



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Lung, Esophageal Cancer Staging System Gets Update**

CHICAGO – The lung and esophageal cancer staging systems for determining how far a cancer has spread have changed. For the first time in more than 10 years, there is a new histological classification in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and advancements in the molecular evaluation to determine prognosis and personalize therapy. The spectrum of lung cancer is also changing and the histology, type of patients, and co-morbidities present issues that may alter surgical management.

During the General Thoracic Surgery Symposium, held during the STS 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, each of these components will be addressed, including their effect and impact on clinical practice. The specific measures and the current status and future plans of outcomes and quality research will also be presented, along with the means to optimize the quality of surgical management.

This symposium is of significant importance because of the serious threat lung cancer poses to the public. According to the Lung Cancer Alliance, lung cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States – one in every three cancer deaths. Lung cancer kills an average of 437 people a day, more than breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney and melanoma cancers combined. Non-small cell lung cancer is the most common type of lung cancer, making up nearly 80 percent of all cases.

The world's foremost experts on lung cancer will be gathering in Fort Lauderdale from Jan. 25-27 for the STS 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. For more information, visit [www.sts.org/annualmeeting](http://www.sts.org/annualmeeting).