



WESTERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed are the preliminary program booklet, meeting registration form with hotel information, and general meeting information for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Western Surgical Association. We look forward to hosting this year's WSA Annual Meeting at the Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort in Mexico. The amenities at this resort are second to none with the nearby resort city of Los Cabos, at the end of the longest and most majestic peninsula in the world, which is sure to delight members, guests and families alike. I encourage you to explore this venue in more detail on our web site and its links to the resort. For those seeking adventure outside of the hotel, you might start your exploring at the Los Cabos visitor web site at www.visitcabo.com.

Early registration is setting an all time record, an encouraging sign that this meeting will be one you will not want to miss. **Please note that the deadline to avoid late fees for meeting registration is October 10th, and sleeping rooms at the resort are filling up very quickly.** Registration forms are easily accessible from our website. Hotel reservations can also be made from our website or you may call 1-877-354-1399.

The scientific program promises to be superb. The program includes 28 papers, including several presentations by new members competing for the J. Bradley Aust Award. This year's panel discussion, moderated by David Hoyt, is entitled "*How I Do It: The Difficult Abdominal Closure; Thyroidectomy and Neck Dissections; Abdominal Trauma – When to Operate*". Finally, we will be privileged to hear President Thirlby's timely and insightful Presidential Address, "*The Top 10 Reasons Why General Surgery is a Great Career*".

Also enclosed is a strong list of candidates for membership reviewed by the Membership Committee in 2006. Record any "comments" regarding these individuals on the enclosed paper and mail or FAX to my office.

Local Arrangements Chair David Hoyt, President Thirlby, and I look forward to seeing you at the Hilton Los Cabos, Mexico. I am certain it is going to be a great meeting.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD
Secretary, WSA

Enclosures