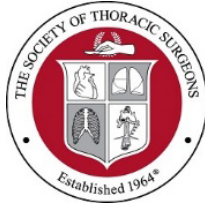


STS International Education Priorities - 2025

Latin and South America

1. Continue co-branded collaboration with EACTS and LACES on a live, cardiac standalone meeting in December in Latin America.
 - a. 2025: STS-run meeting in Lima, Peru
 - b. 2026: EACTS-run meeting, location TBD but with an eye toward the northern part of the region (Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico City, Colombia)
 - c. Continue to ensure there is congenital content on the program.
 - d. Work with EACTS and LACES to transfer more logistical and financial responsibility of the meeting to LACES, so that there is clarity regarding expectation of financial autonomy by 2030.
2. Further support for collaborative thoracic education.
 - a. Collaborate with ESTS, EACTS, and the Sociedad Española de Cirugía Torácica (SECT), and leading Latin and South American thoracic societies on a joint 1-day post-conference symposium at the May 2025 meeting of the Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Torácica (SBCT). The SBCT meeting is bi-annual, taking place in odd-numbered years.
 - b. Facilitate discussions with society partners in the region on formation of a pan-Latin/South American organization to elevate continental collaboration (similar to LACES).
 - c. Strategy for 2026 should be determined shortly after the 2025 SBCT meeting, in particular evaluating the efficacy of a potential standalone meeting in May, 2026 structured similar to the 2023 meeting.
3. Other areas of opportunity:
 - a. Continue support for the Latin Heart Rounds brand of webinars and live-streamed meeting sessions. Continue a broad focus on topics that include adult cardiac, thoracic and congenital topics.
 - b. Seek proposal ideas for joint/reciprocal annual meeting sessions with stakeholder societies, especially on thoracic or congenital topics. Note the STS 2026 Annual Meeting is in New Orleans, and 2027 meeting is in San Diego.



Asia-Pacific

1. Expand STS impact at the ASCVTS Annual Meeting (Singapore, spring 2025) by collaborating with EACTS on a multi-session workshop.
2. Evaluate outcome of the 2024 STS-ASCVTS Aortic Summit and recommend next steps.
3. Partner with KTCVS on a third iteration of the Heart Valve Disease Forum in 2025 Korea.
4. Other areas of opportunity:
 - a. Seek proposal ideas for development of 1-2 activities in support of thoracic or congenital education.
 - b. Seek proposal ideas for increased engagement with Chinese societies.

Europe

1. Continue reciprocal joint sessions with EACTS and ESTS at respective annual meetings.
2. Expand the presence of EACTS at the STS Coronary Conference with formal recognition and expansion of marketing and program planning support.
3. Work to expand awareness of the Cardiothoracic Surgery E-Book and increase institutional sales.

South Asia

1. Empower the newly created South Asia Education Task Force to develop 2 webinars in collaboration with the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons (IACTS) and other societies in the region.
2. Establish a regular meeting cadence for the Task Force and explore how best to build relationships with key stakeholders/societies in the region.
3. Seek proposal ideas for development of 1-2 future activities.

Middle East/Africa

1. Engage with European and Asian society partners in discussions about possible future projects.
2. Seek proposal ideas for development of 1-2 virtual activities.