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 continue in 2015:

- **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). Twenty out of thirty-six Advanced Congenital Disease topics have been added to CCS, complete with content housed in the Thoracic Surgery Brain. The Thoracic Surgery Brain App was completed and released on January 24, 2015. The TSC Editors roster was updated with new volunteers. Surgeon leaders continue to develop new questions that address topics aligned with the ACGME Milestones. In March 2015, JCTSE and Astute Technology had a kick-off meeting to begin the development of the new Learning Management System (LMS). The contract with the current LMS vendor, MoodleRooms, ended on April 12, 2015. JCTSE renewed a one-year contract with MoodleRooms because the new LMS was not scheduled to be completed by this date. 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**: For the fourth year, this committee will send out a JCTSE I-6 introductory packet to the newly matched medical students scheduled to begin their I-6 training in July 2015. As done in 2014, a similar introductory packet will be sent to all general surgery residents matching into traditional programs scheduled to begin their training in July 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**: This committee is making plans for the sixth annual Educate the Educators (EtE) program. As done in 2014, the program will be held in Chicago, Illinois with tentative dates set for September 24 – 27, 2015. An EtE 2014 Summary Report and Evaluation Summaries document were submitted to the JCTSE Board of Directors. 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 and again in 2014, a 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. There was 100% participation from the residents. A summary report was 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 third annual Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident Top Gun Competition will be held Sunday, April 26, 2015 between 5:00pm - 7:00pm at the AATS 95th Annual Meeting. Five finalists will compete in this live competition. The top six two-member teams who entered the inaugural Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident Jeopardy Competition will compete in a live competition at the AATS 95th Annual Meeting. Three rounds of Jeopardy will be played. The first round is scheduled on Monday, April 27, 2015 between 9:15am - 9:45am and the second and final rounds will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 between 10:10am - 10:30am and 1:30pm - 1:50pm. Jim Fann leads this committee.

- **Educational Program to be held at the AATS 95th Annual Meeting**: The JCTSE Thoracic Surgery Educators Breakfast Club program will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 between 7:00am - 9:00am. Three past Educate the Educators (EtE) attendees will give presentations based-on an activity / program that was inspired by their attendance at the EtE program and that were implemented at their home institution. A fourth presentation will highlight the Thoracic Education Cooperative Group (TECoG).

Respectfully submitted, April 2015, Edward D. Verrier, MD, Surgical Director of Education, JCTSE.