

STS Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues

Activity Report

January 2020

Since the last Workforce activity report submitted in October 2019, this group has focused on the following projects:

STS Residents Symposium

The STS Residents Symposium Planning Task Force, led by chair Dr. Ed Chen and vice-chair Dr. Faiz Bhora, finalized the 2020 program that will occur during the STS 56th Annual Meeting. The symposium will address the needs of thoracic surgery residents as identified in feedback from previous symposium evaluations, including job search/acquisition, contracts, and transition issues. The two hour program will offer two sessions: Finding a Job and Transition to Practice. A total of seven presentations will be offered, including The Modern Cardiothoracic Surgery Practice Landscape: Practice Opportunities and Environments; Key Steps to Finding a Job; Negotiating a Contract: Academic and Private Practice; Career Development: How to Achieve Success Early in One's Career; Tips and Secrets to Achieving Personal Financial Security; Optimizing One's Family Life in the Modern Era of CT Surgery; and Achieve a Successful Work/Life Balance. A question and answer period will follow each session, and speakers 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 2020 STS Residents Luncheon, to be held in conjunction with the STS 56th 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 and questions to consider, including, how important is additional fellowship training after residency; what is the role of dedicated research time during residency training; what is the role of training programs in teaching interventional and catheter based skills; addressing gaps in diversity, compare and contrast different training approaches at your institutions; addressing gaps in training outside of clinical care; the state of the job market; where should cardiothoracic surgeons invest its efforts; and what role should a professional society like STS play in graduate medical education. The large-group discussion will be initiated led by a moderator using an 'open mic' format to capture resident comments. Attendees will be asked to submit evaluation forms for the Workforce's review. Members of the STS Board of Directors, Council Chairs, Workforce on Thoracic Surgery Resident Issues, Workforce on E-Learning and Educational Innovation, 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 2020 Looking to the Future Scholarships to 30 medical students and 30 general surgery residents. The program received 115 medical student and 69 general surgery resident applications. LTF Scholarship Task Force members, led by Dr. Elizabeth David (Chair) and Dr. Ahmet Kilic (Vice Chair), created a dynamic agenda for the scholars, including programs specifically for medical students, and another for general surgery residents, as well as networking opportunities, parallel sessions, symposiums, plenary sessions, and receptions. Mentors have been identified, and will assist in implementing this important program.