The Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education, Inc. (JCTSE) remains committed to “advancing thoracic surgical education.” The JCTSE Board continues with monthly conference calls and is involved in fulfilling the mission of the JCTSE. The following projects continued in 2014:

- **TSDA/JCTSE Curriculum Committee**: This committee continues to focus its efforts on the Thoracic Surgical Curriculum (TSC) as well as the new Congenital Cardiac Surgery Curriculum (CCS). Please note the following updates: Six out of thirty-six Advanced Congenital Disease topics have been added to CCS, complete with content housed in WebBrain. A new team has begun developing a critical care curriculum. The Thoracic Surgery WebBrain App is in its final stages of development and will be available to be downloaded in early 2015. Thirty more Clinical Cases for Discussion have been added to TSC, increasing the total number of Clinical Cases to 152. Surgeon leaders continue to develop new questions that address topics aligned with the ACGME Milestones. A quarterly TSC newsletter has been created that is sent out to all TSC users and placed on the JCTSE website. JCTSE has agreed to move forward with Astute Technology as the vendor to develop the new Learning Management System (LMS). Ara Vaporciyan leads this committee.

- **Assessment Committee**: This Committee continues to address assessment issues for both the I-6 as well as traditional training programs. This committee continues to validate and to expand the overall use of the assessment tools. Richard Lee leads this committee.

- **Early Curriculum Committee**: In 2012, 2013, and 2014 this committee prepared and sent out a JCTSE I-6 introductory packet to the newly matched medical students scheduled to begin their I-6 training the following July. A similar introductory packet was sent to all residents matching in traditional programs scheduled to begin their training in 2014 and will be sent to those scheduled to begin their training in 2015. A preparatory prerequisite curriculum for medical students who will enter an integrated cardiothoracic training program is under development by this committee. Stephen Yang leads this committee.

- **Faculty Development Committee**: For the fifth year, the Educate the Educators (EtE) program was held; however, this was the first year it did not take place in conjunction with the TSDA Boot Camp. In 2014, EtE was held October 9 – 12, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare. The registration fee was raised from $250 to $350 per attendee. To date, 157 cardiothoracic surgery faculty members, seven program coordinators and one international cardiothoracic surgeon have attended this program. Ara Vaporciyan leads this committee. Stephen Yang and Ara Vaporciyan are Co-Directors for the EtE program.

- **I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee**: In 2012, a preliminary review of the I-6 programs was conducted by JCTSE and TSD through a survey that examined general satisfaction, quality of rotations, operative experience, and curricular resources. This survey was repeated in 2014 with 100% participation from the residents. A summary report will be submitted to the JCTSE Board of Directors, to TSDA and to all of the cardiothoracic surgery residency training programs. In addition, this committee continues to coordinate communication among the various institutions that have adopted six-year integrated programs. John Ikonomidis leads this committee.

- **Simulation Committee**: The “Top Gun” technical skills competition will be held again in 2015 with a cognitive skills component to be added similar to a “Jeopardy” competition. Residents interested in competing in the Jeopardy competition must choose a partner enrolled in the same program and plan to individually take the on-line screening exam in early February 2015. The two individual scores will be combined with the top six two-member teams to be invited to participate in the live Jeopardy competition at the AATS 95th Annual Meeting. Jim Fann leads this committee.

- **Educational Program to be held at the STS 51st Annual Meeting**: The STS Workforce on International Relationships and JCTSE will present the following program at the STS 51st Annual meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 between 1:00pm – 5:00pm: Globalization of Graduate Surgical Education in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Respectfully submitted, December 2014, Edward D. Verrier, MD, Surgical Director of Education, JCTSE.