



## 2003 WTS OFFICERS

*President:* Mercedes K.C. Dullum, M.D., mkcd@earthlink.net

*Vice President:* Carolyn Dresler, M.D., Carolyn\_Dresler@ksg03.harvard.edu

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Lorraine J. Rubis, M.D., franckle.neil.lor@att.net

*Oracle Editor:* Mary J. Boylan, M.D., mjboylan@charter.net

*WTS Website:* www.wtsnet.org

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

## President's Corner - Mercedes Dullum, MD

It is an honor to have been elected as the president of Women in Thoracic Surgery and to be associated with this group of talented, dedicated and enthusiastic thoracic surgeons. It is indeed a privilege to be entrusted with a patient's life in surgery and as Thoracic surgeons we are lucky to have the ability to be practicing in this exciting, challenging time in our specialty. We have the opportunity to serve so many patients now that previously had less optimal options for treatment of their illness. Heart disease and lung cancer are the #1 and 2 causes of death in women. We are privileged to have the skills to treat these diseases and improve the health of our patients.

We should enjoy what we do every day and there are many opportunities for advancements in arrhythmia management, CHF, valve surgery, particularly minimally invasive and beating heart approaches, gene therapy, cell transplantation and the areas of pulmonary, oesophageal and congenital surgery. Our field is a highly technical

one that requires attention to detail in order to have excellent outcomes. However we must be willing to embrace new approaches and technology, and be vigilant in sustaining our specialty and in improving patient care. We must be open to collaborating with our industry partners in developing and refining these innovative approaches as they are the ones who are able to support the majority of clinical research performed today.

It is also important for us to interact more closely with our medical colleagues to plan the best treatment for our patients, and as the evolution of our specialty continues, it may be necessary to cross train to learn each others skills. Surgeons have been notorious as "slow adopters" of new technology as opposed to our medical colleagues. We should be commended for this as it was done in a spirit of being patient advocates but "evolution happens" and we must also evolve. WTS as a young organization has the energy, opportunity and duty to support our colleagues in our Thoracic

surgical community and be in the forefront of this evolution for the health of our patients and specialty.

Our mission is clearly stated in our bylaws

The Mission of Women in Thoracic Surgery, Inc. is fourfold:

- i) to enhance the quality of medical care given to patients of the members;
- ii) to focus on the development of women thoracic surgeons through a mentoring program
- iii) to enhance the education of patients concerning heart and lung disease, particularly but not exclusively, among women; and
- iv) to enhance the education of women thoracic surgeons through seminars and other training mediums.

By remaining focused on these and our duty to our patients we will continue to succeed and grow as an integral part of Thoracic surgery.

## Membership - Accounting for Each and Everyone

Our membership continues to grow and we are a mobile group of professionals. In order for us all to stay in contact, please go to [www.ctsnet.org](http://www.ctsnet.org) and update your web page. You can also stop by the STS membership booth at the AATS meeting and update your web page and get your photo taken and added to the web page.

Though we try to keep up with everyone, there are a few board-certified women with whom we have lost touch. If you have any address for any of these fine surgeons, please, contact Lorraine Rubis (Secretary-Treasurer) at [franckle.neil.lor@att.net](mailto:franckle.neil.lor@att.net)

Cheyney, Kathleen J 1983  
Colson, Yolanda 2001  
Gerken, Maxine 1986  
Horn, Sophia 1999  
Marshall, Margaret 2001  
McAfee, Molly Kimborough 1994  
McCollum, Deborah Burge 1996  
Payne, Maryann 2001  
Reed, Laura 1999  
Schwartz, Judy 1991  
Shorr, Lucy 1991  
Skaryak, Lynne 2001  
Temeck, Barbara 1987

WTS is also working actively to expand our international membership. In upcoming issues of the *Oracle*, we will hear from our colleagues in Europe and

in Turkey. Though we may be half a world away, many of our experiences are common, including the struggle for professional life juggled with other obligations. Let us take this opportunity to expand our network of colleagues and friends around the country and around the world.

We would also like to encourage residents and medical students to get involved in thoracic surgery. As practicing professionals, let us take the opportunity to engage these junior colleagues in the excitement and reward of this practice of surgery. Encourage them to join Women in Thoracic Surgery and sponsor them to come to the AATS.



# WTS Luncheon Meeting at AATS, Boston, MA

**Where:** Hynes Convention Center, Room 204

**When:** Monday, May 5, 2003, at 12:00 noon

**Guest Speaker:** Mehmet Oz, MD  
“Why Heart Surgery has a Bright Future”

All women interested in thoracic surgery are invited to attend. We will meet our new officers and hear about WTS goals for 2003 including:

- Mentoring junior colleagues
- Our roles as advocates for our patients
- Increasing our participation at the national level

*Luncheon sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences*



# Women in Thoracic Surgery

## 2003 WTS OFFICERS

**President: Mercedes K.C. Dullum**

mkcd@earthlink.net

**Vice President: Carolyn Dresler, M.D.**

Carolyn\_Dresler@ksg03.harvard.edu

**Secretary/Treasurer: Lorraine J. Rubis, M.D.**

franckle.neil.lor@att.net

**Oracle Editor: Mary J. Boylan, M.D.,**

mjboylan@charter.net

**WTS Website: [www.wtsnet.org](http://www.wtsnet.org)**

---

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

---

## 2003 Membership Dues Invoice

*(January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Address (office) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home or office? (Circle one)

Do you want your mail sent to your home office? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you mind if we publish your e-mail address in our newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please remit with payment in envelope to*

Lorraine J. Rubis, M.D.

106 - 4th Street East

St. Petersburg, FL 33715-2241 U.S.A.

**Dues:** Full membership \$100

Institutional membership: \$350

Associate membership (GS or TS residents): No fee (circle GS or TS)

Emeritus membership (Retired from practice, or > 70 YO): No fee

Honorary membership: No fee

***Thank you for your support.***

# ORACLE



Women in  
Thoracic  
Surgery

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

## GET INVOLVED

This year, we have additional women serving on a number of STS Committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee for our national organizations, make yourself known. Contact anyone of the Women in Thoracic Surgery officers and we will help you find a way to serve. We can make a difference only if we get involved.

## [www.wtsnet.org](http://www.wtsnet.org)

Visit our WTSnet website. We will have the latest information, announcements posted for quick access. This site serves as a means of communication among members of WTS. This site also makes us accessible to a much broader audience.

Visit WTSnet today!

The officers and members thank Scanlan International for their continued support and assistance in publishing *Oracle*.

## Women Against Lung Cancer

Women Against Lung Cancer (WALC) is a Professional Alliance for Education and Research. This new organization was formed in the Fall of 2001 by a small group of oncologists. It is headed by Joan H. Schiller, MD, University of Wisconsin Hospital ([jhschill@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:jhschill@facstaff.wisc.edu)). WALC now includes medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, pharmacists, patient advocates, and women health researchers.

The goals of this organization include promoting awareness about lung cancer as a woman's disease, promote research into gender differences in susceptibility to lung cancer, developing mentoring/networking to encourage

women physicians and scientists to pursue interests in this disease. Our own Carolyn Dresler, MD, holds a leadership in this organization as chair of the Scientific Committee.

- Lung cancer kills more women each year than breast cancer
- By 2005, twice as many women will die of lung cancer compared to breast cancer

Women Against Lung Cancer: A Professional Alliance for Education and Research (WALC), is pleased to announce its upcoming meeting entitled - *Women and Lung Cancer: Current Issues and Challenges*. You are invited to

participate in this program being held Friday, May 30, 2003 from 7:30 a.m. - Noon at the Hilton Garden Inn in Chicago, Illinois, in conjunction with the American Society of Clinical Oncology, (ASCO) Annual Meeting. Should you have any questions, please call Debbie Kurth at Business Services International, Inc., the medical education company retained by WALC to manage these educational programs. She can be reached at (760) 480-2525.

For further information, contact Joan Schiler, MD ([jhschill@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:jhschill@facstaff.wisc.edu)) or Mary Boylan, MD ([mjboylan@charter.net](mailto:mjboylan@charter.net)).

Lorraine J. Rubis, M.D.  
106 4th Street East  
St. Petersburg, FL 33715-2241 U.S.A.