



The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

STS Facts

- Founded in 1964, [The Society of Thoracic Surgeons](#) is an international not-for-profit organization representing cardiothoracic surgeons, researchers, and other health care professionals who are part of the cardiothoracic surgery team. STS members are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.
- STS has approximately 7,200 members located in 90 countries.
- STS has approximately 60 employees and is headquartered in Chicago, with an additional office in Washington, DC.
- The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.
- The Society's core values are quality, innovation, professionalism, inclusiveness, and teamwork.
- The STS Annual Meeting is one of the largest cardiothoracic surgery meetings in the world. The 2016 STS 52nd Annual Meeting in Phoenix attracted more than 4,300 registrants from 63 countries, including more than 2,200 cardiothoracic surgery professionals.
- STS and the American Association for Thoracic Surgery jointly sponsor Tech-Con, an educational program on novel therapies and leading-edge technologies in cardiac and general thoracic surgery. Tech-Con, launched in 2002, was retooled in 2016 to include presentations on new devices and procedures that have yet to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, but could be available (with FDA approval) within 1-3 years from the time of presentation.
- STS offers educational opportunities throughout the year in the form of in-person and online courses, including the Annual Meeting Online, webinars, and podcasts. Educational topics focus on new and emerging technologies, surgical techniques, and management of patient care.
- The [STS National Database](#) was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and [patient safety](#) among cardiothoracic surgeons. The STS National Database has three components—Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, and Congenital Heart Surgery. Anesthesiology participation also is available within the Congenital Heart Surgery and Adult Cardiac Surgery Databases.
- The [STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database](#) is the world's premier clinical registry for cardiac surgery. The Database houses approximately 5.9 million surgical records and gathers information from more than 90% of the groups that perform cardiac surgery in the United States.
- Launched in 2011, the [STS Research Center](#) is a nationally recognized leader in outcomes research. The Center seeks to capitalize on the value of the STS National Database and other resources to provide scientific evidence and support cutting-edge research that ultimately helps cardiothoracic surgeons, government, industry, and other interested parties improve surgical outcomes and the quality of patient care.

- STS has partnered with the American College of Cardiology to create the [STS/ACC TVT Registry™](#), a data repository developed to track patient safety and real-world outcomes related to transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). The TVT Registry, which launched in December 2011, has since added mitral valve procedures. To date, more than 400 sites have entered more than 63,000 patient records.
- As a national leader in health care transparency and accountability, STS believes the public has a right to know the quality of surgical outcomes. To further this goal, the Society has established the [STS Public Reporting](#) initiative, which allows participants in the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database and the Congenital Heart Surgery Database to voluntarily publicly report their surgical outcomes.
- As a part of its public reporting initiative, the Society also collaborates with *Consumer Reports* to publish [performance outcomes data for bypass surgery and aortic valve replacement](#). By early 2017, *Consumer Reports* will publish outcomes data for combined aortic valve replacement plus coronary artery bypass grafting surgery, as well as for congenital heart surgery. Using this information, consumers can see how participating cardiac surgical groups compare with national benchmarks for overall performance, survival, complications, and other measures.
- [The Annals of Thoracic Surgery](#) is the official journal of STS and the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. It has a 5-year impact factor of 3.433.
- First published in 1965, *The Annals* is an international, peer-reviewed journal that provides original research in cardiothoracic surgery and related areas. This leading monthly journal annually receives more than 3,600 manuscripts for consideration and maintains rigorous acceptance standards under the leadership of Editor G. Alexander Patterson, MD.
- STS advocates for cardiothoracic surgery professionals, as well as their patients, to help ensure the best possible care. STS carries to Washington the message of what meaningful health care reform means for cardiothoracic surgery professionals and promotes policies aimed at improving quality and reducing health care costs.
- [STS-PAC](#) is the only political action committee in Washington that exclusively represents cardiothoracic surgeons.
- STS manages and provides staff support for six affiliate organizations, including its charitable arm—[The Thoracic Surgery Foundation](#):
 - [Cardiothoracic Surgery Network \(CTSNet\)](#)
 - [Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education](#)
 - [Southern Thoracic Surgical Association](#)
 - [Thoracic Surgery Directors Association](#)
 - [Women in Thoracic Surgery](#)
- In 2016, the Society launched a patient information website. [The Patient Guide to Heart, Lung, and Esophageal Surgery](#) is available in English and Spanish and provides easily understandable information, videos, and graphics on adult heart disease, pediatric and congenital heart disease, lung, esophageal, and other chest diseases, and heart and lung transplantation.