



# The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

## STS Facts

- Founded in 1964, [The Society of Thoracic Surgeons](#) is an international not-for-profit organization representing cardiothoracic surgeons, researchers, and other health care professionals who are part of the cardiothoracic surgery team. STS members are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.
- STS has more than 7,100 members in 90 countries.
- STS has more than 60 employees and is headquartered in Chicago, with an additional office in Washington, DC.
- The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.
- The Society's core values are quality, innovation, professionalism, inclusiveness, and teamwork.
- The STS Annual Meeting is one of the largest cardiothoracic surgery meetings in the world. The 2017 STS 53rd Annual Meeting in Houston attracted more than 4,100 registrants from 66 countries, including more than 2,100 cardiothoracic surgery professionals.
- Since 2002, STS and the American Association for Thoracic Surgery have jointly sponsored Tech-Con, an educational program on novel therapies and leading-edge technologies in cardiac and general thoracic surgery. Tech-Con includes presentations on new devices and procedures that have yet to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, but could be available (with FDA approval) within 1-3 years from the time of presentation. More than 900 cardiothoracic surgery professionals attended Tech-Con 2017.
- STS offers educational opportunities throughout the year in the form of in-person and online courses, including the Annual Meeting Online, webinars, and podcasts. Educational topics focus on new and emerging technologies, surgical techniques, and management of patient care.
- The [STS National Database](#) was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and patient safety among cardiothoracic surgeons. The Database has four components—Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Congenital Heart Surgery, and the Interagency Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (Intermacs) Database. Anesthesiology participation also is available within the Congenital Heart Surgery and Adult Cardiac Surgery Databases. The Database has participants in 11 countries, including the United States (all 50 states), Canada, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Israel, Italy, Singapore, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.
- The [STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database](#) is the world's premier clinical registry for cardiac surgery. The Database houses approximately 6.3 million surgical records and currently has more than 3,700 participating physicians, including surgeons and anesthesiologists, representing more than 90% of the groups that perform cardiac surgery in the United States.
- Launched in 2011, the [STS Research Center](#) is a nationally recognized leader in outcomes research. The Center seeks to capitalize on the value of the STS National Database and other resources to provide scientific evidence and support cutting-edge research that ultimately helps cardiothoracic surgeons, government, industry, and other interested parties improve surgical outcomes and the quality of patient care.

- STS has partnered with the American College of Cardiology to create the [STS/ACC TVT Registry™](#), a data repository developed to track patient safety and real-world outcomes related to transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). The TVT Registry, which launched in December 2011, has since added mitral valve procedures. To date, approximately 500 sites have entered more than 96,000 patient records.
- As a national leader in health care transparency and accountability, STS believes the public has a right to know the quality of surgical outcomes. To further this goal, the Society has established the [STS Public Reporting](#) initiative, which allows participants in the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database, the Congenital Heart Surgery Database, and the General Thoracic Surgery Database to voluntarily publicly report their surgical outcomes.
- As a part of its public reporting initiative, the Society also collaborates with *Consumer Reports* to publish performance outcomes data for bypass surgery and aortic valve replacement. In 2017, *Consumer Reports* will publish outcomes data for combined aortic valve replacement plus coronary artery bypass grafting surgery, as well as for congenital heart surgery. Using this information, consumers can see how participating cardiac surgical groups compare with national benchmarks for overall performance, survival, complications, and other measures. In addition, *U.S. News and World Report* offers STS public reporters credit when compiling rankings of best hospitals.
- [The Annals of Thoracic Surgery](#) is the official journal of STS and the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. It has an impact factor of 3.700.
- First published in 1965, *The Annals* is an international, peer-reviewed journal that provides original research in cardiothoracic surgery and related areas. This leading monthly journal annually receives approximately 3,600 manuscripts for consideration and maintains rigorous acceptance standards under the leadership of Editor G. Alexander Patterson, MD.
- STS advocates for cardiothoracic surgery professionals, as well as their patients, to help ensure the best possible care. STS carries to Washington the message of what meaningful health care reform means for cardiothoracic surgery professionals and promotes policies aimed at improving quality and reducing health care costs.
- [STS-PAC](#) is the only political action committee in Washington that exclusively represents cardiothoracic surgeons.
- STS provides administrative management services and staff support for five affiliate organizations, including its charitable arm—[The Thoracic Surgery Foundation](#):
  - [Cardiothoracic Surgery Network \(CTSNet\)](#)
  - [Southern Thoracic Surgical Association](#)
  - [Thoracic Surgery Directors Association](#)
  - [Women in Thoracic Surgery](#)
- In 2016, the Society launched a patient information website at [ctsurgerypatients.org](#). The Patient Guide to Heart, Lung, and Esophageal Surgery is available in English and [Spanish](#) and provides easily understandable information, videos, and graphics on adult heart disease, pediatric and congenital heart disease, lung, esophageal, and other chest diseases, and heart and lung transplantation.