

The WTSA 2010 Annual Meeting in Review

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



The WTSA Council.

Surgeons Should Be Held to an 80-Hour Workweek.” It was moderated by Michael Mulligan with Scott Shappell arguing in favor 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*
Governor, American College of Surgeons: John C. Chen, *Honolulu*

Editor: Lawrence H. Cohn, *Boston*
Councillors-at-Large:

Michael S. Mulligan, *Seattle*
Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, *San Diego*
Ross M. Bremner, *Phoenix*.

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, *Oakland, 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*
Nahush Mokadam, *Seattle*
Richard Shemin, *Los Angeles*.