

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

STS Advocacy Monthly

October 2016

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is pleased to present this issue of *STS Advocacy Monthly*, an e-newsletter with the latest and most important legislative and regulatory news relevant to cardiothoracic surgery. If you have comments or suggestions, please e-mail advocacy@sts.org.

STS Members Attend Fly-In & Congressional Briefing

Earlier this month, 20 STS members traveled to Washington, DC, and met with Congressional staff. During the course of 35 meetings, members urged lawmakers to protect reimbursement for life-saving lung cancer screenings and encouraged careful oversight of Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) implementation.

In conjunction with the Fly-In, the Society held its first-ever congressional briefing, "Clinical Data Registries and Alternative Payment Models." Congressional staffers, as well as Fly-In attendees, heard from STS Second Vice President & Secretary Keith S. Naunheim, MD, STS Past President Jeffrey B. Rich, MD, and Chair of the STS Council on Quality, Research, and Patient Safety David M. Shahian, MD about how the STS National Database can be utilized in Medicare physician payment reform.

- [View photos from the Fly-In and briefing](#)
- [Watch a video of the briefing](#)



STS members from Michigan participated in the Fly-In.

Even though the Fly-In is over, it's not too late to advocate on behalf of the specialty. E-mail advocacy@sts.org for information on hosting a site visit or meeting with legislators in their home offices.

Webinars to Help Physicians Understand MACRA

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a final rule detailing how MACRA will be implemented. STS is reviewing the document, and it appears that CMS has responded to many of the concerns expressed by physicians about the proposed rule issued last spring.

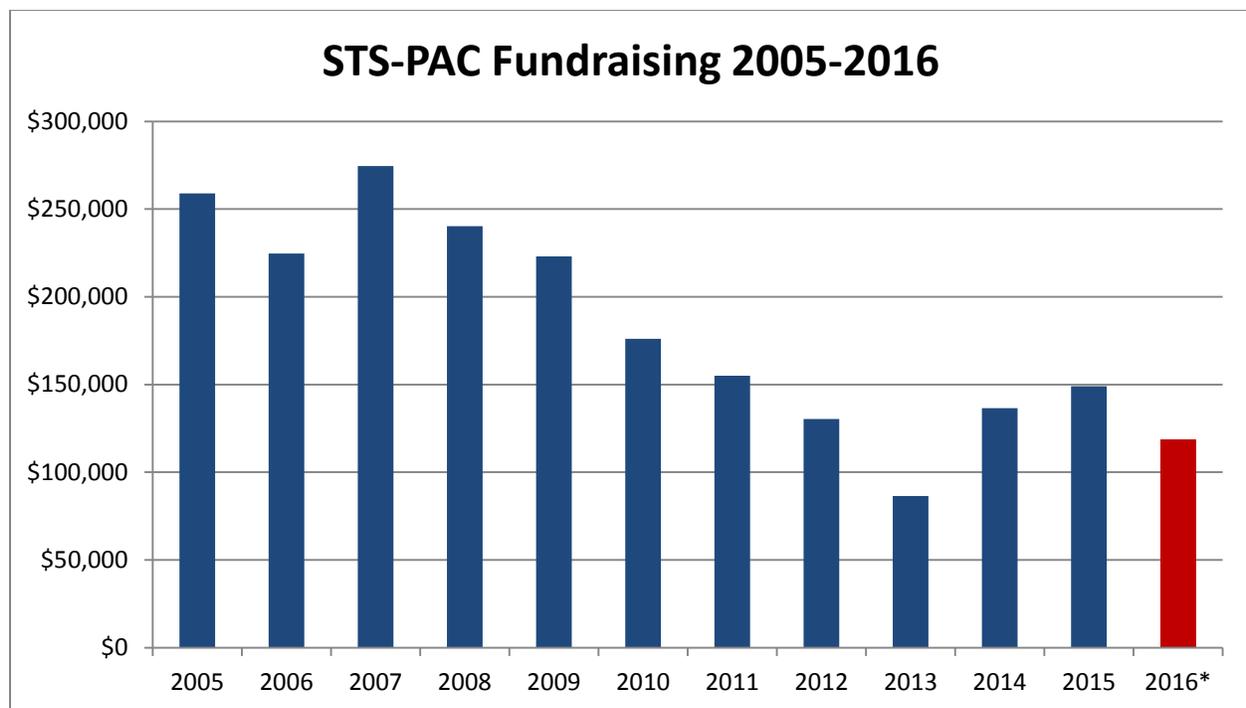
To assist physicians in understanding what the final rule means for their practice, the American Medical Association will host two webinars this fall. Register for the [November 21 session](#) or the [December 6 session](#).

STS Comments on Revised Heart Allocation Proposal

The Society [provided feedback](#) to the United Network for Organ Sharing on a revised proposal to modify the Adult Heart Allocation System. The goal of the proposal is to better stratify the most medically urgent heart transplant candidates, reflect the increased use of mechanical circulatory support devices (MCSD) and prevalence of MCSD complications, and address geographic disparities in access to donors among heart transplant candidates. This revised proposal addresses concerns about priority assignment and allocation that STS had noted in [a letter this past March](#).

Key Contact Connect Contribute to STS-PAC

One way STS Key Contacts can influence policy is through [STS-PAC](#), the only political action committee that exclusively represents cardiothoracic surgery. STS-PAC identifies and supports key lawmakers on Capitol Hill in a nonpartisan manner. STS-PAC is one of the best ways for the specialty to forge relationships with elected officials in Washington. A contribution to STS-PAC is an investment in the future of cardiothoracic surgery—[make your contribution today!](#)



*As of October 27, 2016

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