Funding Research and Education Today to Improve the Practice of Tomorrow
TSFRE supports research and education initiatives to: increase knowledge and enhance treatment of patients with thoracic diseases; develop the skills of thoracic surgeons as surgeon-scientists and health policy leaders; and strengthen society’s understanding and trust in the profession.
THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF TSFRE:

The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE) was established in 1992 by the four leading thoracic surgery societies: the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), the oldest national thoracic organization; the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), the largest national thoracic organization; the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. Representatives from each of these organizations serve on the TSFRE Board of Directors and each organization provides annual financial support to TSFRE. The TSFRE represents all of thoracic surgery in the United States and its research and education initiatives support the broad spectrum of thoracic surgery.

THE MISSION OF THE TSFRE IS TWO-FOLD:

Increase knowledge and improve the care of patients with thoracic disease

To nurture the development of the surgeon-scientist

The specialty and TSFRE remain committed to research, recognizing that it is today’s research that is the practice of tomorrow. Without the thousands of research hours and millions of dollars, new surgical techniques and today’s miracle drugs would remain undiscovered. Hundreds of thousands of lives would be adversely affected.

Thoracic surgeons, indeed all surgeons, face a changing health care system. TSFRE recognizes that education plays a vital role in the future of our specialty. Thus, TSFRE has developed new initiatives that will support thoracic surgeons in acquiring the transdisciplinary skills necessary for success in the years and decades ahead, developing new training programs that will utilize simulation activities for thoracic surgery and creating an emphasis on patient safety within the specialty.

The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE) is the focal point for research and education programs and projects within cardiothoracic surgery. TSFRE insures that research and education, the foundations for progress within the medical specialty, remain at the forefront and that innovative, new endeavors receive the support and commitment necessary to advance thoracic surgery in future years.
THORACIC SURGERY FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

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The pages of this report contain the names of hundreds of surgeons, corporate supporters, patients and friends who have invested in the future of cardiothoracic surgery by supporting the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE). On behalf of those surgeons who have benefited from TSFRE’s research and educational programs and the multitude of patients who will ultimately benefit from the programs, I would like to say thank you for your generous support.

TSFRE was established in 1992 by the four leading American thoracic surgical associations, AATS, STS, WTSA and STSA, to respond to the decrease in research funding from the federal government and institutions for education and research in thoracic surgery. Fourteen years later, these challenges continue.

How does thoracic surgery grow and thrive in an area of regulation and capitation? How can we expect significant innovation and progress with reduced funds and increased competition for research funding? How does the entire profession keep pace with high-speed changes in technology while retraining ourselves to be current? How do we provide for specialized continuing education? We do so by investing our energy and dollars in the future of our specialty now. The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education is our foundation and the lifeblood of our specialty. It will depend on us to be informed, to fund the research to support our fellow surgeons and our ability to embrace new technology and learn its application.

Over the past several years, TSFRE has become a pivotal force for the growth and vitality of our specialty and its role is increasing, particularly in the areas of research, academic career development and postgraduate education. The efforts of our supporters — through donations or networking — will impact the future of cardiothoracic surgery and the welfare of our patients.

Thank you.

Lawrence H. Cohn, MD
President, Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education
RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Since its inception, TSFRE has awarded and administered over $7,000,000 in research grants, fellowships and career development awards for thoracic surgeons. Awards are made after a rigorous examination of applications by the TSFRE Research Committee, composed of outstanding research surgeon-scientists.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDS
Support of up to $35,000 per year for up to two years for surgical residents who have not yet completed cardiothoracic surgical training.

RESEARCH GRANTS
Operational support of original research efforts by cardiothoracic surgeons who have completed their formal training and who are seeking initial support and recognition for their research program. Awards of up to $30,000 a year for up to two years are made each year to support the work of an early-career cardiothoracic surgeon (within five years of first faculty appointment).

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
Salary support of up to $50,000 a year for up to two years for applicants who have completed their residency training and who wish to pursue investigative careers in cardiothoracic surgery.

NINA STARR BRAUNWALD CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
Provides a biennial award of $100,000 for two years to support the research career development of a woman cardiac surgeon who holds a full-time faculty appointment and who is within ten years of completion of thoracic surgery residency.

TSFRE has formed valuable partnerships with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Cancer Institute to offer K08 and K23 awards. Through this partnership, the Foundation is able to increase the dollars available to support cardiothoracic research.

NATIONAL HEART, LUNG AND BLOOD INSTITUTE - K08 & K23 AWARDS
Support to outstanding clinician research scientists who are committed to a career in cardiothoracic surgery research and have the potential to develop into independent investigators. The award is $150,000 per year ($75,000 from TSFRE and $75,000 from NHLBI) plus $25,000 indirect support from NHLBI and supports a three, four or five year period of didactic training and supervised research experience.

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE - K08 & K23 AWARDS
Provides support to outstanding clinically trained professionals who are committed to a career in laboratory or field-based research and have the potential to develop into independent investigators. The award is $150,000 per year ($75,000 from TSFRE and $75,000 from NCI) plus $30,000 indirect support from the NCI and supports a five year period of supervised research that integrates didactic studies with laboratory or clinically-based research.
During the past two years, the NIH NHLBI/Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education jointly sponsored Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award has provided an outstanding research and career development opportunity. This award has provided significant support for research into angiogenic and regenerative approaches to treating heart failure. The work has been presented at meetings including the AATS, STS, and AHA. Thus far, four manuscripts have been published and three more have been accepted detailing the research supported by this award.

This grant has also been instrumental in the application for and receipt of additional grant funding from foundations such as the American Heart Association and from industry. The research supported by this award has been compiled into the preliminary data for an NIH R01 application recently submitted to NHLBI. This award has also supported diverse early career development initiatives such as coursework in molecular biology, cell biology, and control of gene expression as well as participation in symposia such as the AATS series on development of the academic surgeon. The overall impact of this grant award on my career cannot be overstated. It has been highly significant and is greatly appreciated.
RESEARCH OVERVIEW

2006 Awardees

TSFRE Research Fellowships

William E. Stansfield, MD  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
“Molecular Characterization of Left Ventricular Hypertrophy Regression”

Samuel S. Kim, MD  
University of Pennsylvania Hospital
“The Role of B-Cell Depletion in Augmenting the Immunotherapy”

TSFRE Career Development Awards

Amit N. Patel, MD  
University of Pittsburgh
“Autologous Stem Cell Treatment for Heart Failure”

TSFRE NHLBI K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award

Shahab A. Akhter, MD  
University of Cincinnati
“Myocardial Regulation of BARK 1 by Protein Kinase C”

Michael J. Mann, MD  
University of California, San Francisco
“The Role of S1P Signaling in Surgical Cardiac Remodeling”

Daniel Kreisel, MD  
Washington University
“Vascular Endothelium Directs the Development of Regulatory T Cells”

“As I study the application of heat shock proteins in heart failure I only hope a fraction of the knowledge and work habits of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald and Dr. Pedro del Nido have been instilled in me and will enable me to launch to the next level. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of the Nina Starr Braunwald Research Grant.”

- Barbara Robinson, MD
It has been an honor to have been selected for the highly coveted and competitive Nina Starr Braunwald Research Grant. For me, this award has embodied the spirit of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, as described to me by her husband, Dr. Eugene Braunwald, namely, the spirit of pursuing clinically relevant research under excellent mentorship.

In this vein, the Nina Starr Braunwald Research Grant has given me the opportunity to transition from research I had done as a general surgery resident on heat stress protein70i induction and myocardial protection, to currently investigating their mechanisms of protection as well as novel pharmacologic methods of induction, eventually for potential study in pathological conditions such as heart failure.

In order to study this, I have been fortunate to have received guidance and inspiration under the tutelage of Dr. Pedro del Nido at Children’s Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School. Towards the mission of the Nina Starr Braunwald fellowship, Dr. del Nido has shown particular consideration of my professional development, emphasizing the general strategy of turning a concept into a solid research plan by developing a model, generating data, giving presentations, establishing new collaborations, improving time management, and eventually publishing.

continued on page 11
The dissemination of new knowledge about cardiothoracic medicine and providing surgeons with the capability to implement this new knowledge and skills is a critical element to the progress of our specialty. TSFRE enables surgeons to constantly refine and improve their skills as physicians, surgeons and leaders in medicine.

TSFRE offers a variety of educational programming. Most notably, the Health Policy Leadership Program offered in the past in partnership with Harvard University and more recently with Brandeis University. This initiative provides a comprehensive, weeklong program that focuses on the changing nature of the nation’s health care system, its management and how physicians can impact that system.

Recently, the TSFRE Education Committee analyzed the present and future needs of cardiothoracic surgeons and the cardiothoracic community in an effort to identify future initiatives and expand our educational focus. The Education Committee envisioned how thoracic surgery education is likely to evolve over the next 10 to 15 years and beyond, and developed a comprehensive plan for ensuring that the specialty has in place the educational infrastructure and resources needed to best serve patients as the art and practice of the specialty advance over time.

The study had two overarching priority recommendations: (1) initiatives that advanced the use of simulation as an essential and integral platform for education, certification, and new technology adoption within the specialty; (2) the development of programs that will allow thoracic surgeons to acquire new “transdisciplinary” skills necessary for surgery in the future.

“The TSFRE relies directly on the generosity from within our specialty to accomplish its lofty goals, and a donation to the Foundation gives you the unique opportunity to impact both the present and future of thoracic surgery.”

- Theodore C. Koutlas, M.D.
Aside from the academic aspect of development of my own guided and independent research, Dr. del Nido has provided a marvelous example of balancing multiple demands on top of his own research, teaching me aspects of laboratory leadership, strategies for optimal funding and financial support, time management, and establishing collaborations, to also include teaching, administrative tasks, and clinical responsibilities, to which I aspire. He continues to teach me the importance of character, integrity, vision, passion, credibility, empowerment, insight, humility, emotional intelligence and positive self-esteem. Qualities that I have personally have found helpful in him as a mentor have been his accessibility, open-minded, consistency, honesty and savvy, the encouragement of individual thinking and creativity, as well providing networking opportunities.

This time period has allowed me to trust my own instincts as a clinician scientist further than ever before. With the constant encouragement of Dr. del Nido and the support of the Nina Starr Braunwald Research Grant, this combination of attaining highest goals as surgeon-clinician as well as surgeon-scientist has been a dream come true. I hope the data I have generated from these experiments thus far can serve as preliminary data for future grant applications. As I study the application of heat shock proteins in heart failure I only hope a fraction of the knowledge and work habits of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald and Dr. Pedro del Nido have been instilled in me and will enable me to launch to the next level. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of the Nina Starr Braunwald Research Grant. I sincerely thank you.
SIMULATION EDUCATION WITHIN THORACIC SURGERY

The TSFRE believes that cardiothoracic surgery is an ideal specialty to demonstrate and evaluate the use of advanced simulation and other innovative approaches to quality and safety as a model for other highly technical medical specialties. Simulation has had a tremendously positive impact on education and certification in other areas of human activity where teams interact with technology in high risk environments, the best known of which is aviation. The advantages of simulation include the ability to compress in a short but intense period of training a range of education and certification experiences, and to achieve this benefit at lower cost than with other training processes with no risk to patients. In addition to facilitating the acquisition of cognitive and technical skills related directly to technical procedures, the simulator is also the place where human factors and teamwork skills are taught, practiced and evaluated.

TSFRE will host a Visioning Simulation Conference to bring together leaders of the specialty with invited simulation experts and others who would be interested in helping to create a strategic plan for the initiative. The conference will be held at the Center for Simulation in Cambridge, Massachusetts in early 2007. Invited participants will include an array of leaders from thoracic surgery societies and associations, interested government agencies, potential funders from the private foundation community, leaders in simulation education and others. The conference will provide a forum for interested parties to allow for a shared vision regarding the development and use of simulation in thoracic surgical education and certification.

How does the entire profession keep pace with high-speed changes in technology while retraining ourselves to be current? How do we provide for specialized continuing education? We do so by investing our energy and dollars in the future of our specialty now.

- Lawrence H. Cohn, M.D.
ALLEY-SHERIDAN AWARDS

In 2006, TSFRE offered partial scholarships to seven attendees of the Brandeis University, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management Course. This intensive one-week program trains clinical leaders in health care policy and management. It aims to provide health care professionals with the skills essential to creating innovative and sustainable solutions to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of health care delivery.

The program includes sessions offering the latest in national and state health policy, along with business theories and frameworks adapted to the challenges of health care management. Program curriculum and content is developed under the guidance of Stuart Altman, PhD, Dean of the Heller School and Sol C Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy.

2006 RECIPIENTS

Marcelo Cardarelli, MD
University of Maryland Medical Center

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Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Alfredo Rego, MD, PhD
Aventura Cardiovascular Surgeons, LLC

Forrest Rubenstein, MD
Louisiana State University

Thomas Schwann, MD
St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center

Daniel Swistel, MD, FACS
St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital

Stephen Yang, MD
Johns Hopkins Hospital

Theodore C. Koutlas, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Brody School of Medicine
East Carolina University

As one of the 137 recipients of the Alley-Sheridan Award, I had the privilege of attending the course on Health Care Finance and Policy given at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. This course, organized by thoracic surgeons, has given many of us the skills and knowledge to assume leadership roles in the delivery of health care within our practices, communities, and even on a national level. As our specialty faces a particularly disconcerted future, we have the comfort of this experience to help keep thoracic surgery at the leading edge of health care in this country.

The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education funds a variety of programs and scholarships which benefit surgeons from all areas of our specialty, at all stages of their career. The TSFRE relies directly on the generosity from within our specialty to accomplish its lofty goals, and a donation to the Foundation gives you the unique opportunity to impact both the present and future of thoracic surgery. The many advancements in research and education funded by the TSFRE help assure that the best and brightest young physicians will continue to choose a career in thoracic surgery.
TSFRE has become a pivotal force for the growth and vitality of our specialty and its role is increasing, particularly in the areas of research, academic career development and postgraduate education. The efforts of our supporters — through donations or networking — will impact the future of cardiothoracic surgery and the welfare of our patients.

– Lawrence H. Cohn, M.D.
REVENUES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

Surgeon Contributions .................. $327,059
Society & Corporate Contributions .... $247,425
Investment Income ......................... $403,651

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

Research ........................................ $1,061,184
Education ....................................... $161,944
Administrative ............................... $347,374
Development ................................. $105,392
WHY GIVE?

The combination of research and new technology, which go hand-in-hand, have advanced the capabilities of thoracic surgeons dramatically over the past two decades. Today, thoracic surgeons can very successfully treat diseases and medical conditions that were a short time ago deemed untreatable. The financial resources that made these advances possible were most often large private organizations or federal agencies. Within our specialty clinical work supported the bulk of research.

Our changing health care environment and radical transformation within industry have, quite frankly, diminished those traditional sources of funds. Research and training opportunities for young, talented surgeon-scientists have been sharply curtailed.

The specialty and the TSFRE remain committed to research, recognizing that it is today’s research that is the practice of tomorrow. Without the thousands of research hours and millions of dollars, new surgical techniques and today’s miracle drugs would remain undiscovered. Hundreds of thousands of lives would be adversely affected.

The results of thoracic research ultimately reduce the toll of thoracic diseases and defects. Given the pervasiveness of cardiovascular diseases and lung cancer, today’s research has the potential to improve millions of lives tomorrow. The TSFRE’s partnerships with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Cancer Institute are critically important initiatives to further our knowledge and capabilities against these diseases, while strongly supporting very talented surgeon-scientists within the specialty.

Further, thoracic surgeons, indeed all surgeons, face a changing health care system. The TSFRE recognizes that education plays a vital role in the future of our specialty. Thus, the TSFRE will continue to support thoracic surgeons in acquiring the transdisciplinary skills necessary for success in the years and decades ahead, develop new training programs that will utilize simulation activities for thoracic surgery, and create an emphasis on patient safety within the specialty. The TSFRE will also remain active in assuring that thoracic surgeons continue to develop the skills necessary to remain in the forefront as health care policy leaders.

The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education is an organization that will continue to steer the future of thoracic surgery through the sponsorship of surgical research and the education of surgeons in health care policy. TSFRE is your foundation for the future; by supporting TSFRE you are investing in the future of our specialty now.
GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Because TSFRE is a charitable organization with IRS 501 (c)(3) classification, your gift to TSFRE qualifies as a tax deduction. For some, an outright gift of cash, securities, or other property is the best means of contributing. Other giving options are outlined as follows:

GIFTS OF CASH
An outright gift of cash is the simplest method of giving. It is not subject to gift or estate taxes. You may be able to deduct the gift amount from your taxable gross income.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES OR REAL ESTATE*
A tax-wise gift of stock or real estate can provide generous support for the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education. Almost any type of real property — a personal residence, a farm, a vacation home, a commercial building, or a parcel of land — can constitute a gift. Gifts of securities or real estate are tax deductible and free of capital gains tax.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS
Perhaps you would like to make a significant gift to TSFRE right now but believe that you cannot because you need the income your assets earn. If so, you may want to consider a "life income gift". A life income gift allows you to donate, yet retain life income for yourself and another, if you wish. These gifts frequently increase your income, save income tax, capital gains and estate tax, and also benefit TSFRE.

BEQUESTS
You may wish to make a gift to TSFRE by utilizing one of the easiest, most frequently used methods — a bequest in your Will. Tax laws favor bequests, and consequently, they are an excellent way to provide support. If you would like to make a pledge or receive more information about giving to TSFRE, please complete and return the form included in this report, visit www.tsfre.org or call the Executive Director of The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education at 978-927-8330.

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.TSFRE.ORG

*This information is not intended as specific legal or tax advice. Consult an attorney when planning for gift and estate giving. State and federal laws, which govern wills and contracts, vary and are subject to change.
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