ADVANCES IN **QUALITY** & **OUTCOMES:** *A Data Managers Meeting*

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2025 • SAN ANTONIO, TX

## AQO Program

**Course Description**

The 2025 Advances in Quality & Outcomes (AQO): A Data Managers Meeting features sessions for all four components of the STS National Database. This year's meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, and in San Antonio, Texas, from Thursday, September 25 – Friday, September 26, 2025. Data managers and surgeon leaders will come together to share valuable research and best practices with the goal of improving data collection and patient outcomes.

This meeting includes a virtual forum for Intermacs/Pedimacs attendees. Also, live sessions in San Antonio, Texas, for Adult Cardiac, Congenital Heart, and General Thoracic attendees. The program will have sessions at scheduled times and recorded programs that you can watch at your convenience.

Speakers will offer the latest information about the Database, including version upgrades and new features, as well as provide timely tips on improving data collection and abstraction. Plus, you can review e-posters, take part in a special networking event, and meet with industry representatives in the exhibit hall.

## Tuesday, Sept. 23, 9:15 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
## Intermacs/Pedimacs – Virtual Forum

This program will focus on the Intermacs Database and its Pedimacs component, reflecting changes in the scope of mechanical circulatory support device implants and patient management. Sessions are designed to help participants improve data collection and advance their registry coding skills, using a case-based learning format. This will be a virtual forum with the opportunity to interact with speakers and get your questions answered.

Moderators: Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN

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| **9:15 – 10 a.m.** | **Intermacs/Pedimacs New Data Managers**<br>Rebecca S. Harap, BSN, RN-BC, Kerry Schindler, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, Neelam Tejpal, MS, CCRP, Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN |
| **10 – 10:05 a.m.** | **Welcome**<br>Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN |
| **10:05 – 10:35 a.m.** | **Intermacs/Pedimacs High-Level Overview**<br>Francis D. Pagani, MD, PhD |
| **10:35 – 11:05 a.m.** | **Intermacs Patient Profile**<br>Francis D. Pagani, MD, PhD |

**11:05 – 12 p.m.**　　　**Preview of the Intermacs Adverse Event Revision**
Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN

**12 – 12:30 p.m.**　　　**Lunch Break**

**12:30 – 12:35 p.m.**　　**Presentation – Sherri Ann Wissman Memorial Excellence Award**
Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN

**12:35 – 1 p.m.**　　　**Platform Upgrade**
Rama Rudraraju, PhD

**1 – 1:30 p.m.**　　　**Utilizing Intermacs Data in Custom PowerBi Builds**
Rachel Wright BS, BSN, RN, Jodie Schmitz, MS, and Autumn Bivens, BS

**1:30 – 1:55 p.m.**　　**Intermacs/Pedimacs Dashboard – Kirklin Solutions**
Brandon A. Singletary, PhD, MPH

**1:55 – 2:20 p.m.**　　**Intermacs/Pedimacs Dashboard – User**
Kerry Schindler, MSN, RN, CCRN-K

**2:20 – 2:50 p.m.**　　**Break**

**2:50 – 3:20 p.m.**　　**Implant Form – How to Interpret the Operative Report for Submission**
Rebecca S. Harap, BSN, RN-BC

**3:20 – 3:45 p.m.**　　**Temporary Devices: RVAD, ECMO, Balloon Pump**
Jeffrey Teuteberg, MD

**3:45 – 4:10 p.m.**　　**How to Code Devices in the Intermacs/Pedimacs Database**
Sylvia M. Laudun, DNP, MBA, RN

**4:10 – 4:40 p.m.**　　**How to Use Intermacs Data for Quality Improvement at Your Site**
Sheena Lamon, BSN, RN

**4:40 – 5 p.m.**　　　**Intermacs Wrap-Up**
Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN

**5 p.m.**　　　　**Session Adjourns**

## On-Demand Content

**Lieve Data Download**
Devin Koehl, MS

**Tips & Tricks for Data Abstraction**
Tausha Vaseliades-Sidbury

**Practical Data Application**
John K. Pennington, MSHI

**How to Use Intermacs/Pedimacs Data for Joint Commission**
Sheila Bailey, BSN, RN

**Transfers**
Carmelita Runyan, MSN, RN-BC, CCRN

## Thursday, Sept. 25, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
## General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD) – Texas Ballroom Salon B

This program will focus on the GTSD, helping participants to improve data collection and advance registry coding skills. Sessions will use a case-based learning format.

Moderators: Leigh Ann Jones, BS, and Ruth Raleigh, BSN, RN

| Time | Session |
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| **7 – 8 a.m.** | **Breakfast in Texas Ballroom C** |
| **8 – 8:05 a.m.** | **Welcome**<br>Leigh Ann Jones, BS, and Ruth Raleigh, BSN, RN |
| **8:05 – 8:40 a.m.** | **Where We've Come From, Where We're Going**<br>Christopher W. Seder, MD |
| **8:40 – 9:15 a.m.** | **Pre-Operative Section – Version 5.26.1**<br>Andrew Feczko, MD, MA |
| **9:15 – 10 a.m.** | **Lung Cancer Section – Version 5.26.1**<br>Stephen R. Broderick, MD, MPHS, and Christopher W. Seder, MD |
| **10 – 10:30 a.m.** | **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer** |
| **10:30 – 11 a.m.** | **Esophageal Cancer Section – Version 5.26.1**<br>Onkar Khullar, MD, MSc |
| **11 – 11:30 a.m.** | **Lung Cancer & Esophageal Cancer Anatomy**<br>Andrew Feczko, MD, MA |
| **11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.** | **Lung Cancer & Esophageal Cancer Nodes**<br>Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS |
| **12 – 1 p.m.** | **Lunch in Texas Ballroom C** |
| **1 – 1:30 p.m.** | **Lung & Esophageal Cancer Histology**<br>Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS, and Ruth Raleigh, BSN, RN |
| **1:30 – 1:55 p.m.** | **Lung Cancer 101**<br>Christopher Towe, MD |
| **1:55 – 2:20 p.m.** | **Lung Cancer 101: Case Examples**<br>TBD Data Manager Speaker |
| **2:20 – 2:45 p.m.** | **Esophageal Cancer 101**<br>Justin Blasberg, MD |
| **2:45 – 3 p.m.** | **Esophageal Cancer 101: Case Examples**<br>Kellie Knabe, MSN, RN, CCRN |
| **3 – 3:30 p.m.** | **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer** |
| **3:30 – 3:50 p.m.** | **Post Op Complications – Version 5.26.1**<br>Matthew Inra, MD |

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| **3:50 – 4:20 p.m.** | **Post Op Complications: Case Examples**<br>Laura Shultz, BSN, RN |
| **4:20 – 5 p.m.** | **Abstract Presentations** |

**From Culture Shift to Clinical Success: A Multidisciplinary Strategy to Reduce Time to Extubation**
Maria Alcina Fonseca DNP, RN, MBA, CCRN, NE-BC and Taylor Hart, MSN, RN, CCRN-CSC

**Thoracic Surgery Quality Improvement Through Open Case Review Process**
Kelly Rubino, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CCRN, CPHQ

**Reducing Hospital Length of Stay Following Minimally Invasive Anatomic Lung Resection Through a Standardized Intervention Implementation: An Institutional Quality Initiative**
Kellie Knabe, MSN, RN, CCRN

**Nodal Confusion: Why auditing Pathologic N Stage Alone May Not Be Enough**
Mary Elise Hollenbeck, BSN, RN

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| **5 p.m.** | **Session Adjourns & Networking Reception**<br>Terrace on the 5<sup>th</sup> |

**On-Demand Content**

**Paraoesophageal Hernia**
David D. Shersher, MD

**Tracheal Resection**
Paul Schipper, MD

**Thymus Resection**
Elliot L. Servais, MD, FACS

**GTSD Audit**
William Burfeind Jr., MD

**GTSD Research**
Elizabeth David, MD

## Thursday, Sept. 25, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
## Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD) – Texas Ballroom Salon A

This program will focus on the CHSD, helping participants improve data collection and advance registry abstraction and coding skills. The sessions will use a case-based learning format.

Moderators: Leigh Ann Jones, BS, Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN

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| **7 – 8 a.m.** | **Breakfast in Texas Ballroom C** |
| **8 – 8:05 a.m.** | **Welcome** |

Leigh Ann Jones, BS, Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN

**8:05 – 8:35 a.m.**     **CHSD High-Level Overview**
James E. O'Brien, MD, FACS

**8:35 – 9:10 a.m.**     **Ventricular Assist Devices**
Ram Kumar Subramanyan, MD, PhD

**9:10 – 10 a.m.**     **Ventricular Assist Devices: A Complex Case**
Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN

**10 – 10:30 a.m.**     **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**

**10:30 – 11:10 a.m.**     **CHSD Research, Mortality/Morbidity/Length of Stay Model**
Constantine D. Mavroudis, MD, MSc, MTR

**11:10 – 11:35 a.m.**     **A Map to MAPCAs**
Subhadra Shshidharan, MBBS

**11:35 a.m. – 12 p.m.**     **A Map to MAPCAs: Case Scenarios**
Dawn Boughton, BSN, RN

**12 – 1 p.m.**     **Lunch in Texas Ballroom C**

**1 – 1:40 p.m.**     **General Education Review**
Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN

**1:40 – 2:15 p.m.**     **IQVIA Harvest Reports**
Cassandra Davidson, MHA, BSN, RN

**2:15 – 3 p.m.**     **CHSD Audit**
Christopher Mascio, MD

**3 – 3:30 p.m.**     **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**

**3:30 – 3:55 p.m.**     **Double Outlet Right Ventricle (DORV)**
David Overman, MD

**3:55 – 4:20 p.m.**     **Double Outlet Right Ventricle (DORV): Case Scenarios**
Ashley Dunser, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRN

**4:20 – 5 p.m.**     **How to Use CHSD Data in Real Time**
Rebecca Sam, MSN, RN, CPN, CCRN-K, and Carmen H. Watrin, MSN, RN

**5 p.m.**     **Session Adjourns & Networking Reception**
Terrace on the 5th

**On-Demand Content**

**CHSD Anesthesia**
Justin B. Long, MD

**What I Wish I Knew: A New Data Manager's Experience**
Robin Keyser

**Common Congenital Cardiac Conditions**
Rebecca Sam, MSN, RN, CPN, CCRN-K, Carmen H. Watrin, MSN, RN, and Ruth E. Lemus, BSN, RN

**Procedure Specific Factors**
Meena Nathan, MD, MPH, FRCS

**CHSD Audit: How to Get Ready, Trends, Pitfalls**
Angela Ebel, MSN, RN, and Diane Hersey, BSN, RN

## Friday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
## Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD) – Texas Ballroom A&B

This program will focus on the ACSD, offering updates on the scope of cardiothoracic surgery practice and helping participants improve data collection and advance registry abstraction and coding skills.

Moderators: Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Melinda Offer, MSN, RN

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| **7 – 8 a.m.** | **Breakfast in Texas Ballroom C** |
| **8 – 8:05 a.m.** | **Welcome**<br>Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Melinda Offer, MSN, RN |
| **8:05 – 8:45 a.m.** | **Adult Cardiac High-Level Overview**<br>Michael E. Bowdish, MD, MS |
| **8:45 – 9:20 a.m.** | **Valve Replacement or Repair after Transcatheter Valve Therapies**<br>Dawn Hui, MD |
| **9:20 – 10 a.m. Scenarios** | **Valve Replacement or Repair after Transcatheter Valve Therapies: Case**<br><br>Molly Whittenburg, BSN, RN, and Melinda Offer, MSN, RN |
| **10 – 10:30 a.m.** | **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer** |
| **10:30 – 11:15 a.m.** | **Aorta**<br>Karen Kim, MD, MS |
| **11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.** | **Aorta: Case Scenarios**<br>Kali Carroll, RN |
| **12 – 1 p.m.** | **Lunch in Texas Ballroom C** |
| **1 – 1:25 p.m.** | **Division of Responsibility: Data Manager vs. Surgeon Leader**<br>Erin McCabe, BSN, RN |
| **1:25 – 3 p.m.** | **Breakout Discussion Groups** |

*This content will not be recorded and is for in-person attendees only. There will be six topics to choose from, and we will rotate three times. Each breakout discussion will be for 30 minutes with five minutes to rotate between tables. Attendees will note their top three topics prior to the conference and will be provided with which table to start at when they check in at registration

**IRR: What It Is, Why We Do It, and How We Do It**
Keli Parker

**Pros and Cons: Concurrent vs Retrospective Data Abstraction**
Heather Homampour, MSN, RN

**Navigating US News and World Report and Other Reporting Agencies Accessing Your Data**
Judy Smith, RN

**Strategies to Effectively Train New Data Managers**
Meetali Mahendrakar, MBBS, MS, CCP

**Juggling Multiple Registries: ACSD and CHSD and TVT, Oh My!**
Nancy Satou, RN

**The Secret Sauce for Working with Data Abstraction Companies**
Alla Kaner, MSN, RN

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| 3 – 3:35 p.m. | **Breakout Discussion Reporting**<br>Keli Parker, Heather Homampour, MSN, RN, Judy Smith, RN, Meetali Mahendrakar, MBBS, MS, CCP, Nancy Satou, RN, and Alla Kaner, MSN, RN | |
| 3:35 – 4:05 p.m. | **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer** | |
| 4:05 – 4:40 p.m. | **Unfolding the Mysteries of Mitral Valve Procedures**<br>Robert L. Smith, MD | |
| 4:40 – 5:05 p.m. | **Unfolding the Mysteries of Mitral Valve Procedures: Case Scenarios**<br>Meetali Mahendrakar, MBBS, MS, CCP | |
| 5:05 – 5:30 p.m. | **2025 Dorothy Latham Poster Award Announcement, ACSD Wrap-Up, and Looking to the Future**<br>Dawn Hui, MD, and Carole Krohn, MPH, BSN, RN, LSSBG | |
| 5:30 p.m. | **Session Adjourns** | |

### On-Demand Content

**The Canadian Experience with the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database**
Nadia Clarizia, MD

**ACSD Audit: Lessons Learned**
Annie Kouchoukos, BSN, RN

**Mechanical Assist Device Overview**
Mani A. Daneshmand, MD

**Surgical Therapies for Atrial Fibrillation**
Alex Iribarne, MD, MS

**What Does the Future Hold for the Treatment of Structural Heart Disease?**
Yoshi Kaneko, MD

**30-Day Follow-Up: Tips and Tricks for Staying Off the 2% Missing List**
Alla Kaner, MSN, RN, and Carley Hanmer

## AQO Virtual Meeting Platform On-Demand Content

## General Session

**President's Remarks**
Joseph F. Sabik III, MD

**Principles of Effective Communication**
Ann Herold, RN

**CMS Updates**
Keith A. Horvath, MD

**How to Start a Quality Program at Your Hospital**
Kevin W. Lobdell, MD

**The Importance of the STS National Database from the Heart Team Perspective**
Vicki Morton

**Questions?**
- Elisa Robles-Gnet, Meetings and Conventions Manager, meetings@sts.org
- Emily Conrad, STS National Database Education Manager, econrad@sts.org

**Program may be subject to change**