



200 New Residency Slots Awarded to Hospitals Caring for Underserved Communities

On January 9, CMS announced the distribution of 200 Medicare-funded residency slots that were created as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. The additional residency slots were a policy priority of STS and heavily encouraged during its Advocacy Conference this past fall. These new slots are the first round of a proposed 1,000 positions, and most of this round focused on primary care and mental health specialties. [Learn more about the distribution of the residencies.](#)

STS Encourages Data Collection for FDA Medical Devices Proposed Rule

In response to a request for feedback on the *Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Medical Devices; Voluntary Total Product Life Cycle Advisory Program Pilot Proposed Rule*, STS submitted a letter supporting the development and use of data collection systems—such as the robust STS National Database—to help ensure that patients, providers, and the FDA can make decisions based on the best available clinical evidence. The Society strongly encouraged the use of physician-led clinical data registries to capture real-world data for evidence generation. [Read the letter.](#)

PAC Reception Celebrates Advocacy Efforts in 2022 and Beyond

During the STS-PAC Reception at STS 2023 in San Diego, Society leaders joined with donors to thank them for their support—and to celebrate the victories of cardiothoracic surgical advocates at all stages of their careers. STS-PAC is the Society's primary mechanism for influencing the policymaking process by supporting candidates who can help advance the Society's mission and help to ensure that cardiothoracic surgeons have a strong voice in Washington, D.C.



STS Endorses Tobacco-Free Kids Statement on Prohibiting Flavored Products

“We the undersigned support prohibiting the sale of menthol cigarettes, flavored e-cigarettes, flavored cigars and all other flavored tobacco products,” read a statement signed by STS and fellow organizations this month as part of the Tobacco-Free Kids campaign. Learn more about involvement and legislative victories at tobaccofreekids.org.

Attendees Contribute \$42.3K for Political Action at STS 2023

Also during the STS Annual Meeting, members and supporters donated more than \$42,000 to STS-PAC. These critical donations are used to support the political campaigns of members and candidates for Congress who support the Society’s legislative priorities and the cardiothoracic surgery specialty. Learn more, make your contribution, and track your donation history at pac.sts.org.



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