The 50th Anniversary of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

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On September 2, 2009, on recommendation of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) President Gordon F. Murray, MD, the STS Executive Committee established a special Task Force to oversee the planning of activities leading up to and surrounding the Society’s 50th Annual Meeting, which will be held in Orlando, Florida, in January 2014. The composition of that Task Force was as follows: Nicholas T. Kouchoukos, MD, Chair, L. Henry Edmunds, MD, Thomas B. Ferguson, MD, David A. Fullerton, MD, Gordon F. Murray, MD, W. Gerald Rainer, MD, each year’s sitting President in an ex officio capacity, and the “individual elected Second Vice President at the Society's 2011 Annual Meeting (who would thus be serving as STS President at the 2014 Annual Meeting),” who proved to be Douglas E. Wood, MD.

One charge given to the Task Force was preparation of a brief Society history, highlighting the Society’s significant accomplishments during the past 50 years. This supplement to The Annals of Thoracic Surgery represents the culmination of this endeavor. Each chapter has been prepared by one or more leaders of the organization, including its past Presidents, its current President, and other members who have chaired important committees, councils, workforces, and task forces of the organization.

This supplement could not have been completed without the invaluable assistance of Nancy Gray Puckett, MA, the Society’s former Director of Marketing and Communications, Natalie Boden, MBA, the current STS Director of Marketing and Communications, and Heide M. Pusztay, the Managing Editor of The Annals. Robert A. Wynbrandt, JD, former outside legal counsel and current Executive Director & General Counsel of the Society, provided oversight and “institutional memory,” having been associated with STS since 1986. We are extremely grateful to these individuals for their efforts and to Elsevier Inc for its generous financial support of the publication of this supplement.

STS has grown dramatically during the last 50 years in total membership and in the services provided to its members, to our patients, and to society as a whole. We have every reason to believe that this growth will continue over the next 50 years.

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