

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

Candidate Connection



What topics would you like to read about in the next issue of Candidate Connection? The Society would like your feedback and suggestions in order to provide you with the most relevant resources and information. Please send your feedback to communications@sts.org.

Trainees Receive Free Registration for STS 2021

The Society provides Candidate and Pre-Candidate Members with FREE registration to the [STS Annual Meeting](#), so make sure you [register today!](#) The first 1,000 registrants will receive an STS-branded fitness cooling towel. STS 2021 will be an interactive virtual meeting, January 29-31, offering a mix of on-demand and broadcast content. It will include prerecorded and live elements, panel discussions, attendee chat features, wellness and social events, and content developed specifically for residents. Most of the resident-focused programs will be on Sunday, January 31, and include a virtual luncheon, symposium, and social event. STS 2021 also will feature "[Immersive Video Experiences](#)" that will allow participants to get a 360° view of the operating room while a surgical luminary is performing a procedure. These luminaries include Drs. Joseph Bavaria, Robert Cerfolio, Vinod Thourani, Shanda Blackmon, and Joseph Dearani. Candidate and Pre-Candidate Members will be charged \$50 for an all-access pass to these immersive video sessions.



STS Launches Mentorship Program

Understanding that the path to becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon is challenging and complex, yet extremely rewarding, the Society has created a way to connect those seeking mentorship with seasoned surgeons who could help provide guidance and support. If you would like to participate in the [STS Mentorship Program](#), you can sign up via an easy-to-use portal. You'll be asked for your contact information and areas of interest. Once your information is received, it will take approximately 2-3 weeks to find a match. If you have questions about this new program, email mentorship@sts.org.

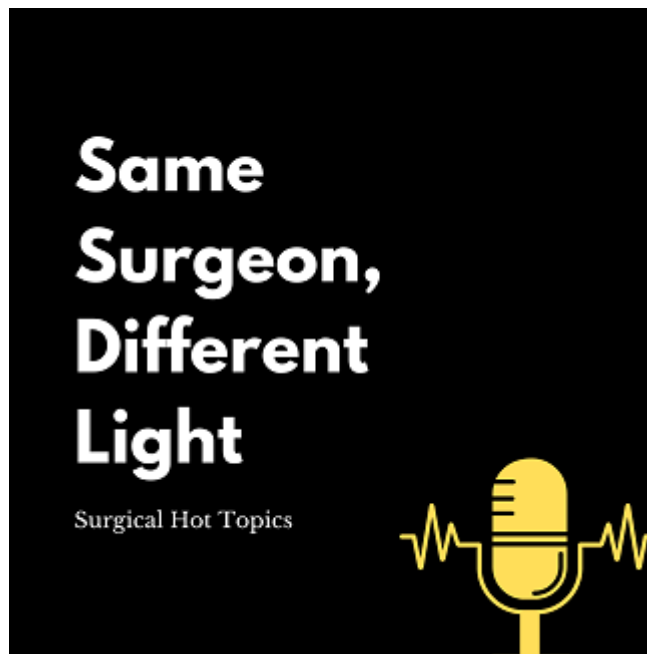
Articles Highlight Ways to Get Involved, Maximize Leadership Lessons

Cardiothoracic surgeons often are viewed as leaders, both inside and outside the operating room. But how do you get involved and hone your leadership skills? Two new articles recently were added to the [STS Career Development Blog page](#). Dr. Mara Antonoff offers advice on "[Getting Involved in Organizational Leadership: Why, When, and How](#)," while Dr. Joseph Phillips says that "leadership skills—like creating an anastomosis—take proper instruction and deliberate practice."

He provides tips in his article, "[Packing for Leadership Courses: What to Bring & What to Take Away.](#)"

New Podcast Episodes Provide Inside Look at Surgeon Leaders

Drs. Joanna Chikwe, Doug Mathisen, and Leah Backhus are the latest surgeons featured in the Society's new podcast series, "[Same Surgeon, Different Light.](#)" This series highlights the triumphs, personal obstacles, tradeoffs, and pivotal moments that have helped make these surgeons the leaders they are today. You can find the podcast on the Society's Surgical Hot Topics channel via your favorite podcast app. You also can [listen to the episodes](#) on the STS website.



Surgeon Offers Suggestions on Closing Gender Gap in the Specialty

[A recent editorial in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*](#) highlighted the differences between male and female cardiothoracic surgeons when it comes to career satisfaction, salary, educational debt, rates of burnout, and other factors. In

the latest installment of *In the News—A Surgeon's View*, "[Examining Gender Differences in CT Surgery: Is 'Good Money' the Same as 'Fair Money'?](#)," Dr. HelenMari Merritt-Genore explains what the findings mean for cardiothoracic surgery, provides her view on women in the specialty, and offers recommendations on how to close the gender gap.

Residents Urged to Start Advocating Now for the Specialty

Although you are early into your practice as a cardiothoracic surgeon, you can help shape policy that will affect your practice over the course of your entire career by becoming an [STS Key Contact](#). When lawmakers sit down with physicians from their home districts, they listen. Devastating cuts to Medicare reimbursement are on the horizon, which will negatively affect patient access to care. Dr. Joseph Dearani, STS President, has said that the biggest regret of his career was not getting involved in advocacy sooner. Learn more about how you can help by contacting the STS Government Relations team at advocacy@sts.org.

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