

The Thoracic Surgery Residents Association (TSRA) 2023-2024 Annual Update

- The TSRA executive committee is comprised of the following members: David Blitzer, Anna Olds, Jason Han, Sameer Hirji, Christina Costantino, Irbaz Hameed, Ray Strobel, Chi-Chi Do Nguyen, John Kennedy, Faaz Ashraf (excused), Rohun Bhagat, Alex Nissen, Garrett Coyan.
 - President: David Blitzer
 - Vice President: Anna Olds
 - Secretary: Jason Han
 - Treasurer: Sameer Hirji

- The major initiatives for the 2023-2024 academic year include:
 - Bylaw revision: The bylaws were revised in order to insure that the TRSA is a more inclusive and representative body for the thoracic surgery trainees. This was accomplished by creating designated positions within the TSRA executive committee for trainees in the 4+3 and traditional fellowship pathways.

 - TSRA webapp: Through a contract with a private group that helped with the initial development of the TSRA webapp, we are currently conducting a revision of the webapp which will include a new “courses” feature. The courses will allow trainees to search and utilize the TSRA study resources by topic rather than by resource, which we believe will be a more intuitive and efficient means of studying. The courses will be launched on the webapp in early June in line with the beginning of the academic year.

 - In service training exam (ITE) survey: After a short period in which the TSRA was no longer able to conduct surveys in conjunction with the ITE, we were able to add a short survey at the end of this year’s exam. Key features include the voluntary nature of the survey and the fact that it comes after the exam. These are a change from the prior format but are important to insure that attention is not taken away from the ITE. This year’s survey focused on coaching, in line with the TSRA wellness initiatives, and was lead by a member of the TSRA executive committee in collaboration with the Thoracic Education Cooperative Group (TECoG). Our hope is to continue to conduct one survey per year through the ITE and to allow trainees outside of the EC to apply for the opportunity to lead these surveys with the help of the TSRA and TECoG.

 - Wellness Program: The TSRA and TSDA have started an initiative focused on trainee and surgeon wellness. The TSRA side of this collaboration has been lead by Anna Olds, who has been closely working with Dr Cherie Erkman, and has resulted in several webinars on topics such as financial planning, legal considerations, and family planning. These webinars have been well attended and have been highly viewed on our social media platforms as well.

- Written works: The TSRA collaborated with the Thoracic Surgery Medical Association, a student lead group to publish a primer for college and medical students who are interested in pursuing a career in cardiothoracic surgery. This publication is forthcoming in JTCVS Open. In addition, the development and production of a new TSRA resource, focused on surgical indications and guidelines, is currently underway. This project is being lead by EC members Rohun Bhagat and Chi Chi Do-Nguyen.