



Women in  
Thoracic  
Surgery

# ORACLE

To further the achievements of women practicing thoracic surgery by providing mutual support and facilitating professional advancement

## President's Corner

By Margarita Camacho, MD



We had terrific attendance at our WTS membership meeting in San Diego during the STS several months ago, and were pleasantly surprised to see so many women CT surgery residents! Congratulations again to our WTS scholars Gurjyot Bajwa, Reshma Biniwale, Monica Casiraghi, Jamie Lewis and Vanessa Olbrecht, who were honored at our meeting. During this gathering of members and associates, we voted on the slate of officers and new surgeons joining the Leadership Group. We extend an enthusiastic welcome to our new

Members-At-Large: Yvonne Carter, Kim Gandy, Kris Guleserian, Betty Kim, Mary Maish, Meena Nathan and Jennifer Walker.

There was a tremendous amount of energy and good cheer in the room during our meeting in San Diego. We met many new faces, as well as known colleagues and friends from around the country and Europe and Asia. One of the highlights of the meeting was an address by Dr. John Mayer, the new President of the STS, who was introduced by Dr. Carolyn Reed, President of the ABTS. Both discussed the decrease in applicants to our field, and the commitment of the Joint Council (STS and AATS) to help increase the number of women in cardiothoracic surgery. It is well recognized that one of the principal deterrents is the inability to balance work and personal life, due to highly unpredictable work schedules. Yet there are many women who truly do love cardiothoracic surgery, and would appreciate knowing the options of how to achieve that balance between career and home life. The Joint Council is establishing a special Task Force to help maximize the number of women

entering our field, and Ajay Carpenter, one of our previous Presidents, will represent WTS on this Task Force.

As most of you know, our leadership group is comprised of female cardiothoracic surgeons – we do not have a non-surgeon secretary, and hence “getting the word out” through repeated announcements of our meetings and retreats has been difficult. This will be changing very soon. In our next Oracle, I will describe a plan in the works which will enable WTS to send out far-in-advance, repeat announcements of our meetings and other events, and streamline annual dues payments, as well as contributions to the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Education and Research (TSFRE) on behalf of WTS.

During the STS meeting in San Diego last January, I met with Dr. Larry Cohn, the President of TSFRE, and promised him that I would ask our members and associates to contribute, even if only a small amount, to TSFRE. We would like to show as close to 100% support from our WTS members. While I understand, as does

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Dr. Cohn, that the Nina Braunwald Fund is at present earmarked for only cardiac surgery, discussions are underway to determine how to include women non-cardiac thoracic surgeons in our WTS contributions. I will keep you updated regarding this issue, but in the meantime encourage you to continue to support TSFRE. Our form for annual dues, membership renewal and new membership includes a space to add a contribution for TSFRE for your convenience.

Towards the end of our WTS meeting, Dr. Aya Saito from Japan presented slides showing the introductory meeting of the women cardiothoracic surgery society in Japan, including pictures of our Ajay Carpenter, who gave the opening address on behalf of WTS. We embraced Aya and gave her our heartfelt congratulations on establishing the first such society outside the US. She has promised continued collaboration of the Japanese Society of Women CT Surgeons with WTS, and we promised whatever advice or guidance they may need as they develop and grow.

Please join us in Washington on May 6th, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Renaissance Washington Hotel (Room 10) for our WTS reception during the AATS. Thank you for remaining part of our growing society, and supporting our outreach, education and mentorship efforts.



**Dr. John Mayer, President of STS, addresses WTS** during our meeting in San Diego. In the foreground is Dr. Carolyn Reed, President of ABTS, who introduced Dr. Mayer to the WTS members.

## 2007 WTS OFFICERS

**President: Margarita Camacho, M.D.**

Surgical Director of Cardiac Transplant and Mechanical Assist Device Program  
St Barnabas Heart Center  
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center  
Newark, NJ

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Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
San Francisco, California

**Secretary: Joanne Starr, M.D.**

Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery  
Children's Hospital of New Jersey  
Beth Israel Medical Center  
Newark, NJ

# Congratulations, Yolonda!

WTS congratulates Yolonda Colson, recently promoted to Associate Professor in Surgery at Harvard University.

Please keep us posted on any promotions, honors and other good news so that we can all share your joy! Email the Oracle Editor: KathleennF@msn.com



## PLEASE JOIN US!

**Women in Thoracic Surgery Reception**

**Sunday, May 6, 2007**

**7:00 to 9:00 PM**

**Renaissance Washington Hotel**

**Room 10**

## WTS Scholarship Winners who will attend the STS in 2007

WTS Scholarship Winners who attended the STS in 2007

### **Gurjyot Bajwa**

Rush University Medical Center  
Thoracic Surgery Resident, First Year  
903 S Ashland Ave., #101  
Chicago, IL 60607  
jannat01@hotmail.com

### **Reshma Biniwale**

Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY  
Thoracic Surgery Resident, Second Year  
3450 Wayne Avenue, Apt 17J  
Bronx, NY 10467  
rbiniwale@hotmail.com

### **Monica Casiraghi**

San Raffaele Hospital  
Thoracic Surgery Resident, Fifth Year  
Milan, Italy  
mcasirag@med.unc.edu  
San Raffaele Hospital  
Via Olgettina 60, Milan, Italy

### **Jamie D Lewis**

University of Cincinnati College of  
Medicine  
General Surgery Resident, Third Year  
1832 Mears Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45230  
Jaime.lewis@uc.edu

### **Vanessa Olbrecht**

Johns Hopkins University  
School of Medicine  
Medical Student, Fourth Year  
Vanessa@jhmi.edu  
601 North Eutaw Street, Apt 506  
Baltimore, MD 21292

It's not too soon to start thinking about residents who could apply for the 2008 Scholarship! Details forthcoming in the next Oracle.

## 2007-2008 Board of Directors

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Vice President	Nora Burgess, M.D.
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Jennifer Walker, M.D.	Kris Guleserian, M.D.



**Women in Thoracic Surgery (WTS) is an international organization of thoracic surgeons whose purpose is to:**

- Provide quality care to our patients
- Mentor young women interested in pursuing careers in thoracic/cardiac surgery
- Provide educational opportunities for our members
- Educate the public, especially women, regarding cardiac and pulmonary health and disease

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**President:** Margarita Camacho, M.D.  
mcamacho@SBHCS.com

**Vice President:** Nora Burgess, M.D.  
nora.burgess@kp.org

**Secretary:** Joanne Starr, M.D.  
jstarr@SBHCS.com



2007

**Application for Membership Renewal**  
**Application for New Members**  
(January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (office) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(best way to reach you): \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Active membership \$100 annually, due January 1  
International membership: No dues  
Associate membership (GS or TS resident): No fee (circle GS or TS)  
If you are a GS, TS resident or fellow, please state your year of training \_\_\_\_\_  
Emeritus membership (Retired from practice, or > 70 YO): No fee  
Optional: Donation to the Nina Braunwald Scholarship Fund through the TSFRE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to:  
Lorraine J. Rubis, M.D.  
106-4th Street East  
St. Petersburg, FL 33715  
LJRMD@tampabay.rr.com

**Please update your profile at [www.CTSnet.org](http://www.CTSnet.org) Click on SURGEONS in left menu**

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