**Thoracic Surgery News • September/October 2007**

**The WTSA 2007 Annual Meeting in Review**

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, on June 27-30, 2007. The Meeting includ- ed oral presentation of 22 original papers, panel discus- sions, a postgraduate course, breakfast sessions, and 24 concurrent “brief communications” in the disciplines of adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease. The annual meeting attracted more than 170 physicians and provided an excellent didactic sci- entific program with many opportunities for questions and open discussion and an overall perspective of current practices.

Educational highlights of the program included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery session that debated “The Solitary Pulmo- nary Nodule: Excision vs. Ablation—Do you Need to Know?” moderated by Richard J. Whyte, with Douglas Wood arguing for and James D. Luketich against.

Simultaneous breakfast sessions were held in the three disciplines. Adult Cardiac focused on “Pericara- neous Valves” with invited speaker Jian Ye. The General Thoracic Session was entitled “The Evolution of Therapy for Achalasia: Surgery is the ‘Treatment of Choice’” with speaker Donald E. Low. The Congenital Heart Disease Session, with speakers Ivan Rebe- yka and Jeffrey Smallhorn, focused on “How to Use 3D Echo to Improve Atrioventricular Valve Repair in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery.”

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Countpoint Session debated whether “Technology Has Compromised the Maze Procedure” and was moderated by Steven Guy- ton with Robbins G. Cohen arguing in favor and Steven R. Gundry opposing. The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Cen- ter and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund, featured Philip F. Halloran from Edmonton, Canada, presenting “Frontiers in Disease Phenotyping: The Example of Organ Transplantation.” Additional high- lights included the Presidential Address by Elliot T. Gelfand entitled “In Celebration of Our Differences.” The David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award was presented to W. Gerald Rainer from Denver, Colorado. Dr. Rainer was honored for his out- standing contributions to thoracic surgery over the years. Several additional awards were also presented. The Donald R. Doisy Educa- tional Award was given to Gordon A. Cohen of Seattle, Washington. The Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best Paper given by a WTSA member was awarded to M. J. Woynt of Denver for his presentation “Secretory Phospholipase A2 is Required to In- duce Histologic Changes Associated with Ga- stroesophageal Reflux in a Murine Model.”

The Adult Cardiac Prize Essay Award was given to both Jayan Nagarajan from the University of Alberta for his paper, “Mitochondrial Membrane Potential is Different Be- tween the Right and Left Ventricles in Humans and Rats” and Patrick S. Wolf from the Uni- versity of Washington for his paper “MAP Ki- nase Inhibition Ameliorates Lung Ischemia- Reperfusion Injury.”

The 2006-2007 Officers elected during the meeting include: President Douglas E. Wood, Seattle, Washington; Vice President David A. Fullerton, Denver, Colorado; Immediate Past President Elliot T. Gelfand, Edmo- ton, Alberta, Canada; Secretary John A. Hawkins, Salt Lake City, Utah; Treasurer Robin G. Cohen, Los Angeles, California; Councilor/Founder Arthur N. Thomas, Hillsborough, California; Historian Marvin Pomer- antz, Denver, Colorado; Governor, American College of Surgeons Gabriel S. Aldea, Seattle, Washing- ton; Editor Andrew S. Wechsler, Philadelphia, Pennsylva- nia; and Councillors-at-Large John C. Chen, Honolulu, Hawaii; David M. Pellette, Sacramento, California, and Robert C. Robbins, Stanford, California.

New Mexico provided a wonderful setting for the week’s activities, including the New Member’s Recep- tion around the Resort’s Pool Area and Lawn, the golf and tennis tournaments, the Samson Fun Run along the banks of the Rio Grande River, a Route 66 Theme Dinner, and the traditional President’s Recep- tion and Banquet.

**AATS 2008 Annual Meeting—Call for Abstracts**

Abstracts for presentation at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery are now being accepted. Mark your calendar now for this five-day educational program, to be held May 10-14, 2008, at the San Diego Convention Center, Califor- nia. For more info, and to submit an abstract visit: www.aats.org/abstracts.

**AATS Meetings and Sponsored Events**

More information can be accessed at www.aats.org

**October 18-20, 2007**

21st Century Treatment of Heart Failure: Synchronizing Surgical and Medical Therapies for Better Outcomes Intercontinental Hotel & Conference Center at the Intercontinental Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio

**March 13, 2008**

AATS/ASCVTS Adult Cardiac and Congenital Postgraduate Course Directed by Craig B. Smith, M.D., Singapore

**May 8-9, 2008**

Aortic Surgery Symposium XI Directed by Randall B. Griep, M.D. and Steven L. Lansman, M.D., Sheraton New York, New York

**May 10-14, 2008**

88th Annual Meeting San Diego Convention Center San Diego, California

**October 23-24, 2008**

6th Triennial Brigham Cardiac Valve Symposium Directed by R. Morton, surgeon, III, M.D., Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel Boston, Massachusetts

**Treatment of Heart Failure Course Coming in October**

21st Century Treatment of Heart Failure: Synchronizing Surgical and Medical Therapies for Better Outcomes will be held October 18-20, 2007, at the Bank of America Conference Center in the Cleveland Clinic Intercontinental Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio.

Heart failure is making news. Innova- tive treatments, breakthrough research, and epidemiologic insights have inspired three of America’s leading cardiovascular specialty organizations to collaborate on a landmark learning experience for medical professionals who treat heart failure. This historic meeting is the first educational event ever sponsored by the Kaufman Center for Heart Failure at Cleveland Clinic in partnership with the American Associa- tion for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) and the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF). Together they offer the most advanced review of emerging medical and surgical treatments of heart failure available today.

The combination of presenters and top- ics promises the liveliest, most enlighten- ing and most provocative meeting yet.

21st Century Treatment of Heart Fail- ure convenes at the Bank of America Con- ference Center at the Intercontinental Ho- tel on the Cleveland Clinic campus. This astounding 900-seat amphitheater com- bines state of the art visual technology, with unmatched comfort and interactive communication. You are urged to take ad- vantage of this learning opportunity.

This activity has been approved for AMA Category 1 Credits.