



The Florida Society

NEWS

of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons

Volume No. 28

Summer 2005



President's Message

T. Peter Downing, M.D.

Dear Colleagues:

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the successful Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons' Annual Meeting at the Westin

Innisbrook in Tampa Bay. Once again, Bridget Anderson and Dawn Moeirngs led the 52 participants in an excellent fashion and made sure that all of the Scientific and Socioeconomic programs functioned as scheduled. In addition, the food was excellent and the setting superior. Thanks for their help.

Our major sponsors for the program included Bayer Healthcare, Carbomedics, Edwards Lifesciences, FPIC, and HCA Healthcare. Our silver sponsors were Guidant and Medtronic. Our bronze sponsors were Atricure, Datascope, Ilex Medical, Johnson and Johnson, St. Jude Medical, and W. R. Gore Associates. We had 17 other exhibitors. We enjoyed their company and their help was immensely appreciated. Without them this type of meeting would be impossible.

The meeting began with the FSTCS Executive Council Meeting on Friday. This meeting was actually a more broad discussion of such things as legislation, our future meetings, the direction our Society should go, and other specific interests which were brought to the general attendance at our Annual Business Meeting on Sunday.

Our Saturday Scientific Session was excellent, with Scott Mitchell discussing the increasing success with ascending aortic stenting. Hartzell Schaff and David Adams discussed different kinds of mitral valve problems and their treatment with a give and take about their different, yet compatible approaches. Frank Selke discussed ischemic reperfusion injuries. It was an interesting talk which was unusually scientific for our program. Following this Mike Hogan, the STS Director of Government Relations informed us of the direction that Medicare is taking with further 5% cuts per year for 6 years, possible change in our medical practice liability by national legislation over the next 1-2 years, and

the institution of the program to pay for improved performance. Frankly, these discussions were all quite alarming, as they do not seem to demonstrate substantial improvement for our profession, but confirm significant declines.

The Scientific Meeting was followed by a golf tournament, which was quite successful and enjoyable for the 35 players. That night we had a President's dinner with speaker Charlie Crist; Attorney General for the State of Florida. He, unfortunately, did not discuss too much that was specific to the medical profession, but did give us an overview of his philosophy. He has a father who is a doctor and a sister who is a physician and he will have some influence on our profession when he runs for Governor.

The Socioeconomic Session was on Sunday. Marvin Smith educated us on the benefits of becoming nonparticipating in Medicare. This does not mean we would not be Medicare providers, it means that we are able to charge a little bit more for our services, but that reimbursement will be through the patients, rather than directly from Medicare. This option may have some beneficial implications for our society if CMS realizes that we need far better reimbursement and are trying to get some relief by becoming non-participating.

Following this, Chris Nuland discussed the legalities of opting out of Medicare and our inability to conglomerately make financial and legal decisions. Drew Rector and Jeff Phipps then gave talks on Offshore Captive Insurance and Asset Protection. This was very informative as far as our ability to protect assets from lawsuits.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Legislative News	3
2005 Annual Meeting	5
2005 Summer Retreat	6-7
2006 Annual Meeting	7
Membership	9-10

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

Finally, we had a very important two hour discussion regarding recommendations that our Society can make to our members to address our serious problem. We determined that we will look into obtaining an audit of 5-6 practices in various geographical locations. This audit will assess our past, present and future chances of reimbursement with the 30% of Medicare cuts coming down the pike and the reliance of third party providers utilizing Medicare as their guideline for reimbursement. This data, when obtained, will be very useful to us, allowing us to present it to the STS, to Congress, to our patients and perhaps to our third party insurers for individual negotiations.

We discussed the options of becoming Medicare non-years, given the current state of volume and number of cases performed by some of our members, compounded

with increased malpractice, increased expenses and decreased reimbursement. The data that we collect, if handled by a third party, will be very useful information for us to send to our patients in the hopes that they, as we must, will write Congress, informing them of the dilemma and how this will hurt patient access to cardiovascular surgery and thoracic surgery solutions to their medical problems.

Thank you very much again for those who joined us. I appreciated your comments. For those who did not join us, we hope that you will consider the summer meeting, at which time we will continue these topics in earnest.

Sincerely,

T. Peter Downing, M.D.

Officers

T. Peter Downing, MD; President	Palm Beach Gardens
J. Crayton Pruitt, Jr, MD; Secretary/Treasurer	Clearwater
Kevin D. Accola, MD; Immediate Past President	Orlando

Councilors

Jeffrey N. Bott, MD	Orlando
Scott H. Bronleewe, MD	Tampa
Roger G. Carrillo, MD	Miami Beach
Gary D. Dworkin, MD	Clearwater
Edward G. Izzo, Jr., MD	Tampa
John M. McKinney, Jr, MD	Melbourne
Wistar Moore, III, MD	Leesburg
Derek D. Muehrcke, MD	Jacksonville
Edward D. Staples, MD	Gainesville
M. André Vasu, MD	Punta Gorda

By-Laws & Membership Committee

Dennis F. Pupello, MD; Chairman	Tampa
Derek D. Muehrcke, MD	Jacksonville

Legislative Policy Committee

Gary D. Dworkin, MD; Chairman	Clearwater
Brian W. Hummel, MD	Fort Myers
Edward G. Izzo, Jr., MD	Tampa
Joseph Lamelas, MD	Miami

Program Committee

Thomas F. Kelly, Jr., MD; Chairman	Sarasota
Jeffrey N. Bott, MD	Orlando
Mark A. Malias, MD	Melbourne
George Palmer, III, MD	Orlando



Legislative Update

*Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.
Society Legal Counsel*

Tallahassee 2005

If a theme were to apply to health care issues in the 2005 Legislature, it would be that legislators passed what they absolutely had to pass, defeated what they absolutely had to defeat, and left a series of other issues for 2006.

During their meetings with legislators, physicians and their lobbyists emphasized the need to narrow the scope of the adverse constitutional amendments, maintain the ability of physicians to self-insure, and to stop any expansion of the scope of practice of allied health professionals. On each of these critical issues, the Society and its allies within Organized Medicine were successful.

Amendment Implementation: When Amendments 7 and 8 passed on Election Day, many physicians were concerned that virtually all hospital peer review records would become public information and that three malpractice settlements would cause a physician's license to be revoked. Through the efforts of the FMA, FHA, the Society, and other health care advocates, what passed was legislation drastically reducing the negative impact of Amendments 7 and 8. Under the passed legislation, events occurring prior to Election Day, 2004, will not be subject to either amendment. With regard to Amendment 7, only bona fide patients may receive adverse incident reports related to their actual procedures or their own care. Moreover, "strikes" will only occur when the Board of Medicine, by clear and convincing evidence, determines that malpractice has occurred. Special thanks to all who have worked so hard on this issue, including our allies at the FMA and FHA.

Financial Responsibility: As the bills were originally filed by Representative Farkas and Senator Jones, all physicians would have been required to double the amount of coverage, and those with hospital privileges would have to be covered for at least \$500,000 per incident. Moreover, physicians would have been precluded from self-insuring. After a barrage of lobbying from medicine, the sponsors agreed to drop the increase in PLI coverage, but the bill continued to prevent physicians from self-insuring. Although the bill did pass the House Health Regulation Committee, the Senate Health Committee spent two weeks hearing the bill, and Senator Jones voluntarily asked that the Committee drop its consideration of the issue for the session. A final week effort by Senator Jones to add additional disclosure requirements on self-insured physicians was removed by the House.

Special thanks go to surgeons and FNS members such as FMA President-Elect Troy Tippet, M.D. and long-time advocate Miguel Machado, M.D., both of whom were instrumental in defeating this awful legislation.

Perfusionist Licensing: An effort by perfusionists to require licensing was only heard by one committee, but likely will be back next year. Our goal is to ensure quality while also ensuring a sufficient number of these professionals to meet the needs of our surgeons.

Trauma Funding: The bill to increase the traffic fine for running a red light, allowing the additional funds to go to trauma care, passed both chambers and is sitting on the Governor's desk. These funds will be additional funds, and are not tied to the Disproportionate Share distributions.

Naturopathic Physicians: The Senate Health Care Committee defeated the "Naturopathic Physician" bill by a 6-4 vote on April 26, ending this issue for the Session. Under the original bill, naturopathic "physicians" would have been allowed to "perform minor surgery" and to prescribe many types of medications.

Supervision of Physician Extenders: The Senate Health Committee opted not to hear either of the proposed "supervision" bills, effectively killing the issues for this session. As a result, the Ortiz decision, which prevents the Board of Medicine from regulating or disciplining physicians for the actions of nurses who work under their direct supervision, remains unchanged. Moreover, the use of physician extenders in satellite offices remains virtually unregulated, and both of these issues will likely re-emerge next year.

ARNP Prescribing: Likewise, the ARNP Prescribing bill was not heard, effectively killing that issue for the year.

Tort Reform: Other than dealing with the constitutional amendments, the Legislature showed virtually no inclination to tackle tort reform this year, and several good proposals by freshman Rep. Paige Kreegel, M.D. and others regarding subsequent treating physicians, expert witnesses, litigation reform, and other such issues were not considered.

Managed Care: Similarly, managed care reform took a back seat this session, as revisions to the Prompt Pay law offered by Rep. Ed Homan, M.D. failed to receive a meaningful hearing during the year.

Surgical Assistant: The Senate passed this bill (which would allow the physician to choose between a physician, PA, nurse, or certified first assistant), but the House on the final day of session ran out of time before considering it, even though the bill had passed all of its referenced House committees..

Overall, Organized Medicine and the Society should be proud of its accomplishments during the 2005 Legislative Session.

SOCIETY NEWS & UPDATES

T. Peter Downing, M.D.
President

ETHICS COMMITTEE

During this past year the Ethics Committee, which consists of the past, present and future President of the Society, handled two situations regarding legal issues with several of our members. We believe that these issues were resolved satisfactorily. We would like to remind you that if there are any specific legal problems between members of our Society, the Ethics Committee is very willing to assist with these problems in any way that we can, along with our in-house Council, Chris Nuland.

MEETINGS

The attendance was excellent for this meeting and represented a good portion of our membership groups. There was notably, however, a weakness in representation from Miami and Jacksonville, but specific members who planned on attending were unable to for personal reasons. In July it would be very helpful to have members from each of the geographic areas, the panhandle, Jacksonville, central Florida, Orlando, Tampa, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and the Treasure Coast.

We discussed the possibility of either eliminating or changing the February Meeting, as it is so close to the STS Meeting. The Council felt it prudent to move this another week or two into March, rather than have it at the end of February, thereby enabling us to space the FSTCS Meeting from the STS Meeting and perhaps would allow more of us to attend. This will occur in 2007.

The 2005 Summer Meeting will be held on July 8 -10, 2005 at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, as it has in the past. I recommend that perhaps all of you sign up for an extra day to enjoy this wonderful setting. The scientific topics for the Summer Meeting will include Cardiac Surgical Outcomes Using Dexmedetomidine, Minimally Invasive Aortic Valve Replacement, and Robotic Mitral Valve Repair. Sunday morning will be further discussion regarding our Society's progress on socioeconomic issues.

The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held February 24 - 26, 2006 at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens.

ASSESSMENTS

As discussed in the President's letter, we are looking into arranging to have an audit done of 5-6 selected groups around the state; which will be done by a major national accounting firm. The cost of this will be higher than our current bank account allows, although we will contribute approximately \$10,000 from our current account. We will look into funding sources for this project, and may need to assess the membership in order to fully finance it.

I feel this audit is very important and received unanimous approval from the Council and the Membership regarding its institution. The audit will be used to either confirm or disprove what I believe is a financial catastrophe about to happen to our Society with the institution of more cuts in this time of decreased case load, decreased reimbursement, and increased liability and regulation, it is becoming clear to me that in the State of Florida our profession is in jeopardy and may not be able to support all of our members.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 131 members who are active in our Society. Of these there are 29 members who have not paid their 2004 dues. In addition, there are 13 members who have not paid dues since 2002 and will be dropped from membership after they have refused the next request letter. Our Society accounts for 70-75% of the heart surgery done in the state and by remaining solidified, we should be able to help our profession, not only in Florida, but perhaps in the entire country. I think it is exceedingly important that our Membership grow and stay cohesive in the next two years when we try to deal with CMS and reimbursement nationally, and liability and reimbursement locally.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chris Nuland updated us on the state legislative agenda for the past and future

years. There are bills filed by Senator Jones and Representative Farkas, SB972 and HB665, which would eliminate a physician's ability to self-insure. This would be devastating for us, as 40% of our members are already self-insured or have signed the state waiver, which allowed them to promise payment of \$250,000 against an enforced lawsuit, necessary for us to keep our licenses. I personally would probably not be able to practice cardiac surgery because of the incurred cost and the even more rapid increase of cost vs. income.

Chris also talked about the Constitutional Amendments. Amendment 3 is being tested by the trial attorneys who are obtaining waivers from their clients in an attempt to avoid the contingency fee limitations. This seems to be a bad recommendation, as it is recommending clients to waive their constitutional rights. Amendment 7 regarding opening up Peer Review is one that will be refined within the Legislature. At the local hospital level attorney/client privilege may be used to protect Peer Review. Amendment 8, the "Three Strikes you are out" law, will probably be further defined by the State Legislature. Some are trying to call any settlement a strike. I believe this would eliminate heart surgeons, neurosurgeons and obstetricians from practice.

IN CONCLUSION

As a final note, as you can see from the above mentioned items, we have had a very active session. I hope all of you read this newsletter and realize that our Society is extremely active and viable. We are the only Cardiovascular and Thoracic Society in the country which is trying to achieve national reform goals at a local level. If we can set an example for the rest of the country, we can recruit more soldiers for our battle in the preservation of Cardiovascular Surgery as a viable profession. If not, I am afraid that for those coming into the profession at this point in time, the future is rather bleak, and for those of us already entangled, the future will be increasingly difficult. Hopefully it will swing the other way if we can unite solidly.

 **2005 Annual Meeting Highlights** 

The 2005 Annual Meeting was held at the Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort in Tampa Bay, Florida

The meeting kicked off Friday evening with the Welcome Reception in the exhibit hall.

Saturday morning's scientific session began with "Descending Aortic Stenting" presented by R. Scott Mitchell, M.D, followed by "Mitral Valve Regurgitation – Indications for Repair & Ablation and Long-Term Results" by Hartzell V. Schaff, M.D. and "Ischemic Mitral Valve Disease" by David H. Adams, M.D. Following a networking break with our sponsors and exhibitors, Frank W. Sellke, M.D. spoke on the topic "Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury." During our working lunch, Mike Hogan- STS Director of Government Relations presented "Medicare Cuts, Liability Hikes and Pay for Performance; Can You Afford to Provide Quality Care?"

Saturday evening's President's Banquet was well attended and enjoyed by all. Florida Attorney General; Charlie Crist; addressed the membership in attendance and shared with them an overview of his philosophy. The winning foursome from the golf tournament was presented with gift certificates for their victory.

Sunday's socioeconomic session included "Opting Out of Medicare" by Marvin Smith, and "The Legalities of Opting of Medicare" by Christopher L. Nuland followed by "Offshore Captive Insurance" by Drew Rector and an Asset protection Update by Jeffrey Phipps of Janney, Montgomery, Scott, LLC.

This intellectually stimulating scientific meeting provided all the attending surgeons an opportunity to spend more time with each other in a relaxed environment.

Mark your calendar for next years Annual Meeting which will be held February 24 - 26, 2006 at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

The Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons gratefully acknowledges the unrestricted educational grants from the following sponsors:

GOLD SPONSORS

Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
CarboMedics, Inc.
Edwards LifeSciences
First Professional Insurance Company
HCA Healthcare

SILVER SPONSORS

Guidant Cardiac Surgery
Medtronic

BRONZE SPONSORS

Atricure, Inc
Datascope Corp.
ILEX Medical, Inc.
J & J Wound Management
St Jude Medical
W L Gore & Associates

Thank you to the following exhibitors:

EXHIBITORS

Abiomed, Inc.
Arrow International
ATS Medical, Inc.
Boston Scientific
Captive Alternatives, LLC
CardioGenesis Corporation
COBE Cardiovascular, Inc.
CryoLife, Inc.
Edwards Lifesciences Research Medical
Ethicon Inc/Cardioventions
Florida Heart Research Institute
Gulf Atlantic Legal Defense Insurance
Hospira Worldwide, Inc.
Karl Storz Endoscopy
MCRI
Power Medical Interventions
Scios, Inc.

FSTCS 2005 FAMILY SUMMER RETREAT

JULY 8 - 10, 2005



OCEAN REEF CLUB

KEY LARGO, FLORIDA

REGISTER NOW for family fun at the Ocean Reef Club & Resort in Key Largo; a 4-star resort with 36 holes of championship golf, 10 tennis courts, award winning restaurants and a 175-slip marina. The Society's "Summer Family Retreat" is fun for the whole family and we invite you to join us for rest, relaxation and a myriad of recreational activities.

The weekend kicks off on Friday, July 8th with the Family Welcome Reception & Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday morning's breakfast will begin at 7:00 a.m. Beginning at 7:45 a.m., the Scientific Session will include the topics **Cardiac Surgical Outcomes Using Precedex** and **Minimally Invasive Aortic Valve Replacement**. The Ninth Annual Children's Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Be sure to register your "little one", they might just catch the "Big One"! A Family Buffet Luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Following lunch, there are two optional family activities: The Snorkeling Trip participants will meet at the Fishing Village at 1:00 p.m. with the boat departing at 1:30 p.m. Space is limited for this popular activity, so make your reservations early!! For those who are landlubbers, a Family Scavenger Hunt will take place from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Ocean Reef has a wonderful program of organized children's activities; Reef Club Kids; for children 5 – 11 years. Please call them directly at (305) 367-5830 for schedules, rates and to make your reservations. If you would like to pursue your own adventures, try fishing, sailing, bicycling, golf, tennis, croquet, shopping or sightseeing. The Saturday Evening "Beach Bash" Reception and Dinner on the beach begins at 6:30 p.m., so plan on ending your activities in time to join the evening's festivities.

Sunday morning's breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Following breakfast, the Scientific topic will be Robotic Mitral Valve Repair and there will also be Legislative and Socioeconomic Updates.

Make your hotel reservations directly with the Ocean Reef Club & Resort at (800) 741-7333 and ask for the FSTCS group rate of \$130.00 (S/D) or \$240.00 (2 BR condo). For additional resort information, please call the Ocean Reef Club's main phone #: (305) 367-2611.

If you need more information or a registration form for this meeting, please contact Bridget Anderson; Society Administrator; at (904) 683-8200 or fstcs@comcast.net or visit our website at www.fstcs.org.

Don't forget to register your children for the

8th Annual FSTCS
Children's Fishing Tournament

Saturday, July 9, 2005
9:30a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Come catch "The Big One!"



Register for your choice of family activities:

Family Snorkeling Trip
Saturday, July 9, 2005
1:00 p.m.

or

Family Polaroid Scavenger Hunt
Saturday, July 9, 2005
1:30 p.m.



(Space is limited, so register early!)

2005 SUMMER RETREAT AGENDA

Friday, July 8, 2005

2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

FSTCS Executive Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Family Welcome Reception & Dinner

Saturday, July 9, 2005

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Cardiac Surgical Outcomes using Dexmedetomidine

Staffan B. Wahlander, M.D.

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Minimally Invasive Aortic Valve Replacement

Joseph Lamelas, M.D.

9:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Q & A Session

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Children's Fishing Tournament

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Family Luncheon

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Family Snorkeling Trip

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Family Scavenger Hunt

6:30 p.m.

"Beach Bash" Reception & Dinner

Sunday, July 10, 2005

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Robotic Mitral Valve Repair

Chris Atkins, M.D.

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Legislative Update

Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Socioeconomic Update

T. Peter Downing, M.D.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Q & A Session

10:15 a.m. **Adjournment**

Mark Your Calendars for the FSTCS 2006 Annual Meeting February 24 – 26, 2006



**PGA NATIONAL
RESORT & SPA**

a **DOLCE** Conference Destination™

400 Avenue of the Champions
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418
800-633-9150
www.pga-resorts.com

Make plans now to attend the 2006 FSTCS Annual Meeting at the beautiful PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

PGA National Resort & Spa has more than meets the eye. Every inch of the subtropical oasis is designed to present you with nothing less than the ultimate resort experience. There, not just one, but five championship courses are yours for the playing. (What else would you expect from the headquarters of the Professional Golfers' Association of America?) Spa lovers will discover tranquility and unsurpassed creature comforts at their nationally-recognized spa, where over 100 personal services await you.

All this and 339 luxuriously appointed guest rooms and suites, eight award-winning restaurants and state-of-the-art conference facilities make the PGA National Resort & Spa the ultimate subtropical playground and meeting center.

And, if the 2,300 acres of manicured fairways, a private 26-acre lake, and swaying palms aren't enough, the resort is just minutes from ocean beaches, deep-sea fishing, famous Worth Avenue shopping, and just fifteen miles from Palm Beach International Airport.

RISKY BUSINESS: Practicing with Uninsured Physicians

By Cliff Rapp, LHRM, Vice President Risk Management

Under Florida law, physicians that fail to carry malpractice insurance must post a notice to their patients that they are uninsured, or “Bare.” However, statutes do not compel that any form of notice be given to ones’ colleagues. Commonly it is not until a claim arises that a colleague’s lack of insurance is disclosed. Not until then does the impact to those who are insured become painfully apparent – often in tandem with the plaintiff’s theory of liability.

In a recent case, our insured oncologist was sued for an alleged failure to diagnose cervical cancer that was missed by the patient’s gynecologist, who was uninsured. The gynecologist had referred the patient to our insured because of an abnormal PAP study. Our insured examined the patient and recommended appropriate diagnostic follow-up that was never pursued by the gynecologist. The thrust of the plaintiff’s case, however, was against our insured. Not surprisingly, the gynecologist took the position that our insured was at fault for failing to obtain the necessary diagnostic workup.

Practicing with those who are bare can and does increase your risk of being sued. Most physicians understand the term “deep pocket” in the context of malpractice – being targeted by one’s insurance coverage instead of culpability. As in the case of our insured oncologist, plaintiff attorneys often direct their case of liability to where there is insurance coverage. When a bare physician is sued, it is almost a given that they will be approached by the plaintiff’s attorney with

an offer of settlement at some point during the litigation. The attorney will usually offer the bare physician an offer of settlement whereby the plaintiff will not proceed with the case against the bare physician in exchange for the bare physician’s agreement to criticize the insured co-defendant physician in deposition or at trial. Refusing to do so subjects the bare physician to aggressive action by the plaintiff attorney and the potential for financial ruin.

The rising number of physicians electing to forego professional liability coverage increases your likelihood of participating in healthcare delivery with an uninsured colleague. New legislation designed to enforce financial responsibility of bare practitioners is unlikely to have any direct effect in terms of the risk of being sued. The fact of the matter is that an uninsured physician still faces the same chances of being sued as those who are insured. The issue for those insured is that of increased loss exposure. In terms of effective risk management, carefully consider the potential consequences of practicing along side those whose claim exposure you may ultimately be forced to underwrite.

Information in this article does not establish a standard of care, nor is it a substitute for legal advice. The information and suggestions contained here are generalized and may not apply to all practice situations. FPIC recommends you obtain legal advice from a qualified attorney for a more specific application to your practice. This information should be used as a reference guide only.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

The Florida Society of
Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons:
www.fstcs.org

Society of Thoracic Surgeons:
www.sts.org

American College of Surgeons
www.facs.org

The Cardiothoracic Surgery Network
www.ctsnet.org



CODING QUESTIONS?

American College of Surgeons
Coding Hotline
800-227-7911

STS/AATS Coding Hotline
720-946-4817



Have your membership numbers
ready when calling.

FSTCS MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to apply for membership in the Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons. Application forms may be obtained by contacting Bridget Anderson in the Society office; (904) 683-8200 or fstcs@comcast.net or on the Society's NEW website www.fstcs.org Please send your application with the \$50.00 application fee to:

Membership Committee Chairman
Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons
5101 Ortega Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Application deadline is December 15, 2004. Applicants for active and associate membership will be presented for consideration to the council at the 2005 Annual Meeting; February 17 – 20, 2005. Dues are payable upon notification of acceptance.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Qualifications:**
1. Certification by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery
 2. Established in the practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery for a minimum of two (2) years in the state of Florida.
 3. Provide names of 2 current FSTCS Members outside your own group practice as references.

Dues: Annual Dues will be \$250.00 per Active Member

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Qualifications:**
1. Have completed training in an approved thoracic and cardiovascular residency program
 2. Are in the process of acquiring certification
 3. Are licensed to practice in the State of Florida.
 4. Provide names of 2 Current FSTCS Members outside their own group practice as references.

Dues: Annual Dues will be \$200.00 per Associate Member

*****NEW*** ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

- Qualifications:**
1. Any allied health professional that is employed in the field of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery in the State of Florida
(i.e. – Administrators, Billing Managers, P.A.'s and Nurses.)
 2. Nomination by an Active member of the Society.

Dues: Annual Dues will be \$50.00 per AHP Member

FSTCS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Richard C. Morrison, M.D. – Tampa

Charles Patrick Murrah, M.D. – Tallahassee

John Ofenloch, MD – Clearwater

Roy F. Williams, MD - Miami



Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Active _____ Associate _____

(Please Type or Print)

NAME _____ PHONE _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

OFFICE ADDRESS _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
(Street)

(City, State and Zip) FAX _____

YOU MUST BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS TO BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY. IF NOT, YOU MAY APPLY FOR AN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____ SPOUSE NAME _____

PREMEDICAL EDUCATION (with dates) _____

MEDICAL EDUCATION (with dates) _____

INTERNSHIP (with dates) _____

RESIDENCY / Other Graduate Training (with dates) _____

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE (since residency) _____

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS:	Date of Certificate	Certificate Number
American Board of Surgery	_____	_____
Board of Thoracic Surgery	_____	_____
Royal College of Surgeons	_____	_____
Other Professional Memberships:	_____	_____

Date licensed to practice in Florida (Must be at least 2 years for Active Membership): _____

List two FSTCS Members outside your own group who will provide references for this application: _____

(1) _____

(2) _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____

PLEASE RETURN WITH \$50 APPLICATION FEE TO:
Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons
5101 Ortega Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32210
(904) 683-8200 / FAX (904) 619-0642

HERE TODAY!



GONE TOMORROW!

Many non-traditional insurance entities are now offering professional liability insurance in Florida. Many of these companies could be gone in an instant. FPIC has stood the test of time. Since 1975, we have been protecting physicians' reputations and personal assets. You need to be insured with a carrier you can depend on to be here when you actually need them.

FPIC is endorsed by the Florida Medical Association
and the Florida Dental Association



First Professionals Insurance Company

800-741-3742

1000 Riverside Avenue, Suite 800 • Jacksonville, FL 32204 • www.medmal.com

The Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons News

The Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons newsletter is published periodically and mailed to members of the Society.

T. Peter Downing, M.D., President
J. Crayton Pruitt, Jr., M.D., Secretary/Treasurer
Bridget H. Anderson, Administrator

Address Correspondence to:
FSTCS Newsletter
c/o 5101 Ortega Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Phone: (904) 683-8200
Fax: (904) 619-0642
E-mail: fstcs@comcast.net
Website: www.fstcs.org

Mark Your Calendar with these Important Dates

July 8 – 10, 2005
2005 FSTCS Summer Family Retreat
Ocean Reef Club – Key Largo, FL

February 24 – 26, 2006
2006 FSTCS Annual Meeting
PGA National Resort & Spa
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

FSTCS
5101 Ortega Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32210