

# **TSRA Executive Committee Minutes**

## **STS – San Francisco**

**Date:** January 25, 2009

**Call to Order:** 11:50 PST

**Present:** Bret Mettler, Sreekumar Subramanian, Joseph Turek, Rishi Reddy, Brett Reece, Faraz Kerendi, Netu Sarkaria, Daniel Fortes, Matthias Siepe,

**STS Staff Present:** Betsy Perveiler

**Absentia:** Chad Denlinger, John Stulak, Peter Ellman

**Moderator:** Bret Mettler

### **Discussion:**

- 1. Approval of Previous Minutes.** Minutes approved for conference call on 10/5/2008.
  
- 2. AATS Luncheon.** The TSRA received an invitation from the AATS leadership to combine the TSRA luncheon with the AATS Resident Luncheon. The purpose of a combined luncheon would be to better enhance attendance for a TSRA luncheon that has been perceived to have recent poor attendance. The TSRA graciously declined this generous offer. It was felt that the luncheons serve separate purposes. In this regard, the AATS Resident Luncheon provides a roundtable format for residents to interact with current leaders in cardiothoracic surgery. The TSRA luncheon attempts to address a singular topic and asks several members of the cardiothoracic surgery community and supporting staff to speak on such. The issue of poor attendance will be addressed by ensuring the luncheon makes the final meeting program and by a newsletter sent out to residents the week prior to the AATS.

John Stulak sent a letter in his absence. In this letter he supported the idea of keeping the luncheons as separate entities. He also reminds us that attendance at the TSRA AATS was just poor this last year when the event did not make the meeting program. The event the year prior in Washington D.C. was overwhelmingly successful and well attended (with standing room only in the back). With regard to this year's luncheon, he has already procured Drs. Verrier and Feins, with Dr. Rusch likely serving as the third speaker. They will speak on education reform and the new training paradigm.

- 3. Survey.** 2009 workforce survey questions/topics are due to the TSDA by the end of the STS meeting. We have decided to ask the usual workforce questions for yearly continuity. TSRA members are encouraged to consider and submit potential questions to Bret Mettler throughout the meeting.

- 4. Database.** The web-based elective database has been spearheaded by Brett Reece. He has encountered difficulty in obtaining responses from program directors. It was decided to divide up all programs among TSRA executive committee members for contacting purposes. This will hopefully stimulate responses and allow population of the database.
- 5. Subcommittee Reports.** None reported.
- 6. International Report.** Matthias Siepe gave an insightful overview of the efforts of the European Residents Association and their interest in working with the TSRA. In fact, they have extended an invitation to a TSRA member to serve on the Surgical Training and Manpower Committee. Faraz Kerendi represented the TSRA in this position as the inaugural appointee.
- 7. Executive Committee Position Descriptions.** TSRA members were encouraged to submit position descriptions for their subcommittees to the TSRA secretary, Joe Turek. These descriptions will be compiled and used as a valuable reference for new Executive Committee members.
- 8. Boot Camp for Cardiothoracic Surgeons.** None of the TSRA Executive Committee members attended a “Boot Camp” this last year. However, feedback provided to members was overwhelmingly positive.
- 9. New Business.** None.

Meeting Time: 60 min.

Adjourned by Bret Mettler at 12:50 PST.