2018 STS Intermacs Meeting
Call for Abstracts

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons invites you to submit an abstract for presentation consideration at the 2018 STS Intermacs Meeting to be held in Rosemont, IL, May 11-12, 2018.

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 ● 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time
Submission Website: sts.org/intermacsmeetingabstracts

Abstracts should summarize how sites utilize STS Intermacs Database data, based on the following categories:

- Understanding the Relationship of Patient Profiles to Outcomes
- Risk and Impact of Site Adverse Events
- Identification of Targets for Improvement
- Results of Program Quality Initiatives
- Preparation and Response to Joint Commission or Other Review

Accepted abstracts will be presented as posters. Authors of accepted posters are encouraged to submit corresponding manuscripts for publication consideration in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, which has a circulation of more than 7,000. Each abstract submitted to the Society for possible presentation at the 2018 STS Intermacs Meeting must summarize an original contribution and must not have been presented, published, or accepted for presentation or publication elsewhere.

Please consider the following criteria before submitting an abstract for consideration as a poster:

- **You must complete your submission in one sitting**; you will not be able to save it in draft status. Do not submit multiple submissions for the same proposal.
- Correct email addresses for all coauthors must be included with the submitted abstract.
- The deadline to submit is **Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time.**
- Please make certain that you click the **Submit Form** button one time only.
- A confirmation will be sent to all email addresses provided. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please contact STS at education@sts.org.

Abstract Submission Specifications:

- Title case: Capitalize the first letter of each main word in the title; please do not enter information in all upper case or in quotation marks.
- All abstracts must be structured using the following section headings:
    - Purpose - Include a brief statement on the intent of the study and the current state of research in the field. Specifically, describe the quality gap (limitation or problem) within the practice of cardiothoracic surgery that this research addresses. (50 word maximum)
    - Methods - The methods of the study or experimental approach should be clearly and briefly defined. (100 word maximum)
    - Results - Provide a summary of the study findings, including sufficient details, to support those conclusions. These findings may be presented in a brief table (no more than five [5] columns of data). (150 word maximum)
    - Conclusions - Include a statement concerning the significance of the work and its implications for further research. In what way might the results of this project supplement or inform clinical or research knowledge or strategies? (50 word maximum)
- Tables: Up to one (1) table allowed. The table cannot have more than five (5) columns of data.
    - Files should be in one of the following formats: .jpg, .tif, or .eps. (PowerPoint images, Excel, and Word documents are not permitted.)
- Images: Up to one (1) image allowed.
    - Images can be displayed only in black and white. (Please take this into consideration when developing images.) Images should be between 300 and 600 dpi at 3"x5".

- Files should be in one of the following formats: .jpg, .tif, or .eps. (PowerPoint images, Excel, and Word Documents are not permitted.)

- There should be no reference to the institutions involved in the body of the text.
- Only abstracts submitted using the online system will be considered for poster presentation.
- Only authors (and not their assistants) may complete submissions; authors will be responsible for the information provided.
- The submitting author must provide accurate email addresses of all coauthors and must attest that (a) all coauthors of the abstract have granted consent for the material to be submitted for presentation, and (b) that the submitting author has been granted the right by all coauthors to act on their behalf.
- STS reserves the right to withdraw any abstract at any time.
- Accepted abstracts will be presented as scientific poster presentations.
- The presenting author for each abstract must attend the 2018 STS Intermacs Meeting. In the event that a change of presenting author must be made after the abstract submission, STS must be notified in writing. NOTE: The replacement presenter must be a coauthor of the abstract.
- Once an abstract has been accepted, additional authors may not be added.
- No abstract will be considered with deferred outcomes data. If data are to be presented, they must appear in the original abstract submitted. If there are any questions regarding changes in data after the abstract has been submitted, it is the responsibility of the presenting author to notify STS by email at education@sts.org.
- Industry is not allowed to perform data analysis or develop abstracts, surgical videos, slide presentations, or scientific posters.
- Abstract content must be based upon the best available evidence and should not promote any health care device, drug, other product or service**.**
- If the presenter has any relationship posing a conflict or potential conflict relevant to his/her session, he or she may not make any recommendations regarding relevant products or services as part of that session.
- If your abstract is selected, you will be asked to present it at the poster session. You will receive complete information (including poster dimensions, setup times, etc.) after notification of the decision.
- To ensure fairness, abstracts are read and graded in a blinded fashion with no references to authors or institutions. Abstracts are reviewed by peer reviewers based on scientific merit, originality, and practice gaps identified. Notifications will be sent in April 2018.

Withdrawal of an Abstract

To withdraw an abstract, the presenter must notify STS in writing. Please email STS at education@sts.org and include the title of the abstract.

Disclosure Information

Conflict of interest and FDA disclosures are required before an abstract will be accepted for consideration. If a potential conflict of interest exists, be sure to include the name of the organization/company and the nature of the potential conflict.

- Each author must submit her/his individual disclosure when completing the abstract submission.
- It is the responsibility of the submitting author to identify each coauthor on the abstract. Upon submission of the abstract, an email will be sent to each coauthor, who will then be responsible for submitting her/his individual disclosure.
- If commercial relationships information and FDA disclosures are not received from all coauthors by the abstract submission deadline the abstract will not be considered for review.
- For scientific poster presentations, all relationships with commercial interests, must be displayed on each scientific poster along with any FDA disclosures.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

As a sponsor of continuing medical education accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), The Society of Thoracic Surgeons requires that any individual who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity must disclose all relationships with commercial interests (including known relationships of his/her immediate family, department, and partners). The ACCME defines a commercial interest as "any entity producing, marketing, reselling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests." The question of whether a disclosed conflict situation could represent undue influence on the educational activity by a commercial interest or whether the disclosed information is sufficient to consider an abstract, presentation, or other educational enduring material to represent potentially biased information must be resolved prior to an individual's involvement in STS educational programming.

Required disclosures include (1) a financial interest of any amount (e.g., through ownership of stock, stock options, or bonds), (2) the receipt of any amount of cash, goods or services within the current 12-month period (e.g., through research grants, employment, consulting fees, royalties, travel, or gifts), or (3) a non-remunerative position of influence (e.g., as officer, director, trustee or public spokesperson). EXCLUDED from this disclosure requirement are blind trusts or other passive investments, such as mutual funds. In the case of a financial or other relationship disclosure, the company, product/service, and specific nature of the relationship must be noted.

Disclosure is mandatory for any person involved in the planning, management, presentation, and/or evaluation of STS educational activities.

Failure to disclose all relationships with commercial interests disqualifies the individual from being a planning committee member, a teacher, or an author of educational materials, and this individual cannot have any responsibility for the development, management, presentation, or evaluation of STS educational activities. This requirement is intended neither to imply any impropriety of such relationships nor to prejudice any individual planner, presenter or author. It is merely intended to identify such relationships through full disclosure, and to allow STS to assess and resolve potential influences on the educational activity prior to the planning and implementation of an educational activity. If no relationships with commercial interests exist, the individual must indicate this on the disclosure form.

FDA Disclosure

If a device or drug requiring FDA approval is identified as a component of your presentation, you must indicate the FDA status for use of the device or drug as it will be discussed in this presentation. Additionally, the fact that the presentation, paper, or other educational product describes (a) the use of a device, drug, or other product that is not FDA approved or (b) an off-label use of an approved device, drug, or other product must also be disclosed. This requirement has been adopted in response to FDA policy and case law involving medical societies and is not intended to prohibit or inhibit independent presentation or discussion regarding the uses of devices, drugs, and other products as described in (a) or (b) above.