



WESTERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Colleagues:

The 120th Annual Scientific Session of the Western Surgical Association was held at The Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our members regard the Broadmoor as a favorite resort, and it proved to be an excellent place for this year's meeting with perfect weather and a great turnout. Special thanks to Bill Chambers for overseeing the many details of a local arrangements chair, and of course thanks to our meeting planner, Nonie Lowry of LP etc., for another terrifically well-organized venue site. President Raymond Joehl's Address, "A Precious Resource", was excellent and very well received. I encourage you to read his address if you missed the meeting.

A total of 25 of the 31 new members were in attendance, which is fantastic. The other six members were excused for various reasons and promised to attend next year's meeting so that they can receive their certificate and be formally introduced. Five new members competed for the J. Bradley Aust Award, and the winner was Thomas A. Aloia from MD Anderson Cancer Center for his work entitled "The Optimal Surgical Strategy for Extensive Liver Malignancy and Very Low Future Liver Remnant Volume: Alpps vs. Percutaneous Portal Vein Embolization". Please drop a note of congratulations to Thomas A. Aloia if you have the opportunity.

A copy of the minutes of the Business Meeting will be sent via email. We would like to thank those that completed Post Meeting Evaluation, which was distributed via email. If you did not attend the meeting, a copy of the program should be enclosed. The program book includes the 2012 Scientific Program as well as the Transactions of the 2011 Meeting, including the complete 2011 presidential address, memorials to deceased members, and the membership directory. Please review your demographic in the directory to confirm its accuracy. Note too that we are trying to add your date of birth to our private membership directory to help us determine when you will become a senior member. Please email the secretary's office with your date of birth and any corrections to your address. You may also make these changes yourself by logging into the "member's only" portion of the website: <http://westernsurg.org/members/login.php>.

Please note that this will be the last year that we will mail program books to members who did not attend the meeting. Beginning with the 2013 meeting, the Scientific Program will be available in PDF format on the "members only" portion of our website. The pocket-sized abstract book will still be sent to members in advance of the meeting.

Also enclosed is the list of 17 new members elected to the Association. One of the nice traditions of the Western is for each of us to send a note of welcome and congratulations to our new members. We also encourage you to recruit outstanding surgeons to become members of the Western Surgical Association. The health of our organization is dependent on active, productive, participating membership. Our bylaws cap active membership at 350, and currently there are 290 active members.

The application process for new members is now open and will once again be handled "on line". Prospective members must submit an on-line application and an updated curriculum vita. The applicant and/or sponsoring member is still responsible for submission of the sponsoring letter as well as 2 endorsing letters to the Secretary's office by June 1, 2013. Please review the application form on our website.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 2-5, 2013 AT THE GRAND AMERICA HOTEL, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Several members completed their terms of service to the Western Surgical Association this November. They include President Raymond Joehl, Vice Presidents Robert Rege and William Dolan, Program Chair Michael Kendrick, Membership Committee Chair Robert McIntyre, Jr. and District Representative Peter Pisters. Their efforts on behalf of the Association are highly appreciated, and each was thanked individually at the Annual Business Meeting.

The new officers elected at this years business meeting are:

President:	Clive Grant	Rochester, MN
First Vice-President:	Norman Estes	Peoria, IL
Second Vice-President:	William V. Dolan	Phoenix, AZ
Treasurer:	Mark S. Talamonti	Evanston, IL
Program Chair:	Mitchell Posner	Chicago, IL
Membership Committee Chair:	Jason Fleming	Houston, TX
District Representative:	Margo Shoup	Warrenville, IL

The 2013 meeting will be held November 2-5 at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT. Local arrangement chair Leigh Neumayer and meeting planner Nonie Lowry will work hard to make this a memorable meeting for you and hopefully your guest/spouse. The formal call for abstracts will be in March, but it is not too early to start working on your submissions. The deadline for abstract submission is June 1, to comply with ACS/CME requirements. We will once again be offering self-assessment CMEs to assist our members with Maintenance of Certification requirements.

Future meeting plans at the present time include:

The Grand America Hotel	Salt Lake City, UT	November 2-5, 2013
Miramonte Resort & Spa	Indian Wells, CA	November 8-11, 2014
Meritage Resort & Spa	Napa Valley, CA	November 7-10, 2015

Please check out our website, <http://westernsurg.org>. The membership directory is very user friendly, and can be used to look up your fellow members as well as to update your own contact information. Please be sure we have your correct email address, as our hope is to communicate more via email, saving some postage and printing costs. Also, dues payments can be made online, thanks to LP etc. and Treasurer Chapman's work. At \$250 per year for annual dues, the Association remains an excellent value compared with similar surgical societies.

Please feel free to call or email me or my assistant, Heidi Lindsey, if there is anything we can do to support the Western.

Respectfully submitted,



R. James Valentine, M.D.
Secretary, Western Surgical Association

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