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

New Board Officers and Directors
At the 2017 Fall Meeting, Dr. Bryan F. Meyers (St. Louis, MO) became the Chair of the Board and will serve in this role for the next two years. Dr. Joe. B. Putnam, Jr. (Jacksonville, FL) was elected to be the Vice Chair of the Board and will serve in this role for the next two years. Dr. Yolonda L. Colson (Boston, MA) was appointed to be the Board’s Examination Chair and will serve in this role for the next three years.

In addition, the following thoracic surgeons were elected to be new Board Directors and will each serve six-year terms:

Carl L. Backer, MD (Chicago, IL)
Malcolm M. DeCamp, Jr. (Chicago, IL)
Jennifer S. Lawton (Baltimore, MD)
John D. Mitchell (Aurora, CO)
Jennifer C. Romano (Ann Arbor, MI)
Thoralf M. Sundt, III (Boston, MA)

New 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 education 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 can be purchased at www.sesats.org.

New Mission Statement
The American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) adopted a new Mission Statement that has a stronger emphasis on service to the public, its Diplomates and future candidates. Below is the new ABTS Mission Statement:

“The American Board of Thoracic Surgery serves the public by promoting excellence in practice through rigorous evaluation and examination, providing leadership in education, and ensuring high standards for professionalism, lifelong learning and certification.”

New Synchronization of the Subspecialty Certificate to the Primary Certificate
The ABTS has implemented a plan that will synchronize the valid through date on the congenital cardiac surgery subspecialty certificate with the Diplomate’s primary certificate. The goal is for the two certificates to have the same valid through dates,
which will allow a Diplomate to maintain both certificates at one time. Details of the synchronization plan have been sent to those Diplomates affected by this change.

**MOC Part III Exam Format**
The ABTS received approval from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to continue to offer its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Exam in a Mastery Learning format using SESATS questions. 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 provided that it has Internet-capability. The new MOC Exam format will be specialty specific (Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Cardiothoracic, and Congenital) and consists of approximately 100 questions. The goal of this new exam format is to provide a learning opportunity using judgement and decision-making as well as knowledge.

**Pathways to Certification**
Eligibility to enter the ABTS’ certification process may be achieved by completing one of four training pathways and fulfillment of the other requirements. Details about each pathway can be found on the Board’s web site.

**Examinations**
The Board administered the Part II (Oral) Examination to 130 individuals on June 9-10, 2017. The pass rate for the examination was 84%. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 8-9, 2018 in Chicago.

The 2017 Part I (Written) Exam was administered on December 11, 2017. The pass rate for the exam was 89%. The 2018 Written Exam will be held on December 3, 2018.

**Congenital Cardiac Surgery Subspecialty Certificate**
The Congenital Cardiac Surgery Oral Exam was administered on June 8, 2017 for the fellows who were successful on the Qualifying Exam. The pass rate for the exam was 75%. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 7, 2018.

The 2017 Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam was held on December 4, 2017. The pass rate for the exam was 86%. The 2018 Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam will be held on November 19, 2018.