



## WESTERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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February 2014

Dear Colleagues:

The 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Session of the Western Surgical Association was held at The Grand America Hotel. The hotel was a spectacular venue for the meeting, and we enjoyed the superb ambience and outstanding service associated with the Grand America's reputation. Special thanks to Leigh Neumayer and Amalia Cochran for overseeing the many details as local arrangements chair and co-chair, and of course thanks to our meeting planner, Nonie Lowry of LP etc., for another terrifically well-organized venue site. President Clive Grant's Address, "4-Part Harmony: From Hand Crank to Hash Tags", was excellent and very well received. I encourage you to read his address if you missed the meeting.

A total of 12 of the 17 new members were in attendance. The other five 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 James Jakub from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for his work entitled "Diagnostic value of epigenetic chromatin conformation changes identified in peripheral blood to differentiate early stage melanoma from Health Volunteers and Other Cutaneous Malignancies". Please drop a note of congratulations to Dr. Jakub 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. The program book is available in PDF format on our website and includes the 2013 Scientific Program as well as the Transactions of the 2012 Meeting, including the complete 2012 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:

[www.westernsurgical.org](http://www.westernsurgical.org)

Also enclosed is the list of the 20 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 272 active members and 496 senior 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, 2014. Please review the application form on our website.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 8-11, 2014 AT THE MIRAMONTE RESORT AND SPA, INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

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Several members completed their terms of service to the Western Surgical Association this November. They include President Clive Grant, Vice Presidents Norman Estes and William V. Dolan, Program Chair Mitchell Posner, Membership Committee Chair Jason Fleming and District Representative Donald Low. 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:

<b>President:</b>	Steven Stain	Albany, NY
<b>First Vice-President:</b>	Alden H. Harken	Oakland, CA
<b>Second Vice-President:</b>	Kenneth R. Sirinek	San Antonio, TX
<b>Program Chair:</b>	Mark Talamini	San Diego, CA
<b>Memberhip Committee:</b>	Katherine Liu	Freeport, IL
<b>District Representative:</b>	Daniel Margulies	Los Angeles, CA

The 2014 meeting will be held November 8-10 at the Miramonte Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, California. Our 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:  
Meritage Resort & Spa                      Napa Valley, CA                      November 7-10, 2015

Please check out our website, <http://westernsurgical.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. 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 at 214-645-0550, 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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