Third International Biennial Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Summit

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The proceedings from the Third International Biennial Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Summit held at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School on October 7 and 8, 2011, are presented in the following pages of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. This is the third summit that showcases the world's leading experts in the field of minimally invasive thoracic surgery and thoracic disease. The aim was to present the current state of the art and provide insight using the expert's own experience and data, and also to project where the field is heading. Once again, we had a superb attendance with over 250 registrants from more than 20 countries.

The papers that follow discuss a range of topics. For lung cancer: The breakthrough in computed tomography screening, innovative new approaches to mediastinal lymph

nodes, molecular diagnosis, advances in minimally invasive resection, and adjuvant treatment. For esophageal disease: Improved outcomes and techniques for minimally invasive resection for cancer and complex benign disease and transoral treatment of gastroesophageal reflux. Other articles underscore the paradigm change in the education of thoracic surgeons and the adoption of new technology to advance our understanding and treatment of complex problems such as tracheomalacia and lymph node trafficking.

We are grateful to the editorial team from the *Journal* for the expertise in putting together this supplement, to Cine-Med for staging the meeting, and to Ethicon Endosurgery for the educational grant they provided to bring this unique collection of papers to our readership. We are confident that this information will lead to improved understanding and care of our patients with thoracic disease.

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