

Information for

Prospective
Members



The Society of
Thoracic Surgeons

Thank you for your interest in
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons.
Our mission is to enhance the ability
of cardiothoracic surgeons to
provide the highest quality
patient care through education,
research and advocacy.

Representing more than 5,800 surgeons, researchers and allied health professionals in cardiothoracic surgery around the world, STS provides a broad range of opportunities and benefits to help you grow professionally and ultimately serve patients better.

To apply, first determine the category of membership for which you qualify. Then complete the appropriate application form from the inside front pocket and follow the application instructions. If the application forms are missing, you can obtain additional copies by visiting www.sts.org/membership or calling (312) 202-5800.

Please note, your application form and all related materials must be received by STS no later than October 15.

Join the ranks of the best and apply today.

STS Membership Benefits Include:

- A personalized certificate of membership (for Active, International, and Associate Members)
- Member listing in the online STS Membership Directory
- Opportunity to join leadership in developing and implementing programs to advance the interests of the specialty
- Information and opportunities for action on legislative and regulatory issues affecting the specialty
- Subscription to the Society's prestigious monthly journal, *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly newsletter, *STS News*
- Subscription to the *STS/AATS Coding Newsletter*
- Access to *Beltway Briefings*, the STS online e-newsletter with the latest regulatory and legislative information
- Online services through www.sts.org
- Access to the online cardiothoracic surgery network, www.ctsnet.org
- Discounted registration and travel to the Society's Annual Meeting
- Discounted registration for STS/AATS Tech-Con
- Discounted registration for STS Coding Workshops
- Discounted registration for new STS educational activities as they are developed
- Discounted participation in the STS National Database
- Discounted participation in STSCodingToday
- Networking with the largest group of cardiothoracic surgeons worldwide

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) is the world's largest cardiothoracic surgical organization. Members of STS include a significant majority of all board certified cardiothoracic surgeons in the United States and Canada, as well as many prominent cardiothoracic surgeons from around the world.

The objectives of the Society include: improving the quality and practice of thoracic surgery as a specialty; promoting the professional and educational development of surgeons, researchers and allied health professionals specializing in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and encouraging, representing, and sponsoring those who have entered this field; providing a forum and publication for scientific presentations and discussions; promoting and supporting basic standards in the education programs of cardiothoracic surgery; and encouraging basic and clinical research in the field of cardiothoracic surgery.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons maintains six classifications of membership: Active, Candidate, International, Associate, Senior and Honorary. (Applications are available for the first four classifications of STS membership.) Note: All applicants must be approved by a vote of the STS membership. Applicants must possess ethical and moral fitness, as well as professional proficiency based, in part, on reports from members consulted as references, reports from other references and other information.

Active Membership

Active Membership is for those surgeons certified in the United States and Canada in the field of cardiothoracic surgery. An applicant for Active Membership must be certified in cardiothoracic surgery by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, or the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada or its equivalency.

Candidate Membership

Candidate Membership is for residents who are matched or enrolled in a cardiothoracic surgery education program accredited by the Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery under the authority of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; a program approved for thoracic surgery education by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery; or a program approved for cardiothoracic surgery education by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada or its equivalency. Individuals who have completed their education in one of the above programs and are in the process of acquiring certification in cardiothoracic surgery by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery

in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, or the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada also are eligible to apply for Candidate Membership. In addition, any individual outside the United States and Canada who is enrolled in an accredited or otherwise recognized thoracic surgery educational program may apply for Candidate Membership.

International Membership

International Membership is for surgeons who have achieved appropriate certification or recognition of their achievements in cardiothoracic surgery in countries other than the United States or Canada, and who devote their professional efforts to the interests of the specialty.

Associate Membership

Associate Membership is for scientists at the doctorate level conducting research in the field of cardiothoracic surgery, physician assistants, perfusionists, nurses, nurse practitioners, practice administrators, data managers and other allied health care professionals who support and work directly with cardiothoracic surgeons.

Senior Membership

Any Active or International Member, upon reaching the age of sixty-seven years, automatically becomes a Senior Member. In addition, any Active or International Member sixty-one years of age or older, upon the submission of a declaration of retirement from employment in the field of medicine, may become a Senior Member.

Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership is for distinguished persons who have achieved prominence in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and who have contributed to its advancement.

Application Instructions

1. Applications may be completed using the provided forms or by downloading the appropriate application form from the STS Web site at www.sts.org/membership.
2. Check the appropriate box in the upper right hand corner to identify the category of membership for which the application is being made. Note: There is a separate application form for Associate Member applicants.
3. Complete all requested information on both sides of the form. Please print clearly and be sure to sign the application.
4. All applicants must include a current Curriculum Vitae and, if available, bibliography.
5. International Membership applicants may include additional supporting documents, as necessary, to demonstrate qualifications in the field of cardiothoracic surgery.
6. Mail the completed application to the Society Headquarters at the address on the back cover. All application materials including sponsor letters and Curriculum Vitae must be received at STS Headquarters by **October 15**. Please do not send a cover letter unless specifically requested to do so. Please do not use paper clips or staples.
7. Contact the individuals who will serve as sponsors for the application (see the following page). Instruct sponsors to send a letter of recommendation to the Society Headquarters at the address on the back cover. Sponsor letters must be received at STS Headquarters by **October 15**. It is recommended that applicants provide sponsors with a copy of their completed application.

Note to Members of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS):

STS and EACTS have agreed to an arrangement whereby EACTS members who became EACTS members prior to 2009 and who wish to join STS as International Members do not need to submit letters of sponsorship. A completed STS membership application form and CV are required.

Surgeons who become EACTS members in 2009 or later are required to submit all application materials, including 3 letters of sponsorship from Active or International Members of STS, a completed application form, and a CV.

EACTS members who are accepted for STS International Membership are not required to pay an initiation fee.

Any EACTS member still in training who became an EACTS member prior to 2009 and who wishes to apply for STS Candidate Membership is not required to submit a letter of confirmation from his or her training program chief. A completed STS membership application form and CV are required.

Any EACTS member in training who joins EACTS in 2009 or later is required to provide a letter of confirmation from his or her training program chief as well as a completed application form and a CV.

Guidelines on Sponsors and Letters of Recommendation

Candidate Membership applicants: Candidate Membership applicants must provide a letter of confirmation from the chief of their cardiothoracic surgery training program. The name and address of this individual should be entered on Line 1 under "Sponsors." No other sponsors are required.

Active and International Membership applicants: Letters of recommendation from three sponsors are required. Each sponsor should be an Active or International Member of the Society. It is recommended that the sponsor be a member under whom the applicant trained and should reside in or near the city in which the applicant practices. No more than one of these sponsors should be a partner or associate. Include the name and address of each of these individuals under "Sponsors" on the application.

The Membership Committee recognizes that due to variances in the geographical distribution of STS members, it may be necessary for some applicants to depart from these guidelines, particularly in rural areas and foreign countries. If this is the case, applicants should enclose a brief letter explaining the specific justification for varying from the guidelines.

Associate Membership applicants: Only one letter of sponsorship is required. The sponsor should be an Active or International Member of the Society. Include the name and address of the individual under "Sponsor" on the application.

Review of Applications

Society staff will conduct a preliminary review of all applications to ensure that the minimum requirements for membership set forth in the Bylaws have been met and all required elements of the application have been received.

In the fall, all completed applications will be sent to the Membership Committee for a thorough review. The Committee may request additional information and/or clarification of certain aspects of your application or practice.

The Committee's recommendations will be distributed to the full membership for its review and comment at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting. After approval by the STS Board of Directors, all applicants will be considered by the entire membership during the Annual Business Meeting.

For more detailed information on the review process, please refer to those sections of the STS Bylaws that address membership (see back inside cover). Bylaws are posted on the About STS Section of the STS Web site (www.sts.org).

Please note

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Registration materials for the Annual Meeting will be available in late fall. Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting but are not required to do so.
- Given the procedures outlined above, an applicant does not become a member of the Society until after the next Annual Meeting has begun. Therefore an applicant planning to attend that meeting should register as a non-member. Do not confuse Candidate (a category of membership) with the status of "applicant."

Fees

All members are invoiced annually. There is a one-time initiation fee for first-year Active, International and Associate Members. This initiation fee is waived for EACTS Members who become STS members and Candidate Members who become Active or International Members.

STS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Be sure to use the correct application form. Physicians should check the appropriate membership category in upper right hand corner of their application. Non-physicians should use the Associate Membership application form.
- Provide all requested information on BOTH sides of form.
- Sign application.
- Contact individuals who will act as sponsors. Instruct them to send letters of recommendation to STS Headquarters, 633 N. Saint Clair, #2320, Chicago, IL 60611, no later than **October 15**.
- Provide a copy of your Curriculum Vitae and bibliography.
- International Membership applicants should include additional supporting documentation to demonstrate qualifications in the field of thoracic surgery.
- Mail one copy of the completed application form, along with any accompanying material to:
STS Membership Committee
633 N. Saint Clair, #2320
Chicago, IL 60611

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MATERIALS MUST ARRIVE
NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15**