

TSRA Executive Committee Minutes Conference Call

Date: March 7, 2010

Call to order: 7:05 pm EST.

Present: Joe Turek, Netu Sarkaria, Bret Mettler, Robroy McIver, David Joyce, Julian Guitron, Ramesh Singh, Tom Nguyen, Carlos Mery

Absent: Bryan Whitson, Shamus Carr, James Joyce, John Stulak

Moderator: Joe Turek

Discussion

1. Approval of minutes for Executive Committee Meeting at STS.
2. AATS luncheon
 - a. The TSRA has been contacted by the AATS in order to merge the TSRA luncheon with the AATS resident's luncheon hosted by the Immediate Past President of the AATS. The luncheons will therefore be merged.
 - b. John Stulak and Robroy McIver are coordinating the luncheon.
 - c. The luncheon will be designed to address the issue of job market and workforce in cardiac surgery. Dr. Walter Merrill will speak about the workforce, future projections of the job market, etc. Dr. Ed Verrier will speak about the new training paradigms in cardiothoracic surgery and the impact of these paradigms in the future of the cardiac surgery workforce. Dr. William Baumgartner will speak about mentorship in the early career of faculty members.
 - d. Each speaker will talk for approximately 15 minutes. Each table of 10 people will have at least a senior faculty member interacting with the residents in attendance to the luncheon.
 - e. In terms of advertisement, since the luncheon is being merged with the AATS luncheon, the activity will be in the general AATS program. Joe Turek will also send an email to all cardiothoracic surgery residents, similar to the one sent prior to the STS.
 - f. The luncheon will be a ticketed event and people will need to sign up ahead of time. There will be a limit to approximately 100-120 people.
3. Elective / fellowship database
 - a. The electives and fellowship database is being populated with information obtained from the thoracic resident input initiative (see below).
 - b. The format of the database for publication in the web will remain a PDF file. Two separate PDF documents will be created, one sorted by elective type and the other sorted by state.

- c. All information gathered from the input initiative about electives and fellowships should be forwarded to Ramesh Singh.
4. Thoracic resident input initiative
 - a. All TSRA members are contacting assigned cardiothoracic surgery residents in the US. The goal is to contact every cardiothoracic surgery resident in the US to obtain information on 1) key faculty members that serve as best teachers in each program and 2) electives and superfellowships available in each program.
 - b. We've been getting a good response from most residents contacted. The information being gathered is very valuable for the TSDA and the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education.
 - c. The input obtained from the residents about their best educators should be forwarded to Carlos Mery. Carlos will modify the existing Excel spreadsheet to add columns for the questions: who the best educator(s) are for each program, why are they good educators, and whether they would be a good point person to lead the TSDA curriculum effort. Carlos will send a new spreadsheet to all members of the Executive Committee. Members should fill out the spreadsheet and return it by the end of the week.
 - d. Carlos Mery will compile all gathered information and create a file without resident's names to maintain confidentiality. This file will be forwarded to the TSDA / Joint Council.
5. Voting process of revision to TSRA bylaws
 - a. The TSRA bylaws were updated to include the nomination process for the Socrates and Dr. Dwight McGoon Awards given by the TSRA. The bylaws were also updated to reflect the most recent structure of the TSRA.
 - b. Prior positions traditionally included as part of the Executive Committee of the TSRA (AATS Web Committee representative, representative to the AMA Residents and Fellows Section, representative to ISMICS) were eliminated from the official roster.
 - c. The revision to the TSRA bylaws was approved by unanimity.
6. Other business
 - a. A discussion should be opened about revamping the relationship with the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery Junior Committee. The Past President of the TSRA usually sits at the ECTS meetings but we have not been able to do so due to problems in funding to go to their meeting. This issue should be revisited. Would be a good topic to discuss in the Executive Committee meeting at the AATS.
 - b. Thoracic Surgery RRC. There have been discussions to have a resident from one of the integrated cardiothoracic surgery programs sit as part of the Thoracic Surgery RRC. As far as the TSRA is concerned, all residents in integrated programs are eligible to apply for the Executive Committee of the TSRA.

- c. Call for nominations for the AATS Dr. Dwight McGoon Awards should go out by email soon by Netu Sarkaria.
- d. Joe Turek has been asked to give a report of the TSRA activities to the AATS Council. The report will include the results of the thoracic resident input initiative and the electives / fellowships database.

Meeting adjourned by Joe Turek at 7:50pm EST.

Meeting time: 45 min.

/cm