STS Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues
Activity Report
January 2015

Since the last Workforce activity report submitted in September 2014, this group has focused on the following projects:

**STS Residents Symposium**
The STS Residents Symposium Planning Task Force, co-chaired by Drs. Sandra Starnes and Sidhu Gangadharan, finalized the 2015 program that will occur during the STS 51st Annual Meeting. The symposium will address the needs of thoracic surgery residents as identified in feedback from previous symposium evaluations. The 3 hour program will offer two sessions: Finding a Job and Transition to Practice. Each session will offer 20-minute presentations, followed by 25-minute table discussions, and a 10-minute group discussion. Presentation topics include: How to Find a Position; Keys to a Successful Interview; What You Need to Know about Contracts; Team Building & Adding New Technologies; and Early Career Development. Speakers and table discussion leaders have been recruited and will engage attendees by answering questions and offering a more personalized approach to addressing the needs of residents planning for the next stage in their careers.

**STS Residents Luncheon**
The 2015 STS Residents Luncheon, to be held in conjunction with the STS 51st Annual Meeting, will be used as a needs assessment for future symposiums and possible future projects for the Workforce. Residents will be seated with leaders in the thoracic surgery community and engage in round table discussions, and will be invited to address questions to all attendees. Each table will engage in small-group discussions covering a list of suggested topics (handouts provided at each table). The large-group discussion will be initiated led by a moderator using an ‘open mic’ format to capture resident comments. Comments will be recorded by Workforce staff and organized after the meeting for review by Workforce members. Members of the STS Board of Trustees, Council Chairs, Looking to the Future mentors, and TSDA Executive Committee members have been invited to attend the event. STS and TSRA will promote the event to residents attending the Annual Meeting.

**Looking to the Future Scholarship Program**
The Workforce awarded Looking to the Future Scholarships to 25 medical students and 25 general surgery residents. The program received 78 medical student and 80 general surgery resident applications. LTTF Scholarship Task Force members, led by Drs. Jennifer Lawton (Chair) and Rishi Reddy (Vice Chair), created a dynamic agenda for the scholars, including a three-hour program specifically for medical students, a separate program for general surgery residents, as well as networking opportunities, and time to attend parallel sessions, symposiums, plenary sessions, and receptions. Mentors have been identified, and will assist in implementing this important program. The LTTF Mentors/Reviewers Task Force was created to further recognize mentors and application reviewers.