New MOC Part III Exam Format
Based on internal discussions and input by Diplomates, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) will be transitioning the MOC Exam from a purely knowledge-based multiple-choice exam to a specialty-specific Mastery Learning Process, using SESATS. Instead of taking the exam at a Pearson Testing Center, Diplomates enrolled in this year’s (2015) 10 year MOC process will be able to take the exam on their home or office computer as long as it has a web camera. The new MOC Exam format will be specialty specific (Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Cardiothoracic, and Congenital) and will consist of 100 SESATS question (primarily taken from SESATS X). The goal of this new exam format is to provide a learning opportunity using judgement and decision-making as well as knowledge. Additional details about the new MOC Exam format can be found on the Board’s web site at www.abts.org.

New MOC Part IV Requirements
Starting in January 2016, the ABTS will require Diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification process to participate in a Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) projects. Diplomates can fulfill the PQI requirement individually, as a group or through his/her institution/health care organization. More information about acceptable PQI Projects is available on the Board’s web site at www.abts.org

In addition, Diplomates in the 5-year MOC Milestone in 2016 will need to participate in a Patient Safety Module. The Board will accept most Patient Safety Modules.

New Renewal Policy for Diplomates who hold Lapse Certificates
The American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) has changed its policy regarding the renewal of a lapsed certificate. Previously, Diplomates who held an invalid certificate had to take and pass the Part I (Qualifying) and Part II (Certifying) Examinations in order to obtain a valid certificate. Effective immediately, Diplomates whose certificates expired in 2010 or after can renew their certificate by becoming in compliance with Maintenance of Certification, including submitting an application, paying all dues and late fees, and taking and passing the MOC Exam. Diplomates then need to take and pass the Part II (Certifying) Exam. Diplomates whose certificate expired before 2010 will still need to take and pass Part I and II exams.

SESATS X1 (11) is Available
The ABTS is pleased to announce the release of the eleventh version of SESATS (Self-Education, Self-Assessment in Thoracic Surgery). SESATS X1 (11) is currently a web-based program that is functional on all types of platforms, such as PCs, Macs, tablets, and smart phones. SESATS 11 is similar to the previous versions in that it contains 400
questions, critiques and readings covering all areas of thoracic surgery. The ABTS would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr. David B. Campbell (Hershey, PA) as the SESATS Editor-in-Chief for his tireless work on creating SESATS. SESATS is available for purchase at www.sesats.org.

New Electronic Payments Only
Starting in January 2015, the ABTS will only accept online credit card payments for the Annual Dues and Examination Fees. Acceptable credit cards include American Express, Master Card, and Visa.

Pathways to Certification
Eligibility to enter the American Board of Thoracic Surgery’s 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 127 individuals on June 6-7, 2014. The pass rate for the examination was 72.4%. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 5-6, 2015 in Chicago.

The 2014 Part I (Written) Exam was held on November 17, 2014. The pass rate for the exam was 81%. The next Part I (Written) Exam will be held on November 16, 2015.

Congenital Cardiac Surgery Subspecialty Certificate
The 2014 Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam was held on November 24, 2014. The pass rate for the exam was 66%. The next Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam will be held on November 23, 2015.

The Congenital Cardiac Surgery Oral Exam was administered on June 5, 2014 for the fellows who were successful on the Qualifying Exam. The pass rate was 83%. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 4, 2015.

Applications for Certification
The deadline for submitting applications for the 2015 certification cycle is August 14, 2015. All requirements must be fulfilled at the time the application is submitted.

New Board Directors
At the 2014 Fall Meeting, Dr. David A. Fullerton (Aurora, CO) was elected to be the next Executive Director and will succeed Dr. Baumgartner, beginning in January, 2016. Drs. James I. Fann (Stanford, CA) and Stephen C. Yang (Baltimore, MD) were elected to the Board of Directors.