

## 2001 - 2002 Committees

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

John A. Hawkins, M.D., CHAIR

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Alfredo Trento, M.D.  
E. Lance Walker, M.D.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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David N. Campbell, M.D.  
David M. Follette, M.D.  
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R. Scott Mitchell, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*  
Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D., *EX OFFICIO*

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