Do you have any colleagues who should be receiving *STS National Database News*? Fill out this form, and they will be added to the mailing list for future issues.

Experienced Data Managers Wanted for Mentorship Program

Mentees are waiting to be paired with mentors through the STS National Database mentorship program, which gives them the opportunity to learn data abstraction techniques. If you're an experienced data manager able to lend your time and talent to mentorship, learn more and apply to be a mentor today.

Get Ready for AQO 2021, October 12–15

The final days are fast approaching to register for Advances in Quality Outcomes (AQO): A Data Managers Meeting. Now is the time to make sure you've got a seat at the virtual table—registration is free for all STS National Database data managers. The program on Thursday, October 14, will be devoted entirely to the ACSD. View the detailed agenda, add a calendar reminder, and, if you haven't yet, register now.

Annals Article Highlights Importance of Echocardiography Data

Echocardiography use in patients undergoing cardiac surgery has a positive impact on postoperative outcomes, according to a new report that focuses on data in the ACSD. The article, "The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Adult Cardiac Surgery Database: 2021 Update on Echocardiography," describes and summarizes the type and rate of reporting of echocardiography-related variables in the ACSD, as well as explains the importance of collecting accurate and consistent echocardiography data. The article is available in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.

Mark Your Calendar for STS 2022

The STS 58th Annual Meeting will bring the cardiothoracic surgery specialty "Together Again" January 29–31, in Miami Beach, Florida. The live, in-person meeting will be augmented by a robust virtual component to ensure that attendees who can't travel can enjoy the experience from anywhere in the world. With 47 parallel sessions, 14 "Ask the Experts" sessions, four hands-on courses, four 360° "In

the OR With…" sessions, eight Deep Dive presentations, featured lectures, more than 220 electronic posters, and more, STS 2022 is a don't-miss event for cardiothoracic surgery professionals of every discipline and at every career level. Registration opens soon.
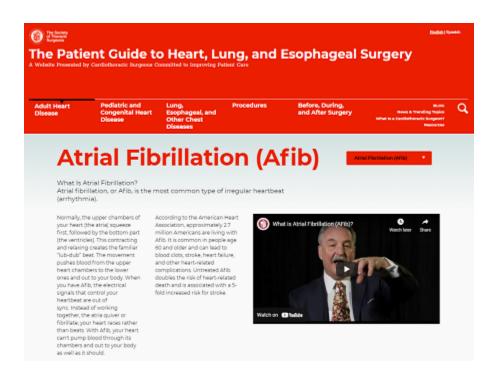

New Data Managers Webinar Offers Pearls for All ACSD Participants

Highly recommended for all ACSD data managers who have been abstracting STS data for up to 2 years—and encouraged for those who have more experience—the September 16 New Data Managers Webinar covers Database educational resources, data and software specifications, procedure identification, navigating data collection forms and the training manual, and more. Managers also are encouraged to catch up on monthly webinars and User Group calls, available on the STS ACSD Live Webinars playlist.
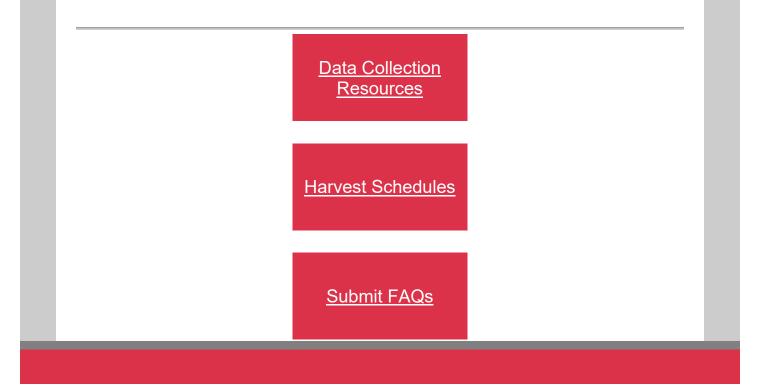

Help Patients Understand Afib

The STS patient information website, ctsurgerypatients.org, offers animations, videos, and easy-to-understand language to explain various cardiothoracic conditions and procedures. On the Atrial Fibrillation (Afib) page, patients can discover the causes and mechanisms behind different forms of Afib, learn about the treatments available to them, and watch videos describing important details about the condition. If you or your colleagues interact with patients at your institution, make sure to share this important resource—handouts are available for download in both English and Spanish. Contact Jennifer Bagley at jbagley@sts.org with feedback or questions about the patient website.

The Patient Guide to Heart, Lung, and Esophageal Surgery
A Website Presented by Cardiothoracic Surgeons Committed to Improving Patient Care

Atrial Fibrillation (Afib)

What Is Atrial Fibrillation?
Atrial fibrillation, or Afib, is the most common type of irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia).

Normally, the upper chambers of your heart (the atria) squeeze first, followed by the bottom part (the ventricles). This contracting and relaxing creates the familiar "lub-dub" beat. The movement pushes blood from the upper heart chambers to the lower ones and out to your body. When you have Afib, the electrical signals that control your heartbeat are out of sync. Instead of working together, the atria quiver or fibrillate; your heart races rather than beats. With Afib, your heart can't pump blood through its chambers and out to your body as well as it should.

According to the American Heart Association, approximately 2.7 million Americans are living with Afib. It is common in people age 60 and older and can lead to blood clots, stroke, heart failure, and other heart-related complications. Untreated Afib doubles the risk of heart-related death and is associated with a 5-fold increased risk for stroke.

Become an STS Member

Save on STS National Database participation fees with STS Membership! Find out [how to apply](#) today.

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