



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 A.J. Carpenter, M.D., PhD.



As an organization, Women in Thoracic Surgery (WTS) is an obviously small group of surgeons. We began as a rare few and have grown to a small group, but we are at last on the way and growing.

I was not privileged to know Nina Starr Braunwald, the first woman certified by ABTS, but I'm sure I would have liked her. There is no doubt that she was drawn to her profession by the same motivations that drew each of us to become thoracic surgeons. I'm sure she did not set out to be the first woman, or a rare woman, or anything else distinctive. She just found that working in the

chest fascinated her. She chose to dedicate the part of her life that she could spare from her family to providing excellent care for her patients and improving her chosen profession. I don't know this to be true, but I believe it.

Likewise, when our founder, Dr. Leslie Kohman, gathered a group of women surgeons for breakfast during an STS meeting, I am confident that they were not gathering to distinguish themselves from the crowd. They were simply a small group of women with a common chosen profession who wanted to add their part to the whole. From that first gathering has slowly grown an organization known as WTS.

Last month, during the AATS meeting in Washington, we had 22 women surgeons gather for lunch at the national Museum for Women in the Arts. This may well have been the largest single collection of women thoracic surgeons ever in one room. I suspect we represented about 25 percent of the women practicing thoracic surgery in North America today, plus a few European surgeons.

Today, WTS is an incorporated entity with a mission stated in our bylaws. Toward satisfying that mission, we are about to embark on a media campaign to develop a press package with three messages:

- Lung cancer is now the largest cancer killer of women
- Cardiac disease is the number one cause of death among women. (Yes, CV disease surpasses breast cancer)
- There are women who can provide excellent surgical care for these diseases

We expect this to be a useful tool to help our members promote the goals of the organization that brought each of us to the profession. There will be more information about this program available at the STS meeting next January. I hope that everyone will make good use of this tool as it becomes available.

In addition to our professional affiliation as an organization, we have something more to offer our members: fellowship. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many colleagues in Washington last month. I look forward to enjoying such camaraderie at the next opportunity. More women are joining the ranks of our profession every year. As you meet other women in college/medical schools, during residencies, or in practice, we should welcome them. Encourage their growth as surgeons and enjoy their company as colleagues. Let's continue to move forward as an organization and as individuals with common goals. I'll see you in San Diego!

Going Public

By Dr. Mary Boylan, Editor, WTS *Oracle*



Over the past few years, WTS has been developing a plan for getting the message of our mission out into the public arena. Roz Scott (Past-President) has been instrumental in getting WTS to think about taking our message public.

What's our message? The mission or message of our organization has three bullet points.

- **Women and Cardiac Disease**

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death for women in the U.S. More women die of cardiovascular causes than all cancers combined. We can make a difference.

- **Women and Lung Cancer**

Lung cancer is the number one cancer among women. There are differences in the biology and clinical course of lung cancer in women compared to men. More research needs to be done on women and lung cancer and women need to be included in more research studies.

- **Women as Thoracic Surgeons**
Our membership is comprised of women practicing thoracic surgery across the spectrum, including academic/private, adult/pediatric, cardiac/thoracic and in industry. There are great opportunities for women as thoracic surgeons. It is not the easiest path to follow, however, it is the most rewarding.

So, you might ask . . . "What does this have to do with me?" It has everything to do with each one of us. We are the leaders and have a platform in our local communities for bringing these health issues to greater attention. We can positively impact our patients' health by becoming involved. We also need more women thoracic surgeons. This is our call to promote our field and mentor any aspiring young women.

Now, you might ask . . . "How can I get involved?" At the STS meeting in 2003, we will have a Media Training Session. Our professional consultants will give us the inside tips and advice on how to successfully present our message. We encourage you all to participate. The first step is to let us know you are interested. Simply e-mail Lorraine Rubis (Secretary/Treasurer at lorrainejrubismd@aol.com) or Mary Boylan (Editor, WTS *Oracle* at mboylan@smdc.org).

WTS Luncheon Meeting at AATS:

By Dr. Mary Boylan, Editor, WTS *Oracle*

This year's Women in Thoracic Surgery Luncheon Meeting was held in conjunction with the AATS in Washington, DC. The setting for our meeting was the Museum of Women in the Arts - a beautiful ambience where we were surrounded by the great art created by women. The turnout was huge, including several international members and many of our colleagues from industry.

The ambience was collegial and optimistic. After a few introductory words from AJ Carpenter, WTS President, everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves. We are a diverse group of surgeons working across the spectrum of cardiac/thoracic, adult/pediatric surgery and industry. As ever, Brigid Scanlan Eynck, the ever-reliable photographer, was present to document our activities. (See accompanying photos.)

After all the formalities, we settled down to the serious business of getting to know each other and networking. This meeting was a great success. Make sure you see us at the STS luncheon meeting next year.

ARE YOU ALREADY A MEMBER OF WTS?

If you can find your name in the list on page 4 of this newsletter, you are. If your name is not listed there, please fill out the enclosed form and join today!

Full membership \$100

Institutional membership: \$350

Associate membership (GS or TS residents): No fee

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

Honorary membership: No fee

YET ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!



WTS Luncheon Meeting Highlights

Above, probably the largest group of women surgeons ever assembled in one room!

*At left, **Dr. Natascha Simon-Kupilik**, from Vienna, Austria, visits with **Dr. Petia Preiss**, from Klagenfurt, Austria.*

*Right, **Dr. Leslie Kohman**, from Syracuse, New York, was the original founder of WTS.*

*Below left, **Drs. Nancy Poirier** from Montreal, Quebec, Canada, **Margit Voegele - Kadletz** from Vienna, Austria, **Suzan McGary** from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and **Karen Rieger**, from Indianapolis, Indiana, make connections.*

***Drs. Laurie Reeder**, from Providence, Rhode Island shares a smile with **Darlene Goldstein**, from Morristown, New Jersey.*



Join your colleagues

As of May 15, 2002, the WTS membership included 50 surgeons. Is your name listed below? If not, please join or renew your membership today!

Ali, Sohaila
(Baltimore, MD)

Aronis, Maria
(Flushing, NY)

Athanassiadi, Kalliopi
(Athens, Greece)

Berglin, Eva
(Goteborg, Sweden)

Boylan, Mary
(Duluth, MN)

Burgess, Nora
(San Francisco, CA)

Carpenter, A.J.
(Lackland AFB, TX)

Christian, Karla
(Nashville, TN)

Diamond, Angela
(Terre Haute, IN)

Dignan, Rebecca
(Nashville, TN)

Dresler, Carolyn
(Parsippany, NJ)

Dullum, Mercedes
(Washington, DC)

Edwards, Phyllis
(Los Gatos, CA)

Eggerstedt, Jane M.
(Shreveport, LA)

Ellis, Jennifer
(La Jolla, CA)

Fenton, Kathleen
(Pittsburgh, PA)

Goldstein, Darlene
(Morristown, NJ)

Greg, Mary
(Bellevue, WA)

Harrington, Cynthia
(Minneapolis, MN)

Kalett, Jolene
(San Diego, CA)

Kelly, Rosemary
(Minneapolis, MN)

Kohman, Leslie
(Syracuse, NY)

Lawton, Jennifer
(St. Louis, MO)

LiDonnici, Leslie
(Brooklyn, NY)

Mahan, Vicki
(Oak Lawn, IL)

Manjoney, Deborah
(Milwaukee, WI)

Martin, Jocelyne
(New York, NY)

McGary, Suzan
(Williamsport, PA)

McLarty, Allison
(Stony Brook, NY)

McNicholas, Kathleen
(Newark, DE)

Meko, Jennifer
(Nashville, TN)

Mican, Camilla Ann
(Phoenix, AZ)

Olak, Jemi
(Park Ridge, IL)

Peigh, Pamela
(St. Louis, MO)

Penkoske, Pat
(St. Louis, MO)

Pierce, Alice
(Mars, PA)

Reed, Carolyn
(Charleston, SC)

Reeder, Laurie
(Providence, RI)

Rigal, Anne-Marie
(San Francisco, CA)

Roberts, Shauna
(Davenport, IA)

Rubis, Lorraine
(St. Petersburg, FL)

Rusch, Valerie
(New York, NY)

Schwabe, Jane
(St. Joseph, MO)

Scott, Rosalyn
(Marina del Rey, CA)

Smolens, Iva
(Ann Arbor, MI)

Starr, Joanne
(Chicago, IL)

Steimle, Cynthia
(Elgin, IL)

Strohl, Joyce
(Flint, MI)

Swain, Julie
(Bethesda, MD)

Waite, Donna
(Mayfield Heights, OH)

How to contact the 2002 WTS Officers

President:

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lorrainejrubismd@aol.com

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2002 Membership Dues Invoice

Name _____

Hospital _____

Address (office) _____

Phone (office) _____

Address (home) _____

Phone (home) _____

E-Mail address: _____

Home or office? (Circle one)

The most important information needed is your email address!!!

Please remit with payment in envelope to

Lorraine J. Rubis, M.D.
5800 - 49th Street North
Suite S - 101
St. Petersburg, FL 33709 U.S.A.

Dues: Full membership \$100

Institutional membership: \$350

Associate membership (GS or TS residents): No fee

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

Honorary membership: No fee

Thank you for your support.



Women in Thoracic Surgery

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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