• Thoracic Education Cooperative Group (TECoG)
  – Began in 2014 upon discussion at STSA by founding members
  – Premise: Significant advances in Thoracic Surgical Education can be made by a cooperative approach to the design and conduct of studies on trainees through multi-institutional research
Background/concept

• Goals for conducting educational research in thoracic surgery
  – Enhance quality
  – Expand power
  – Utilize collaboration

• Initial invitation sent to Educate the Educators participants and TSDA members
Group conduct

• Currently open to all interested
• Bylaws finalized June 2015 and approved by membership vote
• Present structure includes executive council (positions approved by vote)
• Membership to date:
  – 48 members—including PDs and others engaged in educational initiatives & research
  – > 30 institutions
Group conduct

• Live meetings held in conjunction with society meetings
  – Discuss new protocols
  – Progress reports
• Telephone conference calls
• Online communication
  – List-serv
  – Website
Website

• **www.tecog.org**
• Venue for sharing important documents
  – Protocol proposals, templates, etc.
• Forum for discussions
  – Proposed protocols
  – Issues with ongoing protocols
  – Working through ideas in progress
Protocol submission and approval

• Protocol template
• Submission
  – Discussion/feedback for improvement
• Process of approval
  – Enrollment of interested institutions
• Eventual plan: slots for specific study types

TECoG
Thoracic Education Cooperative Group
Successes to date:

- Participation and support for Shari Meyerson’s Zwisch-Me protocol, with presentations recently at SEW 2017
- Ongoing studies:
  - Multi-institutional debate style journal club
  - Computer simulator to analyze resident case volume
  - Competency assessment tools for general thoracic surgery
Challenges

• Funding
  – For our group (website funded by founding members)
  – For research

• Meeting spaces (requires $)

• Engagement
  – Sounding board for new ideas
  – Participation in ongoing trials
Meeting here at AATS

• Please join us!
• Monday, 1pm-2pm ET (Location TBD)
• For details on location, or for any other questions, please contact us!
  – Mara Antonoff  mbantonoff@mdanderson.org
  612-964-6469
  – David Odell  dodell@nm.org
  – Tom C. Nguyen  tom.c.nguyen@gmail.com

We’d like to thank our advisor, Ara Vaporciyan