This has been another busy year for the TSRA and we remain extremely grateful for the continued support of the TSDA. We would like to take the time to highlight some of the ongoing and proposed projects for this year.

1) **Traveling Fellowship Award.**
   The TSRA is quite proud of this award, which is in its second year of existence. Our goal from the beginning was to raise a total of $100,000 in order to endow the award to support one traveling fellow per year at $5,000. In the past year, TSRA raised a total of $85,000 with generous support of the STS, several cardiothoracic surgical divisions, and individual surgeons from around the country. TSRA additionally contributed $7,500 of our own funds to further support the award, but we are still looking for donations to bring us to the total goal of $100,000.

   The recipient this year has been selected and will be Brian Mitzman, from the University of Chicago. Brian will be spending some time with Dr. Robert Cerfolio to gain additional experience and mentorship with robotic thoracic surgery. He was selected from a pool of talented residents and we believe he will be an excellent ambassador for this Fellowship.

2) **TSRA Review (2nd edition)**
   We have spent a significant amount of time and energy revising the TSRA Review, which has become a favorite quick study guide and daily reference for CT residents around the country. The intent is not meant to replace the curriculum or to serve on its own as a complete textbook, but the feedback we continue to receive from residents is that they want a high-yield quick read to supplement other study materials. We have just recently finished the final copy editing and hope to have the resource available for release in the coming weeks.

3) **Needs of Residents Survey**
   In an effort to determine whether, as an organization, we were meeting the needs of CT residents from around the country, we conducted a survey through the TSRA list-serve. This project was led by Elizabeth Stephens, who is the TSRA Secretary and chair of the Communications Committee and the results of the survey were quite interesting. In general, residents look toward the TSRA for clinical and knowledge resources (**Figure 1**). By far, the most useful resources are the Clinical Scenarios text and the TSRA Review (**Figure 2**). The majority of residents utilized these resources on a weekly to monthly basis (**Figure 3**). When asked about information delivery, it was clear that residents were most interested in a podcast (**Figure 4**), which is not currently a modality available. Another significant unmet need as gauged by survey responses and multiple free comments is for a “Transitions to
Practice” program (Figure 5). Many residents feel an anxiety about leaving training for clinical practice and there seems to be a prevailing belief that residents are not fully prepared for this transition.

**Figure 1.**

**Role of TSRA**

*Figure 1.*

**Usefulness of Resources**

*Figure 2.*
Figure 3.

Frequency Resources Used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Didn't Know Existed</th>
<th>Rarely/Never</th>
<th>Every other month</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TSRA Review</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Scenarios</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Choice Questions</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Club</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operative Dictations</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.

Usefulness of Resource Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Usefulness</th>
<th>Standard Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Choice Questions</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcast</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4) **Membership expansion**
Through the efforts of Amanda Eilers, the Membership Chair, we have partnered with the American College of Cardiology Fellows in Training (ACC-FIT) in order to provide improved collaboration between colleagues in both specialties. To this end, we have established a representative from each organization on the other’s Executive Committee and look forward to this continued relationship.

5) **I-6 Mentorship Program**
This program was established a year ago and continues to enroll junior I-6 residents from around the country with senior level mentors to assist with questions, concerns, and provide mentorship and guidance for the transition from medical school to residency. With the assistance of Amanda Eilers, one of the junior I-6 residents on the Membership Committee, Xiaoxiao Lou, has put forth a proposal to create a “pocket mentor” for I-6 interns. The idea is to provide advice and guidance on topics such as: study habits, resources, preparing for cases, finding mentors, engaging in research during training, achieving work-life balance during training, etc.

6) **Podcast Project**
Based on: 1) the success of the Clinical Scenarios resource, and 2) the “Need of Residents” survey referenced above, and 3) an overwhelming desire by residents for new and innovative learning tools, we are proposing to create a podcast using Clinical Scenarios as a guide. Vakhtang Tchantchaleishvili, our
Projects Committee chair, who conceived this idea, will be spearheading this project, if approved by the TSDA.

Again, thank you to the TSDA for its continued support of our organization.

Sincerely,

Dustin M. Walters, MD
President, Thoracic Surgery Residents Association

On behalf of the TSRA:

Asad Shah, MD, Vice President
Elizabeth Stephens, MD, Secretary, Communications Chair
Walter DeNino, MD, Treasurer
Amanda Eilers, Membership Chair
Vakhtang Tchantchaleishvili, Projects Chair
Andrew Goldstone, Education Chair
Marisa Cevasco, MD
Tarek Mals, MD
Erin Gillaspie, MD
Amy Fiedler, MD
Scott Halbreiner, MD
Kevin Koomalsingh, MD
Ada Stefanescu, MD, ACC-FIT representative
Damien LaPar, MD, Immediate Past President