

# **TSRA Executive Committee Minutes**

## **Conference Call**

**Date:** September 13, 2009

**Call to order:** 8:05pm EST.

**Present:** Joseph Turek, Carlos Mery, Shamus Carr, Julian Guitron, David Joyce, Robroy MacIver, Ramesh Singh, Bryan Whitson

**Absent:** Netu Sarkaria, Bret Mettler, John Stulak

**Moderator:** Joseph Turek

### **Discussion:**

1. TSRA member expectations.
  - a. Meetings. All members from the TSRA executive committee are expected to attend both STS and AATS meetings. The executive committee usually meets on the Sunday of the meeting at 5pm. All program directors of the TSRA executive committee members agreed to support the residents attending these meetings. If any of the members has any problems with their program, please notify Joseph Turek in advance so he can send a letter to the respective program director.
  - b. Committee responsibilities. Every member of the TSRA executive committee will receive a particular assignment as part of a committee. The assigned person for a committee is expected to attend the particular meeting(s) for that committee, write a brief synopsis of the meeting, and submit to Carlos Mery (Secretary) so he can distribute it to all by email. Also, upon assignment to a committee, each member is expected to write a brief description of the duties and submit to Carlos. This description should be based on conversation with the prior member of that committee.
  - c. CTSNet Photo. Every cardiothoracic surgery resident has a CTSNet account with his/her information. It is expected from all TSRA members to submit their photo in order to make it available on CTSNet for face recognition. For information on how to upload your photograph, please see instructions at the end of this document.\*
  - d. STS Candidate Membership. All TSRA executive committee members are expected to be STS Candidate Members. Please submit your applications before the deadline (October 15).
2. Committee Assignments
  - a. Joint council (2 positions). Currently filled.
  - b. AATS (2 positions). One position currently available. Robroy McIver will be assigned to this Committee, pending AATS approval. This Committee is charged with developing the TSRA Luncheon at the AATS Meeting.

- c. STS (3 positions). Two positions are currently available. These positions will be covered by Julian Guitron and Shamus Carr. Julian will be assigned to the Council on Health Policy and Relationships and Shamus to the Council on Quality, Research, and Patient Safety of the STS. There may be an extra position that could be covered by Bryan Whitson (unclear which council). These committee members will also be charged with organizing the TSRA Luncheon at the STS.
  - d. AAMC (2 positions). One position is currently available. David Joyce will be nominated for this position. The position is usually for 2-3 years.
  - e. Database. Brett Reece started the development of a TSRA-run database with all clinical opportunities available to cardiothoracic surgery residents, spanning from 1-month electives to fully-accredited congenital fellowships. The database was started by having executive committee members contact program directors to find about all these opportunities. So far, the database only has 17 opportunities and the format is not entirely user-friendly. Ramesh Singh and Bryan Whitson will be in charge of the development of the database with the help of the other members of the Executive Committee. Joseph will send everyone the form used to collect the information last year so everyone can review it and think about any other variables to be included.
  - f. RRC. The RRC resident representative used to be a member of the TSRA Executive Committee but currently the position is covered by Tom Nguyen, a general surgery resident from Stanford starting his fellowship in Columbia next year. The TSRA is looking for a way to reincorporate the RRC position into the TSRA Executive Committee.
3. Education. The ABTS board exam pass rates are at a record low (66% this year from greater than 90% in the past). The TSRA should consider options to try to improve the education of cardiothoracic surgery residents. One opportunity would be to work with the TSDA to help improve their curriculum. Other options for education improvement should be considered.
4. Thoracic Surgery In-Service Survey. The TSRA is allowed to submit to the Board a set of survey questions to be included in the in-service exam so every resident can fill out prior to beginning the exam. The TSRA then gets back data derived from those questions. All questions for this year's exam should be submitted by the time of the STS Meeting (January). Joseph will send the prior questions and everyone should look them over to see if we should eliminate some and/or include others. Some of these results can then be used longitudinally over the next few years and reported in the form of a manuscript. The ABS has also allowed the TSRA to include one question prior to the ABSITE about resident's preference in terms of subspecialty within cardiothoracic surgery. The same question will be included this year.
5. STS Luncheon. The STS Luncheon for this year's STS Meeting in Fort Lauderdale will be headed by Julian and Shamus (STS Committee Members). Everyone should start thinking about a potential title and speakers for the Luncheon. Please email Joseph Turek with interesting topics and/or speakers. These luncheons center on

issues important to residents. The goal is to decide upon the title and speakers within the next month. This discussion will be continued on-line.

6. Socrates Award. This Award is given at the STS Meeting to an attending physician that serves as a good mentor. The nomination committee is headed by the Vice President (Netu Sarkaria). We will need to develop guidelines for people to start submitting potential candidates, create a timeline, and decide upon the voting process. We will seek to include all residents (not only the Executive Committee) on the nomination process.
7. Meetings. The TSRA typically meets at STS and AATS with an additional 2-3 conference calls per year. Most of the work is done within each particular committee and by email.
8. Contact information. Carlos will compile from Joseph all contact information for members of the Executive Committee (including which committee each member forms part of), format it, and distribute it to everyone.

**Meeting time:** 35 minutes.

Meeting adjourned by Joseph Turek at 8:40pm EST.

**\*Options on how to upload your photo to CTSNet.**

- Send a "real" wallet-sized photo or larger (either color or black and white) to the CTSNet Editorial Office at the following address:  
CTSNet Editorial Office  
3108 Queeny Tower  
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Fax: +1 314 367 0585
- Attach a photograph in an electronic format (jpg, tiff, or bmp) to an email message addressed to ats@wustl.edu. Do not send the image in a Word document, send only the image file. Be sure and put your user ID in the e-mail when you send the attachment.
- Have your photograph taken at a major meeting. CTSNet takes member home page photos at the major international meetings and at some national meetings (STS, EACTS, and AATS).