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 are ongoing projects for JCTSE:

**TSDA/JCTSE Curriculum Committee:** This committee has been focusing its efforts on the development of the new learning management system (LMS). JCTSE has weekly conference calls with the Astute Technology (Astute) development team to discuss the data transfer, user interface design and functionality of the system. The LMS will launch to eight pilot programs in May 2016. Representatives from each of the pilot programs will attend a two-hour training session taking place in conjunction with the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) 96th Annual Meeting. The pilot programs will implement the curriculum at their home institutions and will provide feedback. In July 2016, the LMS will be made available to all ACGME approved cardiothoracic surgery residency training programs. This committee also focuses its efforts on updating the *Pearson’s Thoracic and Esophageal Surgery* textbook. The thoracic textbook is led by Dr. Gail Darling. The textbook will be available electronically (e-books) and accessible online via the new LMS. Finally, this committee continues its work on developing an Advanced Congenital Curriculum. Craig Baker and Ara Vaporciyan lead this committee.

**Assessment Committee:** This committee continues to address assessment issues for both the I-6 as well as traditional training programs. The committee continues to validate and expand the overall use of the assessment tools by asking cardiothoracic surgery residency program faculty members to use the tools and provide feedback. Richard Lee and Nahush Mokadam lead this committee.

**Early Curriculum Committee:** This committee continues to investigate the development of a preparatory prerequisite curriculum for medical students who will enter an integrated cardiothoracic training program. Discussions continue on how the JCTSE I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee members might assist with this.

**Faculty Development Committee:** For the past six years, this committee was responsible for the development of the Educate the Educators (EtE) program. The EtE program will not be held in 2016. Stephen Yang leads this committee. Stephen Yang and Ara Vaporciyan are Co-Directors for the EtE program.

**I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee:** This committee continues to provide input to the JCTSE/TSDA Curriculum Committee on how the I-6 program curriculum needs can be incorporated into the new LMS. Discussions continue with members of the JCTSE Early Curriculum Committee on the development of a preparatory prerequisite curriculum for medical students who will enter an integrated cardiothoracic training program. In addition, this committee conducted a survey of its members to determine if recommendations should be made to ABTS in regard to the number of cases and case types that are required of I-6 residents. The results of this survey will be shared at the May 14, 2016 JCTSE I-6 Year Program Analysis Committee Meeting and the TSDA General Membership Session. John Ikonomidis leads this committee.

**Simulation Committee:** In January 2016, two North American residents competed against two residents representing the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) in the 2016 JCTSE Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident “Jeopardy” Competition. The competition was such a success that EACTS will hold its second “Jeopardy” Competition during the EACTS Annual Meeting in Barcelona and a third North America “Jeopardy” competition is proposed to take place during the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association (STSA) 63rd Annual Meeting. The Committee suggests that the winning North America and EACTS teams be invited to compete in the North America versus EACTS Jeopardy Championship during the STS 53rd Annual Meeting. Two-rounds of Jeopardy would be held. The team with the best overall score would be designated the 2017 Jeopardy Winners. In addition, this Committee has been responsible for the Top Gun competitions for the past several years. The fourth annual *Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident Top Gun Competition* will be held Sunday, May 15, 2016 between 5:00pm - 7:00pm during the AATS 96th Annual Meeting. Five finalists will compete in this live competition. Jim Fann leads this committee.