The 36th Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Ojai Valley Inn in Ojai, California, June 23-26, 2010. The meeting included oral presentation of 21 original papers, panel discussions, a postgraduate course, and 24 additional papers presented during concurrent forums in the disciplines of adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease. The meeting attracted more than 200 physicians and allied health professionals and provided an outstanding educational program with ample opportunities for open discussion, and scientific debate.

Highlights of the program included a “Controversies in Thoracic Surgery” session that debated whether “The Future of CT Practice is an Employed Model” and was moderated by Lawrence Cohn, with Mark Hillard presenting the pro side. In addition, the Presidential Address, given by J. Scott Millikan, was entitled “Bigger” and John E. Connolly delivered an address on the “Significance of Paul Samson to the Western Thoracic Surgical Association.”

Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions were also held in the three disciplines. Adult Cardiac focused on “Blood Conservation in Adult Cardiac Surgery: How and Why” with James Breving. The General Thoracic Session, presented by Charles Hoopes, examined “Rescue Therapies for Acute Pulmonary Failure.” Karl Welke led the Congenital Heart Disease Session, focusing on “Outcomes in Congenital Heart Surgery: What Do They Mean, What Should We Measure?”

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session debated if “Attending Surgeons Should Be Held to an 80-Hour Workweek.” It was moderated by Lawrence Cohn, with Michael Mulligan, Seattle, and Irving Kron opposing. The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation, Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund, featured Nicholas Wolter from the Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana presenting “The Emerging Science of Healthcare Delivery.”

Several awards were presented during the meeting. The David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award was presented to John A. Hawkins for his distinguished achievements in thoracic surgery. In addition, the Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to Michael Mulligan, University of Washington Medical School, for his proposal “Development of a Fundamental Video-Based Curriculum for Integrated Residents.”

And for the first time, both the Norman E. Shumway Award and the Samson Resident Prize Essay Award were presented to the same author, Phillip Smith of the University of Colorado for his presentation “Erythropoietin Attenuates Spinal Cord Ischemia Reperfusion Injury.”

The 2010-2011 Officers elected during the meeting include:

President: Robbin G. Cohen, Los Angeles
Vice President: Robert C. Robbins, Stanford, California
Immediate Past President: J. Scott Millikan, Billings, Montana
Secretary: Thomas A. Burdon, Palo Alto, California
Treasurer: John D. Mitchell, Aurora, Colorado
Councillor/Founder: Arthur N. Thomas, Hillsborough, California
Historian: Marvin Pomerantz, Denver, Colorado
Governor, American College of Surgeons: John C. Chen, Honolulu, Hawaii
Editor: Lawrence H. Cohn, Boston, Massachusetts

Councillors-at-Large:
Michael S. Mulligan, Seattle, Washington
Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, San Diego, California
Ross M. Bremner, Phoenix, Arizona

Also during the 36th Annual Meeting, 17 new members were elected to WTSA: Bahaaldin AlSoufi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
J.W. Randolph Bolton, Fresno, California
Brian Cain, Oaklands, California
Robert Cerfolio, Birmingham, Alabama
Michael Fischbein, Stanford, California
Aditya Kaza, Salt Lake City
William Kitchens, Augusta, Georgia
Jasleen Kukreja, San Francisco
Jay Lee, Los Angeles
Vincent Lee, Prescott, Arizona
Charles Lutz, Syracuse, New York
Roderick MacArthur, Edmonton, Canada
Sunil Malhotra, Gainesville, Florida
John Markley, Columbia, Missouri
David McMullan, Seattle, Washington
Nahush Mokadam, Seattle, Washington
Richard Shemin, Los Angeles.