American Board of Thoracic Surgery Report
to the
Thoracic Surgery Directors Association

New Board Director
At the 2018 Fall Meeting, the ABTS elected Dr. Joseph S. Coselli (Houston, TX) to be an At-large Director on the Board. Dr. Coselli will serve a six-year term until 2024.

New Congenital Cardiac Surgery Index Case Requirements
The ABTS approved changes to the congenital index case requirements for initial certification. The Board will now accept 3 Systemic-to-pulmonary artery shunt procedures instead of 5 cases, 5 Right Ventricle-to-pulmonary artery conduit insertion/replacement instead of 10 cases, and 5 AVSD/IAVD of which 2 must be AVSDs instead of 2 cases each.

New Congenital Cardiac Surgery Residency Length Option
The ABTS has agreed to allow CHS Fellowships to be either one or two years in length. Candidates for certification must complete twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) consecutive months of residency training in congenital heart surgery in a single program, accredited by the ACGME RRC-TS. Programs will need to seek approval from the ACGME to change from a one-year to a two-year residency program.

Thoracic Surgery Examinations
The ABTS administered the 2018 Written Exam to 138 candidates on December 3, 2018. The pass rate was 95% compared to 86% from the previous. The next Written Exam will be administered on December 9, 2019.

The ABTS administered the Part II (Oral) Examination to 133 individuals on June 8-9, 2018. The pass rate for the examination was 77% compared to 84% from the previous year. The next Oral Exam will be on June 7-8, 2019 in Chicago.

Congenital Cardiac Surgery Subspecialty Certificate
The ABTS administered the 2018 Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam on November 19, 2018. The pass rate was 78%.

The ABTS administered the Congenital Cardiac Surgery Oral Exam on June 7, 2018 for the fellows who were successful on the Qualifying Exam. The pass rate for the exam was 73%. The next Oral Exam will be on June 6, 2019.

SESATS XII (12)
The ABTS is pleased to announce the release of SESATS XII (12). Similar to previous versions, SESATS 12 is a web-based, self-assessment tool that covers all areas of thoracic surgery, including adult and congenital cardiac, general thoracic and critical care. Diplomates can earn up to 70 CME hours for taking SESATS 12. SESATS 12 may be purchased at www.sesats.org.

MOC Part III Exam Format
The ABTS continues to offer its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Exam in a Mastery Learning format by subspecialty (Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Cardiothoracic, and Congenital). Instead of taking the exam at a Pearson Testing Center, Diplomates enrolled in the 10-year MOC process will take the exam on their home or office computers.