



# Newsletter of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association

900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U, Beverly, MA 01915

www.westernthoracic.org

## COUNCIL

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**Elliot T. Gelfand**  
Edmonton, AB, Canada

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Seattle, Washington

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**Robert P. Jones, Jr.**  
Beverly, Massachusetts

## The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting to be Held in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico

### General Information

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association will be held at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, June 27-30, 2007. Half-day scientific sessions will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with afternoons free to enjoy the many activities available in and around the Resort.

### Scientific Highlights of the Program include:

- ♦ **Controversies in Thoracic Surgery** - "The Solitary Pulmonary Nodule: Excision vs. Ablation - Do you Need to Know" moderated by Richard I. White, with Douglas Wood arguing for and James D. Luketich against.
- ♦ **Concurrent Brief Communications Sessions** - 5 minute presentations, followed by 2 1/2 minutes of discussion.
- ♦ **The Presidential Address** - "In Celebration of our Differences" presented by Elliot T. Gelfand.

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## 2006 Annual Meeting: *In Review*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at the Sun Valley Resort on June 21-24, 2006. The WTSA Annual Meeting, designed to provide a forum for communicating the latest developments in the art and science of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, included oral presentation of 22 original papers, panel discussions, a postgraduate course, breakfast sessions and 25 poster presentations. The meeting combined an excellent didactic scientific program with many opportunities for questions and open discussion.

Educational highlights of the program included a Controversies in Thoracic Surgery session that debated "VATS vs. Open Lobectomy for Lung Cancer." The debate was moderated by Douglas Wood with John Mitchell advocating for VATS and Robert Cerfolio favoring open lobectomy.

Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions were held in the three disciplines. The Adult Cardiac Session focused on "Current Techniques and Long Term Results of Valve Sparing Aortic Root Surgery" with invited speaker D. Craig Miller. The General Thoracic Session on "Evolving Role of PET Scanning and Lung Cancer Staging" was given by Robert Cerfolio. The Congenital Heart Disease Session, presented by Marc. P. Pelletier, reviewed the "Current Status of Pediatric Mechanical Support Devices."

The C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session debated the "Optimal Treatment of Multi-Vessel Coronary Disease" and was moderated by David A. Fullerton with David P. Taggart and John Carroll. The Postgraduate Course, sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foun-

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*Highlights of the Council Meeting - June 21, 2006  
and the Annual Business Meeting - June 24, 2006  
Sun Valley, Idaho*

**Report of the President**

Dr. Mitchell expressed his gratitude to the membership for having had the privilege of serving as President of the Association and paid special thanks to the Council, Committee Chairs, and Members for their extraordinary effort in ensuring a successful year and 2006 Annual Meeting.

The Council has considered the establishment of a new award to honor Dr. Norm Shumway. The award would be given to the best paper to be delivered by a member of the WTSA as judged by the Program Committee. The award would be named the Shumway Award and would be given out at each annual meeting as appropriate and as adjudicated by the Program Committee.

At last year's annual meeting, one of the Association's long time industrial partners - Medtronic of Minneapolis, had provided a \$10,000 educational grant to establish the Donald B. Doty Educational Award. The 2005 Award was presented to LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, Don Doty's training institution. Dr. John Doty to give a brief progress report on the first annual Don B. Doty Educational Award. The 2006 Donald B. Doty Educational Award was awarded to Dr. James I. Fann of Stanford. Dr. Fann will report on his project at next year's annual meeting in New Mexico.

**Report of the Secretary**

Dr. Hawkins reported that at its meeting earlier in the week, the Council had held lengthy discussions on strategies to broaden the membership of the Western. To that end, the Council proposes the following amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws as noted. In accordance with the procedures for amending the Constitution and the By-Laws, Dr. Hawkins reported that these proposed amendments would be circulated to the full membership and would be voted on at next year's Annual Business Meeting in New Mexico.

**Bylaw Amendments:**

Proposed amendments shown underlined:

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP - Section 3.**

A candidate for active membership must:

b. Reside within or have completed a cardiothoracic residency training program within the geographic limits of the Association, which are the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

c. Have been engaged in the practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery either outside of or within the geographic limits of the Association for at least three years following completion of postgraduate training.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERS - Section 1. Active Members.**

c. Number of Members. The number of Active members residing within the geographic limits of the Association shall be limited to two hundred and fifty (250). The number of Active members residing outside of the geographic limits of the Association shall be limited to one hundred (100).

There are presently 206 Active, 204 Senior and 13 Honorary members of the Association for a total of 423 Surgeons. Ten new Active members were elected in 2005 and 5 Active members were advanced to Senior membership. Ten Active members will be advanced to Senior membership at the end of the year.

The following members of the Association had passed away and a moment of silence was observed:

- George G. Lindesmith, M.D., Arcadia, GA
- David M. Long, Jr, MD, Spring Valley, CA
- Bertrand W. Meyer, MD, La Canada, CA
- James W. Quinn, MD, Sunriver, OR
- Norman E. Shumway, MD, Stanford, CA
- Florian J. Werthmann, MD, Santa Maria, CA
- Dean F. Winn, Jr., MD, Medford, OR

Dr. Dick Fosburg delivered the eulogy for the fifth President of the Association, Dr. Bert Meyer and Dr. Jim Mark delivered the eulogy for the Association's third President, Dr. Norm Shumway.

**Report of the Treasurer**

Dr. Robbin G. Cohen, Treasurer, presented a Review by the CPA firm of Russell, Brier, and Company of Boston, Massachusetts of the financial statements for the year-ending December 31, 2005.

Dr. Cohen outlined the Review noting total assets of \$309,773, which included \$101,173 in cash and cash equivalents, \$4,723 in investments, and \$203,877 in restricted funds. He noted that of the restricted funds, \$196,873 of the assets were restricted to the Samson Endowment Fund and \$7,005 to the Lyman Brewer Fund. It was also noted that total income for the year was \$433,256 against expenses of \$425,025 resulting in a surplus of \$8,232.

Dr. Cohen presented a ten-year summary of the Association's financial status noting that total assets reached a high of almost \$300,000 in 1996. The Association incurred a deficit in 1997 of over \$103,000, and since 1997, the Association had been aggressively working back up towards its asset base of 1996 with the asset base in 2005 at \$309,773.

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## Council Meeting Highlights *(continued from previous page)*

### Program Committee

Dr. David A. Fullerton, Chairman, reported that this year, with the addition of three separate Moderated Poster Sessions, a total of 47 papers were accepted consisting of 22 papers for Podium Presentation and 25 Posters. Of the 22 podium presentations, 2 were from WTSA members, and 17 non-members (North America), and 3 international papers.

He noted that 268 abstracts had been submitted 85 of which were resident abstract submissions. Twenty-four of the 85 were accepted, 10 for podium and 14 for poster presentation. The overall acceptance rate was 17.5%.

### Local Arrangements

Dr. Thomas A. Burdon, Chair, reported on the attendance figures for the Annual Meeting noting there were 159 professionals and 243 total registrants in attendance. He iterated that the Samson Fun Run had over 50 runners participating; the golf tournament had 43 golfers; and the tennis tournament had 9 players. He reported that the prizes for these events would be awarded at the Family Luncheon following the Annual Business Meeting.

Dr. Burdon noted that the Samson Resident Prize Award and the Norm Shumway Award would be announced at the President's banquet that evening.

### Report of the Editor

A report of the Editor of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery was reviewed. In reviewing acceptance rates for the 2005 Meeting papers for both the AATS and the WTSA, it was noted that the AATS acceptance rate was 63% and the WTSA 49%, compared to 73% and 81% respectively for 2004, the highest ever for the WTSA. The WTSA acceptance rate compared favorably to the overall acceptance rate for all papers including unsolicited ones submitted to the Journal, which averaged 28%.

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

Ms. Donna S. Kohli, Executive Director reviewed the report noting that during the 2005-06 grant year, TSFRE had made its largest ever total amount in awards: \$750,000. Two of the seven jointly sponsored TSFRE/NHLBI/K08 or K23 Award recipients were from the Western Section: Drs. Michael Mulligan at the University of Washington and Anthony Azakie of the University of California, San Francisco.

Ms. Kohli congratulated the WTSA for its contributions over the years to the TSFRE and noted that in 2005 the TSFRE had received sixty-five gifts from WTSA members totaling over \$35,000. She also thanked the WTSA for agreeing to include a voluntary contribution to the TSFRE option on the individual WTSA membership dues invoices to both active and senior members. This practice was initiated for the 2006 dues and already \$1,500 in contributions to the TSFRE had been generated as a result of the initial invoices.

### Report of the Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery

In reviewing Dr. Gundry's report, it was noted that the attendance at the 2005 Clinical Congress in San Francisco for cardiothoracic surgeons was 454, which represented 5.1% of overall attendees at the Congress. A review course for cardiac and thoracic surgery drew 97 participants, and it was noted that additional efforts would be made to encourage more cardiothoracic surgeons to attend the review course in 2006.

### Report of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee

In reviewing the report, Dr. Cohen reminded the Council of the charge to the Committee which was threefold including exploring the potential of having the TSFRE manage the Western's Samson Fund, exploring strategies to enhance the Annual Meeting income and costs, and developing a schedule to review the cycle of membership dues. The Council agreed not to transfer the Samson Fund assets to the TSFRE for investment management. The Committee had recommended (and the Council agreed) to the following schema for increases in membership dues for Council consideration: that the dues for 2006 and 2007 remain at \$275 and that an increase in dues to \$300 be recommended to the membership in 2008; that the dues of \$300 be maintained through 2011 and that in 2012 it would be recommended to the membership that the dues be raised to \$325 which would be maintained through 2014 and that in 2015 it would be recommended to the membership that the dues be raised to \$350.

### 2005-2006 WTSA Council



**2006 Annual Meeting** (continued from page one)

dation — Lyman A. Brewer, III, Fund featured Irving L. Weissman from Stanford, California who captivated his audience with a very straightforward explanation of stem cell research and its implications for cardiothoracic surgery. Additional highlights included the Presidential Address by R. Scott Mitchell entitled “In Critical Condition.”

Several awards were also presented. The first Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best Paper given by a WTSA member was awarded to John A. Hawkins, Salt Lake City for his presentation “Long-Term Results of Repair for Aortic, Neo-Aortic and Truncal Valve Insufficiency in Children.” The Samson Resident Prize Essay Award went to T. Brett Reece, Charlottesville, Virginia for his paper, “Central Aortic Cannulation Does Not Increase Adverse Events in Repair of Acute Ascending Dissection.” The Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to James I. Fann from Stanford, California.

Sun Valley provided a wonderful setting for the week’s activities, including the New Member’s Reception around the lovely Opera House Lawn, the golf and tennis tournaments, the Samson Fun Run, a Trail Creek Theme Dinner, and the President’s Reception and Banquet at the River Run Lodge.

*Photo Highlights of the 2006 Annual Meeting -  
Please visit [www.westernthoracic.org](http://www.westernthoracic.org) for additional photos of the 2006 Annual Meeting.*



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

*The following new members and membership changes were approved during the 2006 Annual Business Meeting:*

### NEW MEMBERS

Robert J. Burnett, III, MD, *Coeur d'Alene, Idaho*  
Charles A. Dietl, MD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico*  
Jessica S. Donington, MD, *Stanford, California*  
Robert J. Gottner, MD, *Los Angeles, California*  
Charles W. Hoopes, MD, *San Francisco, California*  
Jolene Kriett, MD, *San Diego, California*  
Michael J. Mann, MD, *San Francisco, California*  
Surindra N. Mitruka, MD, *Rancho Mirage, California*  
Ed Petrossian, MD, *Madera, California*  
Matthew S. Slater, MD, *Portland, Oregon*  
Wendel J. Smith, MD, *Tacoma, Washington*  
Elaine E. Tseng, MD, *San Francisco, California*  
Neil Worrall, MD, *Spokane, Washington*

### Advanced to Senior in 2006

Alan S. Coulson, MD, *Fayetteville, North Carolina*  
Todd M. Grehl, MD, *Rancho Sante Fe, California*  
Alden H. Harken, MD, *Oakland, California*  
Leigh I.G. Iverson, MD, *Oakland, California*  
Roger C. Millar, MD, *St. George, Utah*

### Advanced to Senior in 2007

Leonard L. Bailey, MD, *Loma Linda, California*  
Jack G. Copeland, MD, *Tucson, Arizona*  
Coyness L. Ennix, Jr, MD, *Oakland, California*  
Elliot T. Gelfand, MD, *Edmonton, Canada*  
R Randall Grace, MD, *Phoenix, Arizona*  
Leland B. Housman, MD, *San Diego, California*  
Hillel Laks, MD, *Los Angeles, California*  
John J. Lamberti, MD, *San Diego, California*  
James C. MacMillan, MD, *Modesto, California*  
E. Lance Walker, MD, *Denver, Colorado*

### Request for Senior Membership

Douglas Schuch, MD, *Carmichael, California*

## 2007 Committees and Representatives

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Jorge A. Wernly, MD, CHAIR  
J. Scott Milliken, MD  
Richard I. Whyte, MD

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dominic J. Tedesco, MD, CHAIR  
Abbas Ardehali, MD  
Riyad C. Karmy-Jones, MD  
Roger C. Millar, MD  
Mario F. Pompili, MD  
Ivan M. Rebeyka, MD

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Donald B. Doty, MD, CHAIR  
Steven W. Guyton, MD  
R. Scott Mitchell, MD  
Vaughn A. Starnes, MD  
Edward D. Verrier, MD

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

David A. Fullerton, MD, CHAIR  
Arvind Koshal, MD  
Donald E. Low, MD  
Max B. Mitchell, MD  
Michael S. Mulligan, M.D.  
Patricia A. Thistlewaite, MD  
John A. Hawkins, MD, *EX OFFICIO*  
Elliot T. Gelfand, MD, *EX OFFICIO*  
Andrew S. Wechsler, MD, *EX OFFICIO*

### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Gabriel S. Aldea, MD, Representative  
John A. Hawkins, MD, Alternate

### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Steven R. Gundry, MD, Representative

### THORACIC SURGERY FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Daniel J. Ulyot, MD, Representative  
Edward D. Verrier, MD, Representative

## Visit the WTSA Website



[www.westernthoracic.org](http://www.westernthoracic.org)

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting (continued from page one)

- ♦ **Simultaneous Breakfast Sessions:** Adult Cardiac Session - "Percutaneous Valves" with invited speaker Jian Ye; General Thoracic Session - "The Evolution of Therapy for Alchalsia: Surgery is the Treatment of Choice" with speaker Donald E. Low; and Congenital Heart Disease Session - "How to Use 3-D Echo to Improve Atrioventricular in Valve Repair in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery" with speakers Ivan Rebeyka and Jeffrey Small horn.
- ♦ **Postgraduate Course,** "Frontiers in Disease Phenotyping: The Example of Organ Transplantation" presented by Philip F. Halloran. Sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation — Lyman A. Brewer, III Fund.
- ♦ **Concurrent Brief Communications Sessions** in General Thoracic, Adult Cardiac and Congenital.
- ♦ **C. Walton Lillehei Point/CounterPoint Session** "Technology Has Compromised the Maze Procedure", moderated by Steven Guyton.

### **SOCIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS** *(included in registration fee)*

- ♦ **New Members' Reception** on Wednesday, June 27 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The reception will be held in the unique Kiva pool area in the center of the Resort. Children ages 5-12 are invited to their own Kids' Welcome Reception, including native crafts, movies and entertainment. ( Additional cost of \$28 per young person.)
- ♦ **Samson Fun Run** on Thursday, June 28 at 6:00 am. This year's Fun Run starts and ends at the the carriage circle area and will continue all over the resort, through the oldest cottonwood forest in North America and along the banks of the historic Rio Grande River. The 5K Run is open to all physician attendees, spouses, guests, family members and exhibitor representatives; pre-registration is requested.
- ♦ **Route 66 Theme Dinner** on Thursday, June 28 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, will be held in the Cottonwoods Tent, not far from the hotel. A quick walk to through the Cottonwoods to the tent will begin our journey along "The Mother Road" and back into the 50s and 60s.
- ♦ **Saturday Luncheon** on June 30 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm, outdoors in the beautiful natural sunrise amphitheatre and lawn area facing the cottonwoods and the Rio Grande. Awards for the golf and tennis tournaments and the Fun Run will be presented.
- ♦ **President's Reception and Banquet** on Saturday, June 30 7:00 - 11:00 pm. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will conclude with the Presidential Reception and Banquet in the beautiful Tamaya ballroom and terrace. Back by popular demand, the legendary California band, Papa Doo Run Run, will keep you dancing (and singing) for hours. Their act encompasses all the great classic rock hits from the 60s and 70s, with special emphasis on their award-winning recreation of the Beach Boys hits. Children are invited to their own cookout. Additional cost is \$28 for 5-11 and \$44 for 12-17.
- ♦ The **Annual Golf Tournament** (separate subscription required) will take place on Friday, June 29, at 1:00pm at the Twin Warriors Golf Course, right on the Resort. Preregistration is required with indication of handicap. \$177 per person includes greens fees, box lunch, cart and prizes.
- ♦ The **Annual Tennis Tournament** (separate subscription required).will take place on Friday, June 29 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the Chamisa Hills Country Club. Pre-registration is required with indication of level of play. \$50 per person includes courts, refreshments and prizes.

