



# STS MEETING BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS  
54th ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 27-31, 2018  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL | [sts.org](http://sts.org)

## TUESDAY

**6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Registration  
Atrium Lobby, First Floor

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Meet the Experts Sessions  
Locations vary; see Program Guide

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Health Policy Forum: The Changing Medicare  
Quality Reporting and Payment Landscape  
Rooms 220-221

**9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Exhibit Hall  
Halls ABC, First Floor

**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Scientific Posters  
Third Floor Concourse

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Thomas B. Ferguson Lecture  
Grand Ballroom

**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Award Presentations  
Grand Ballroom

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

C. Walton Lillehei Lecture  
Grand Ballroom

**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Residents Luncheon  
Palm Ballroom A, Second Floor

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Adult Cardiac: General  
Room 315

Adult Cardiac: Mitral and Tricuspid Valves  
Floridian Ballroom A

Congenital: Pediatric Congenital II  
Room 305

EACTS @ STS: Bicuspid Aortic Valve Repair  
With Aortic Valve Insufficiency and Proximal  
Aortic Aneurysm Repair  
Floridian Ballroom D

STS/ISHLT Joint Symposium: LVAD Therapy  
in 2018—Worldwide Perspectives  
Room 304

General Thoracic: Lung Cancer II  
Floridian Ballroom B-C

General Thoracic: Mediastinal/Pulmonary  
Room 316

**1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Patient Safety Symposium: Biases and  
Errors—Why We Do What We Do  
Rooms 301–302

**3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Cardiothoracic Surgical Education  
Rooms 220–221

**3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Adult Cardiac: Aorta II  
Floridian Ballroom A

Adult Cardiac: Aortic Valve/Novel  
Technologies  
Floridian Ballroom D

see **SCHEDULE**, page 16

**TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY | JAN. 30-31, 2018**

## Embracing Failures Serves as a Catalyst to Success

**D**rawing from both the profession and the sport that he loves, 2017-2018 STS President Richard L. Prager, MD encouraged attendees of his Presidential Address on Monday to “see their realities” and to “make seeing and knowledge continuous with each other.”

“Professional innovation is our responsibility, and recognizing we are a creative specialty, I would offer that we—as surgeons—and our professional societies must be the leaders in accountability and transparency. To do so, we must embrace and advance performance measurement and analytics, performance feedback, and performance improvement,” he said.

Dr. Prager’s work with quality improvement initiatives is his professional equivalent of a grand slam, according to Keith S. Naunheim, MD, who introduced Dr. Prager. It was therefore fitting that the focus of Dr. Prager’s address was the vital role of performance measurement and feedback in achieving success.



**Richard L. Prager, MD highlighted the importance of performance measurement.**

Dr. Prager took attendees on a journey of quality improvement initiatives in cardiovascular surgery, highlighting the STS National Database and the Michigan Society

of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons Quality Collaborative, the latter of which he now directs.

see **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**, page 17

## Keith S. Naunheim Elected 2018-2019 STS President

Saint Louis University surgeon will focus on health care delivery and reimbursement

**C**ardiothoracic surgeon Keith S. Naunheim, MD, from the Saint Louis University (SLU) Medical Center, was elected by the STS membership yesterday evening as the Society’s 2018-2019 President.

“It means the world that my fellow surgeons think highly enough of me to elect me as STS President,” said Dr. Naunheim, the Vallee L. Melba Willman Professor and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at SLU. “I am flattered and gratified by their confidence, and I will work diligently to move the Society along the right path.”

The path to cardiothoracic surgery was not necessarily a straightforward and obvious one for Dr. Naunheim. With a knack for memorizing numbers and formulas, he was attracted to the discipline of physics and was

convinced that a career as a physicist made sense. But after struggling through an advanced physics course during his freshman year at The Johns Hopkins University, he was given what his professor termed a “gift B” on the condition that he seek a more promising career choice. In reminiscing about his fondness for sciences in high school, Dr. Naunheim quickly realized that medicine might be a better choice. An interest in the world of medicine had been inspired by two part-time science instructors in his hometown high school in Saint Louis, Missouri. Ironically, those two teachers had day jobs as the chief of cardiology and the dean of the medical school at Saint Louis University—the institution where Dr. Naunheim has spent the last 33 years.

After graduating cum laude from Johns Hopkins, Dr. Naunheim was accepted to The University of Chicago School of Medicine, where he trained under Robert L. Replogle, MD, who would later become an STS President, and two other nationally recognized cardiothoracic surgeons, David B. Skinner, MD and Tom R. DeMeester, MD. Following a general surgery internship and residency, as well as a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at The University of Chicago, Dr. Naunheim returned to his hometown in 1985 and joined the faculty at SLU, where he remains today.



**Keith S. Naunheim, MD**

An STS member since 1988, Dr. Naunheim has served on numerous committees and workforces; most recently, he was the Society’s Secretary and First Vice President. Dr. Naunheim also has chaired the Workforce on Nomenclature and Coding, the Council on Health Policy and Relationships, and the Workforce on Media Relations and

see **NAUNHEIM**, page 6

“My hope is that Washington will pay closer attention to what we have to say about health care delivery and reimbursement methodology.”

— **KEITH S. NAUNHEIM, MD**

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## Critical Care Pioneer to Give Lillehei Lecture

The 2018 C. Walton Lillehei lecturer will be Robert H. Bartlett, MD, a groundbreaking and internationally recognized medical researcher, surgeon, and professor. He will give



**Robert H. Bartlett, MD**

a talk on “The History and Evolution of ECMO.”

Dr. Bartlett is best known for developing this lifesaving heart-lung technology. When Dr. Bartlett and his team first started using ECMO, the mortality rate for infants with lung failure was 90%; eventually, the survival rate became 90%. Primarily used in the beginning for babies in critical condition,

ECMO is now the dominant short-term life support mechanical technology worldwide.

“The concept of using mechanical devices to keep people with no heart or lung function alive is new in the last 50 years,” explained Dr. Bartlett. “No one believed you could do that, and now we do it routinely.”

The Lillehei lecture honors C. Walton Lillehei, MD, one of the world’s preeminent cardiac surgeons who was considered to be the “father of open heart surgery.” ■

### C. Walton Lillehei Lecture

**Tuesday**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom

## New Officers, Directors Elected

In addition to electing Keith S. Naunheim, MD as the Society’s new President, STS members elected several new officers and directors yesterday evening.

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD, MSHA was elected First Vice President, and Joseph A. Dearani, MD was elected Second Vice President. Joseph F. Sabik III, MD was reelected Secretary, and Thomas E. MacGillivray, MD was reelected Treasurer.

Kevin D. Accola, MD, Vinod H. Thourani, MD, and Ara A. Vaporciyan, MD also were elected or reelected as Directors-at-Large. ■

## Three Honored for Remarkable Dedication to STS

Distinguished Service Award recognizes commitment to the Society and the specialty

STS honored three respected and extraordinary contributors with its 2018 Distinguished Service Award, presented yesterday evening at the Annual Membership (Business) Meeting.

“Marshall Jacobs, Cameron Wright, and Francis Nichols are on the frontline, giving back in ways that help other surgeons, help our specialty, and—in the end—help our patients. These three surgeons deserve to be recognized as exceptional individuals,” said 2017-2018 STS President Richard L. Prager, MD.

### Marshall L. Jacobs, MD Baltimore, Maryland



An STS member since 1991, Dr. Jacobs has served the organization in many capacities, including as Chair of the STS Workforce on Congenital Heart Surgery and his current role on the Workforce

on National Databases—particularly as Chair of its Congenital Heart Surgery Database Task Force. He also has served on the Committee for Congenital Heart Surgery Initiatives and the Workforce on Evidence Based Surgery.

Dr. Jacobs has been a cardiothoracic surgeon and clinical investigator for 30 years, with special emphasis on congenital heart disease, pediatric heart transplantation, and pediatric cardiac critical care. In addition to his clinical career, he is the author of more than 250 peer-reviewed publications.

A graduate of Yale College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Jacobs trained in general and cardiothoracic surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where he also was a fellow in cardiovascular research. He currently holds the positions of Professor of Surgery at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery

Outcomes Research at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

“Dr. Jacobs’s tireless efforts in the complex world of congenital heart surgery and his expertise in helping to build a database around it make him very deserving of this award,” said Dr. Prager. “With his thoughtful and keen intellect, he recognizes the challenges and diagnostic complexities in the congenital world. Dr. Jacobs has been phenomenal.”

### Cameron D. Wright, MD Boston, Massachusetts



An STS member since 1991, Dr. Wright currently is an STS Director-at-Large and serves on the Meetings and Education Council Operating Board. He previously chaired the American Board of

Thoracic Surgery in addition to serving on several STS governance bodies, including the Council on Health Policy and Relationships, the Quality, Research, and Patient Safety Council Operating Board, the Workforce on National Databases (chairing its General Thoracic Surgery Database Task Force for many years), and the Workforce on Coding and Reimbursement.

Dr. Wright graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Medical School. He completed his internship and residency at MGH and became board certified in both surgery and thoracic surgery. With a special interest in quality and patient safety in surgery, Dr. Wright chairs the MGH Department of Surgery Quality Assurance. He also is Associate Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and an Associate Program Director at MGH, as well as a Professor of Surgery at Harvard. Dr. Wright serves as a colonel in the Medical Corps of the

US Army Reserve and completed three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Dr. Wright is a clinical leader in general thoracic surgery, as well as a recognized and thoughtful commentator in the world of general thoracic surgery,” said Dr. Prager. “His ability to provide instrumental guidance in coding and reimbursement has been most helpful, and he is universally viewed as a thoughtful discussant on complicated issues.”

### Francis C. Nichols III, MD Rochester, Minnesota



Dr. Nichols—an STS member since 1993—is currently the Chair of the STS Workforce on Coding and Reimbursement, while also serving on the Health Policy and Relationships Council

Operating Board. His previous STS experience includes service on the Workforce on Patient Safety.

After graduating with honors from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Dr. Nichols completed a residency at the Mayo Clinic. With more than 30 years of diverse thoracic and vascular surgery experience, he currently holds the positions of Chair of Thoracic Surgery at the Mayo Clinic and Professor of Surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

“Dr. Nichols works behind the scenes of our specialty via STS, effecting change in coding and reimbursement,” said Dr. Prager. “His dedication, commitment, and desire to help have been unheralded—until now. This award signifies how important his efforts are to all of us in cardiac and thoracic surgery.”

The Distinguished Service Award, established in 1969, recognizes individuals who have made significant and far-reaching contributions to STS. ■

## Ferguson Lecture Highlights Health Care Reform

Not one, but two speakers have been chosen for the Thomas B. Ferguson Lecture, which will be presented on Tuesday morning.

John Z. Ayanian, MD, MPP will deliver “Health Care Reform: Why It’s Still Needed and Where It’s Headed.” He

is the Director of the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at the University of Michigan.

Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH

will present “The Future of Payment Reform in Medicare.” She is a practicing cardiologist at Washington University in St. Louis who has served as a health policy advisor for the Department of Health and Human Services.

### Thomas B. Ferguson Lecture

**Tuesday**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Grand Ballroom



**John Z. Ayanian, MD, MPP**



**Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH**

Following the two presentations, there will be a panel discussion on health care reform with Keith S. Naunheim, MD, Richard L. Prager, MD, David M. Shahian, MD, and Alan M. Speir, MD.

The Ferguson Lecture was established in 2002 and recognizes Thomas B. Ferguson, MD, one of the few individuals to serve as President of both STS and AATS. ■



**The Society of Thoracic Surgeons**

## STS MEETING BULLETIN

JANUARY 27–31 2018

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE STS 53RD ANNUAL MEETING

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## NAUNHEIM

continued from page 1

Communications. In addition, he has held leadership positions in other cardiothoracic surgery organizations, including president of both the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association and the Saint Louis Thoracic Surgical Society.

As STS President, Dr. Naunheim said he will be committed to expanding the Society's role in advancing health care policy issues that are important to cardiothoracic surgery. "The Society is already front and center with regard to quality improvement and clinical care, but I would like for us to take a step further and help determine policy decisions on a national level," said Dr. Naunheim. "My hope is that Washington will pay closer attention to what we have to say about health care delivery and reimbursement methodology. We deserve to be heard, and with active participation, we're going to make a real difference."

Dr. Naunheim's agenda as STS President also includes continuing the diversity and inclusion initiative started by his predecessor, Richard L. Prager, MD. "I think that now is the time to turn more of our resources and attention to the issue of diversity and the ethnic, racial, and gender discrepancies within our specialty," said Dr. Naunheim. "We need to put forth efforts and resources to broaden our ranks. The more varied our membership, the more diverse the perspectives on training, research, and operative techniques will be. Such diversity can only make us stronger."

With interests in lung cancer, esophageal disease, and health policy, as well as in coding and reimbursement issues, Dr. Naunheim has authored or co-authored more than 270 peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts, and book chapters. He also has participated in approximately 300 presentations on these topics.

"One of the proudest moments of my career is being elected as STS President," said Dr. Naunheim. "I look forward to working directly with the members because this is their Society. They are the ones who we represent and the people who, day after day, make cardiothoracic surgery the remarkable specialty that it is."

Dr. Naunheim's personal life is as busy as his professional one. He very reluctantly admits to being an amateur magician and has been an early morning runner for more than 25 years. Together with his wife of 39 years, Rosanne Naunheim, MD, they enjoy skeet shooting, traveling, antique hunting, and caring for their two oversized Leonberger dogs. They have four children and three grandchildren. ■

## Learning Opportunity in the Exhibit Hall

Exhibiting companies and others will present talks and demonstrations in the Learning Lab Theater, located in the Exhibit Hall at Booth 1736.

### TUESDAY

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Companies**  
The Science of Tissue Management

# Debate Continues on Key Issues for Treating Bicuspid Aortic Valves

As the treatment of bicuspid aortic valve (BAV) disease evolves, the cardiothoracic surgery community remains split on key issues, such as remodeling versus reimplantation for BAV associated with aortic insufficiency and root aneurysm, as well as the indication for resection in BAV aortopathy.

These are some of the topics to be discussed during today's EACTS @ STS session, which will be moderated by leaders of both societies: STS Past President Joseph E. Bavaria, MD and European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery Vice-President Ruggero De Paulis, MD.

BAV is the most common congenital heart defect, with a prevalence of 1% to 2% in the general population. "The prevalence of BAV makes it important for cardiothoracic surgeons to know about advances in surgical repair and reconstruction," Dr. Bavaria said. "We borrowed from the mitral valve history, where we now strive to repair most insufficient mitral valves. So the question before us is whether we can apply the same logic to the aortic valve."

The session is a "meeting ground" of North American and European schools of thought on root aneurysm, said Dr. Bavaria, and a debate will focus on reimplantation

versus remodeling for BAV aortic insufficiency with root aneurysm. Each of these approaches has its advantages and disadvantages, but the differences between

the two have narrowed over time because of advances in techniques. The debate will help to clarify the clinical scenarios in which each approach is best.

Another ongoing debate among cardiothoracic surgeons relates to the resection diameters in BAV aortopathy. North American and European guidelines differ in their recommendations for cutoff diameters, and practice

varies. Speakers will address factors in decision making regarding resection.

"World-renowned experts will take a deep dive into sophisticated content on decision making, as well as surgical techniques. Presentations will be very nuanced, with clinical pearls that attendees can apply to

"The prevalence of BAV makes it important for cardiothoracic surgeons to know about advances in surgical repair and reconstruction."

—JOSEPH E. BAVARIA, MD



Joseph E. Bavaria, MD

practice," said Dr. Bavaria.

Detailed descriptions of aortic root and leaflet anatomy will be presented, along with a discussion of the geometry of repairs in relation to commissural angles and the proper annular dimensions—points that are important to the successful execution of the procedure. Also discussed will be different decision strategies according to various Sievers classifications, factors that contribute to poor and good outcomes, and the mid-term and long-term determinants of failure. ■

## Options for Aortic Valve Replacement Vary in Younger Patients

Aortic valve replacement is one of the most common open heart procedures performed by cardiothoracic surgeons. Although the choice of approach is fairly standard for patients older than 70 years, the best approach for younger patients is less clear.

American and European guidelines on valvular heart disease recommend mechanical prostheses for patients younger than 60 years, but the use of bioprosthetic valves has substantially increased, and some studies have shown that mid- to long-term survival rates are similar for both types of valves.

A three-way debate during this afternoon's Adult Cardiac: Aortic Valve/Novel Technologies session will shed light on this issue. Three cardiothoracic surgeons will

discuss the case of a 50-year-old patient with severe symptomatic aortic insufficiency and a non-aneurysmal bicuspid aortic valve, with each surgeon presenting a different approach:

isolated valve repair, mechanical aortic valve replacement, and bioprosthetic aortic valve replacement.

"Prosthetic valve choice is important to our patients because the kind of valve chosen acts as a surrogate for life expectancy and need for reoperative heart surgery," said Ibrahim Sultan, MD,

of the University of Pittsburgh, a moderator of the session and a speaker in the debate.

Decision making is complex because of the risk/benefit ratios for each approach. "Aortic valve repair is an excellent choice in young patients with aortic insufficiency and sinus of Valsalva (SOV) aneurysms,"

said Dr. Sultan. "However, in the absence of SOV aneurysm, isolated aortic valve repair may not be as durable. Patients may require reoperation at 10 years or less."

With regard to valve replacement, mechanical aortic valve replacements may outlast a patient's life, but require anticoagulation and are associated with bleeding risks. In contrast, bioprosthetic aortic valves do not require therapeutic anticoagulation, but carry greater risk for structural valve deterioration, with reoperation or transcatheter aortic valve replacement being needed at an average of 13 years.

Dr. Sultan encouraged attendees to come with questions and help stimulate discussion about each of the viewpoints.

"We want attendees to go home with a better understanding of the most appropriate option based on the specific advantages and disadvantages of each approach, the clinical characteristics of the patient, and the patient's preferences," he added. ■

"Prosthetic valve choice is important to our patients because the kind of valve chosen acts as a surrogate for life expectancy and need for reoperative heart surgery."

—IBRAHIM SULTAN, MD



Ibrahim Sultan, MD

### Adult Cardiac: Aortic Valve/Novel Technologies

Tuesday

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Floridian Ballroom D



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## Abbott 1325

**Santa Clara, CA**  
Abbott is committed to helping people live their best life through the power of health. For more than 125 years, Abbott has brought new technologies to the world—in nutrition, diagnostics, medical devices, and branded generic pharmaceuticals—that create more possibilities for more people at all stages of life.

## Abiomed Inc 213

**Danvers, MA**  
Abiomed (NASDAQ: ABMD) is a leading provider of medical devices that provide circulatory support. Its products are designed to enable the heart to rest by improving blood flow and/or performing the pumping of the heart.

## ACUTE Innovations 1625

**Hillsboro, OR**  
Furthering its reputation as a leader in the thoracic industry, ACUTE Innovations® introduces a new addition to its portfolio, RibLoc® U Plus 90 Instrumentation. The U Plus 90 Instrumentation system works in conjunction with the RibLoc® U Plus Chest Wall Plating system, which features a unique U-shape design to aid in placement on the rib.

## Admedus 701

**Minneapolis, MN**  
Admedus, a global health care group, is working with renowned medical leaders to bring new medical technologies to market. CardioCel®, a cardiovascular scaffold, is the first of the company's ADAPT® tissue-engineered bioimplants and is being used by surgeons to repair simple and complex cardiac defects.

## Aesculap AG 1236

**Tuttlingen, Germany**

## AK Express 1039

**Las Vegas, NV**

## All Star Recruiting 218

**Deerfield Beach, FL**  
All Star Recruiting has been providing professional placement services and proven results to hospitals, physician groups, and practice management organizations since 2003. The company currently services physician and advance practice needs for both locum tenens and permanent medical positions.

## American Association for Thoracic Surgery 825

**Beverly, MA**  
Founded in 1917, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery is dedicated to excellence in research, education, and innovation in cardiothoracic surgery and has become an international professional organization.

## AngioDynamics 1624

**Latham, NY**  
A leading provider of innovative, minimally invasive medical devices used by professional health care providers for vascular access, surgery, peripheral vascular disease, and oncology. AngioDynamics's diverse product lines include market-leading fluid management systems, angiographic products, thrombolytic products, and venous products. More information is available at [www.AngioDynamics.com](http://www.AngioDynamics.com).

*The information listed here is accurate as of January 11, 2018. The information for these products and services was provided by the manufacturers, and inclusion in this publication should not be construed as a product endorsement by STS.*

## Astute Medical, Inc 730

**San Diego, CA**  
Astute Medical, manufacturer of the NephroCheck Test®, is dedicated to improving the diagnosis of high-risk medical conditions and diseases through the identification and validation of protein biomarkers to serve as the basis for novel diagnostic tests. The company's focus is community and hospital-acquired acute conditions that require rapid diagnosis/risk assessment, such as acute kidney injury and sepsis.

## Atlas Medical USA 801

**Tustin, CA**  
Atlas Medical is pleased to introduce the latest in cardiac insufflation technology. The Nitr-X Guardian has the capability to effectively de-air the cardiac cavity using significantly less carbon dioxide.

## AtriCure Inc 1407

**Mason, OH**  
AtriCure Inc is a medical device company that provides innovative solutions designed to decrease the global atrial fibrillation (Afib) epidemic. AtriCure's Synergy™ Ablation System is the first and only surgical device approved for the treatment of persistent and longstanding persistent forms of Afib in patients undergoing certain open concomitant procedures.

## Auris Surgical Robotics 118, 124

**San Carlos, CA**

## Bard Davol 800

**Warwick, RI**  
Bard is the market leader in comprehensive soft tissue reconstruction. In addition to this extensive suite of products, the company's BioSurgery franchise is delivering a growing line of enhanced sealants and hemostatic products to complement surgical techniques across thoracic, cardiovascular, and other surgical specialties.

## Baxter 1113

**Deerfield, IL**  
Baxter's BioSurgery business unit offers a comprehensive line of biologic and synthetic products that advance surgical care. BioSurgery specializes in intraoperative wound and tissue management and aims to improve surgical practice. The portfolio comprises products for hemostasis, sealing, staple line reinforcement, soft tissue repair, and bone graft substitution.

## Baylis Medical 1527

**Mississauga, Canada**  
Baylis Medical develops and markets high-technology medical devices used in the fields of interventional cardiology and interventional radiology. The company's vision is to develop and market innovative medical therapies while improving the lives of people around the world. Baylis has offices in Montreal, Toronto, Boston, and London.

## BD 1316, 1221

**Franklin Lakes, NJ**  
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## Berlin Heart Inc 1103

**The Woodlands, TX**  
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## BFW Inc 1005

**Louisville, KY**  
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Hatteras™ LED light source—unmatched intense illumination for headlights and instrumentation, and state-of-the-art Pharos HD™ coaxial headlight/video imaging system.

## BioStable Science & Engineering 214

**Austin, TX**  
BioStable Science & Engineering is developing and commercializing proprietary valve repair technologies that provide an alternative to valve replacement for aortic valve disease. The company's HAAART Aortic Annuloplasty Devices are designed to simplify and standardize aortic valve repair for patients undergoing surgery for aortic insufficiency or root aneurysm.

## Bolton Medical / Terumo 1730

**Sunrise, FL**

## Boston Medical Products, Inc F06

**Shrewsbury, MA**

## Boston Scientific 1024

**Minneapolis, MN**

## Cardiac Surgical Unit Advanced Life Support 1219

**Simpsonville, KY**  
Cardiac Surgical Unit Advanced Life Support (CSU-ALS) is the leading provider of CSU-ALS training in the US, Canada, and Mexico. It is the sole distributor of the CSU-ALS manikin. CSU-ALS can bring training to your hospital and team, or your team members attend national provider and trainer courses. Course completion results in CSU-ALS Certification, which is based on a 2-year renewal cycle.

## Centese F01

**Omaha, NE**  
Centese is the producer of Thoraguard™, an intelligent surgical drainage system designed to address the needs of cardiac and thoracic surgeons.

## ClearFlow 833

**Anaheim, CA**  
ClearFlow's mission is to support best practices and develop guidelines to prevent chest tube occlusions. ClearFlow's PleuraFlow ACT System is the only 510K cleared device indicated for the removal of retained blood and the proactive maintenance of chest tube patency after cardiac surgery, resulting in improved patient outcomes and lower health care costs.

## Cleveland Clinic 902

**Cleveland, OH**

## Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society 934

**Beverly, MA**  
The Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society is the world's leading congenital heart surgeons' society. The 2018 CHSS Annual Meeting will be held October 21-22 at the Loews O'Hare Hotel in Chicago. [www.chss.org](http://www.chss.org)

## Cook Medical 1101

**Bloomington, IN**  
Since 1963, Cook Medical has worked closely with physicians to develop technologies that eliminate the need for open surgery. A leader in the advancement of diagnostic and therapeutic products for vascular disease, Cook continues a tradition of innovation with comprehensive device offerings in EVAR, leg therapies, PE prevention, and embolization.

## CorMatrix 631

**Roswell, GA**  
CorMatrix® Cardiovascular markets its ECM® Bioscaffold devices for vascular repair, pericardial repair and reconstruction, cardiac tissue repair, and CanGaroo ECM Envelope for CIEDs. CorMatrix ECM Technology allows surgeons to restore the native anatomy of cardiac and vascular tissue in need of repair, serving as a superior alternative to synthetic or cross-linked materials.

## CryoLife 1017

**Kennesaw, GA**  
CryoLife, Inc® is one of the world's leading contemporary medical device companies,

providing preserved human cardiac and vascular tissues, surgical adhesives and sealants, prosthetic heart valves, cardiac lasers, and other medical devices. Since the company's inception in 1984, it is estimated that its products and tissues have helped more than 1 million patients worldwide.

## CT Assist 209

**Philippi, WV**  
CT Assist is a managed service provider of cost-effective cardiothoracic surgery advanced practitioners who deliver quality care. CT Assist provides workforce management solutions from long-term and recruiting to locum tenens and vacation coverage. It is a physician assistant-owned nationwide employer of talented and experienced cardiothoracic PAs and nurse practitioners.

## CTSNet 1013

**Chicago, IL**  
CTSNet ([www.ctsnet.org](http://www.ctsnet.org)) is the leading international source of online resources related to cardiothoracic surgery, as well as the major hub of the international online community of cardiothoracic surgeons and allied health care professionals. CTSNet's mission is to "connect the global cardiothoracic community."

## Derma Med Tech 1436

**Houston, TX**

## Designs for Vision 1104

**Bohemia, NY**  
Just See It™ with Designs for Vision's lightweight custom-made surgical telescopes, available with Nike® frames. See It Even Better™ with the L.E.D. Daylite® or Twin Beam®, providing the brightest and safest untethered illumination. Introducing the L.E.D. Daylite® Nano Cam HD—document the procedure with HD video from your perspective.

## DMMED Group 835

**Las Vegas, NV**

## EBM 1619

**Tokyo, Japan**  
EBM, a biomedical spin-out venture company from Japan, provides the original beating heart simulator and quantitative assessment system for off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting and vascular anastomosis worldwide. Skill assessment is based on rapid CFD technology and validated silicone vascular model.

## Eclipse Loupes and Products 1529

**Orchard Park, NY**  
Eclipse offers the highest quality surgical loupes and lights at the lowest prices. The company backs its products with an industry-leading lifetime warranty.

## Edwards Lifesciences 513

**Irvine, CA**  
Edwards Lifesciences is the global leader in the science of heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring. Driven by a passion to help patients, the company partners with clinicians to develop innovative technologies in the areas of structural heart disease and critical care monitoring, enabling them to save and enhance lives. Additional company information can be found at [www.edwards.com](http://www.edwards.com).

## EHRC Technologies 1137

**Miami, FL**

## Elsevier 624

**Philadelphia, PA**  
Elsevier is the proud publisher of *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* and a world-leading provider of information solutions that enhance the performance of science, health, and technology professionals. Elsevier empowers better decision making and the delivery of better care. [www.elsevier.com](http://www.elsevier.com)

## Essential Pharmaceuticals 207

**Durham, NC**  
Supporting the preservation of human systems. Originally developed for cardiac surgery, Custodial® HTK offers superior convenience, water-like viscosity, and no need for additives or filters, which makes it a preferred solution for many transplant centers.



TECH-CON EXHIBITOR NEW EXHIBITOR MEETING BULLETIN ADVERTISER

**European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery** **926**  
**Windsor, United Kingdom**  
EACTS is the largest European association devoted to the practice of cardiothoracic surgery. The main objectives of the association are to advance education in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and to promote, for the public benefit, research into cardiovascular and thoracic physiology and therapy and to correlate and disseminate the useful results thereof. Visit Booth 926 for more information.

**European Society of Thoracic Surgeons** **929**  
**Exeter, United Kingdom**  
ESTS is the largest international general thoracic surgery organization with more than 1600 members from all continents. The society’s mission is to improve quality in the specialty, from clinical and surgical management of patients to education, training, and credentialing of thoracic surgeons worldwide. The 26th European Conference on General Thoracic Surgery will be held on 27-30 May 2018, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. [www.ests.org](http://www.ests.org)

**Fehling Surgical** **1001**  
**Acworth, GA**  
Fehling Surgical Instruments, Inc is the leader in fine crafted surgical instrumentation that has focused on cardiovascular surgery for more than 30 years. The company features minimally invasive valve sets, including NEW retractor designs for unmatched atrial exposure of the left atrium. The CERAMO and Superplast instruments are designed specifically for cardiovascular procedures (needle holders, forceps, clamps, and MICS).

**Frymire Associates**  
**Medical Market Research** **F07**  
**Menlo Park, CA**  
Frymire Associates is a network of experienced medical device market professionals who specialize in conducting exploratory and qualitative research with leading physicians from a variety of specialties. Frymire Associates’ services encompass qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and focus groups, studies fielded at major medical meetings, and web-based research.

**General Cardiac/Heart Hugger** **832**  
**San Jose, CA**  
The Heart Hugger Sternum Support Harness is a patient-operated support harness applied postoperatively to splint surgical wounds. Benefits include improved patient compliance, faster return to premonitory respiratory levels, fewer wound complications, and better postoperative mobility. It is useful for open heart surgery, thoracotomy, fractured rib, and other chest trauma patients.

**General Thoracic Surgical Club** **332**  
**Zumbrota, MN**  
Founded in 1988, the General Thoracic Surgical Club is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 325 general thoracic surgeons worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgical procedures of the lung, mediastinum, esophagus, and chest wall by providing the highest quality patient care through education, research, and clinical experience.

**Genesee BioMedical** **1100**  
**Denver, CO**  
Design Beyond Standard. Genesee BioMedical, Inc provides unique devices for cardiac surgery, including annuloplasty for mitral and tricuspid repair, sternal/thoracic valve retractors, instruments for minimally invasive aortic, transcatheter aortic valve implantation, and robotic surgeries, as well as coronary graft markers, suture guards, retraction clips, and myocardial needles. [www.geneseebiomedical.com](http://www.geneseebiomedical.com)

**Getinge** **604**  
**Wayne, NJ**  
Getinge is a leading global provider of innovative solutions for operating rooms, intensive care units, hospital wards, sterilization departments, and life science companies and institutions. Based on first-hand experience and close partnerships, Getinge offers innovative health care solutions that improve everyday life for people today and tomorrow.

**Gore & Associates** **1406**  
**Flagstaff, AZ**  
The Gore Medical Products Division has provided creative solutions to medical problems for 3 decades. More than 35 million Gore medical devices have been implanted worldwide. Products include vascular grafts, endovascular and interventional devices, surgical materials, and sutures for use in vascular, cardiac, and general surgery. For more information, visit [www.goremedical.com](http://www.goremedical.com).

**G.S. Innovations** **1628**  
**Las Vegas, NV**  
G.S. Innovations provides a variety of health care solutions to many different industries. The company develops and identifies the best medical care to help diverse professional groups overcome their challenges.

**Hackensack Meridian Health** **1525**  
**Wall, NJ**  
Hackensack Meridian Health is a leading, not-for-profit health care network in New Jersey offering a complete range of medical services, innovative research, and life-enhancing care aiming to serve as a national model for changing and simplifying health care delivery through partnerships with innovative companies and focusing on quality and safety.

**Hayes Locums** **F03**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
Hayes Locums provides physician search services—both temporary and permanent placement—to health care institutions across the United States. Hayes Locums was founded on the need to improve health care consulting services to the physician and health care communities. The company is proud to provide these services with the utmost integrity, which physicians and clients have grown to trust.

**HCA** **937**  
**Brentwood, TN**  
HCA owns and operates more than 170 hospitals across the United States, making it one of the nation’s leading providers of health care services. HCA believes that exceptional patient outcomes only come through a dedicated community of care, placing physicians at the forefront.

**Heart Hospital Baylor Plano, The** **1425**  
**Plano, TX**  
The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano is a cardiovascular specialty hospital in North Texas that opened in 2007. Over the past 10 years, its quality outcomes and guest satisfaction scores have garnered recognition, praise, and accolades from international giants in the health care field. Visit [TheHeartHospitalBaylor.com](http://TheHeartHospitalBaylor.com) to learn more.

**Heart Valve Society** **932**  
**Beverly, MA**  
The Heart Valve Society held its inaugural meeting in May 2015 at the Grimaldi Forum in Monte Carlo, Monaco, with more than 430 medical professionals, plus 80 industry partners. Whether you are a cardiologist, surgeon, researcher, or another member of the crucial valve disease treatment team, the HVS welcomes you to become a part of something very unique. Membership is available online.

**International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery** **924**  
**Beverly, MA**  
ISMICS: Innovation, Technologies, and Techniques in Cardiothoracic and Cardiovascular/Vascular Surgery. 2018 ISMICS Annual Scientific Meeting, 13-16 June 2018, Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, Canada. [ismics.org](http://ismics.org)

**Interpace Diagnostics** **108**  
**Parsippany, NJ**  
Interpace Diagnostics is a public molecular diagnostics company providing specialty molecular tests focused primarily on thyroid, esophageal, pancreatic, and lung cancer. The company’s most recently launched product is MVPdx for Lung Cancer, which differentiates local recurrence of cancer vs formation of new primary tumors. Interpace also offers ThyGenX, ThyraMIR, PancreaGEN, and BarreGEN.

**Intuitive Surgical** **814**  
**Sunnyvale, CA**  
Intuitive Surgical, Inc designs, manufactures, and distributes the da Vinci® Surgical System, technology designed to allow surgeons to perform many complex procedures minimally invasively.

**JACE Medical** **1715**  
**Warsaw, IN**  
JACE Medical pioneered the world’s first rigid sternal closure system applied presternotomy: the Grand Pre®. JACE Medical is a company and culture committed to creating innovative, transformational technologies that facilitate optimal patient treatment, recovery, and future wellness. Visit Booth 1715 and see how the company “thinks outside the paradox.” Get more information at [JACEMED.com](http://JACEMED.com).

**Jinwha Medical** **F08**  
**Cheongju-si, South Korea**

**Johnson & Johnson Medical Device Companies** **1203, 1213**  
**New Brunswick, NJ**  
Having made significant contributions to surgery for more than a century, the Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Companies are in the business of reaching more patients and restoring more lives. The group represents Ethicon US, LLC, NeuWave Microwave Ablation, and DePuy Synthes.

**Just Co, Ltd** **1337**  
**Torrance, CA**  
Only a dedicated plating company can provide “the strongest diamond plating” technology. The company can designate the plated layer, which anchors the diamond base on purpose. Its technology is unique and popular to those in the medical field in need of microsurgery instruments and endoscope tips.

**Kapp Surgical** **731**  
**Cleveland, OH**  
Kapp Surgical is a custom design shop that designs surgical instruments and implants, manufactures them, and sells them, as well as distributes domestically and internationally. Kapp’s exclusive products include the Cosgrove Heart Retractor, Strip T’s surgical organizer, and countless surgical devices, all FDA approved with several pending approval.

**Karl Storz Endoscopy** **312**  
**El Segundo, CA**  
Karl Storz offers solutions for thoracic surgery, including slender, easily dismantled MediaFIT instruments that offer economic solutions for mediastinoscopy. The ENDOCAMELEON® Telescope allows surgeons to adjust viewing directions from 0° to 120° without changing telescopes. The IMAGE1 S™ Camera Architecture System provides brilliant, natural color rendition and innovative visualization capabilities.

**Kinamed Inc** **1533**  
**Camarillo, CA**  
Visit Kinamed’s booth to view a demonstration of the SuperCable®, Polymer Iso-Elastic™ Sternal Closure system, which solves limitations of metal cable, wire, and plating systems. SuperCable provides a dual strand footprint, which reduces cut-through. It elastically absorbs load and maintains compression. The low-profile clasp minimizes palpability, and the polymer cable allows for quick re-entry.

**KLS Martin** **901**  
**Jacksonville, FL**  
KLS Martin, a responsive company, is focused on the development of innovative products for oral, plastic, and craniomaxillofacial surgery. New product developments in its titanium osteosynthesis plating systems allow these products to be used for rapid sternal fixation and reconstruction.

**Koros USA, Inc** **328**  
**Moorpark, CA**  
Koros USA manufactures and distributes coronary artery bypass, aortic valve replacement, internal mammary artery, and mitral valve retractors, pediatric and adult sternum spreaders, rib spreaders, and titanium/stainless steel needle holders and forceps. High-demand state-of-the-art

instruments include the Internal Mammary Artery Tower, SWIFT, and Pro-Retractors.

**Kreg Therapeutics** **221**  
**Melrose Park, IL**

**Life Net Health** **325**  
**Pleasant Prairie, WI**

**LivaNova** **313**  
**Arvada, CO**  
LivaNova is a world leader in the treatment of cardiovascular disease. Its innovative product portfolio includes aortic and mitral valve replacement and repair, perfusion equipment, cannula, and minimally invasive cardiac surgery instruments. For more information, visit [www.livanova.com](http://www.livanova.com).

**LocumTenens.com** **326**  
**Alpharetta, GA**  
Since 1995, LocumTenens.com has been a leader in placing physicians and advanced practice professionals in short-staffed health care facilities. LocumTenens.com also operates the largest job board in the industry, providing free access to thousands of jobs in all medical specialties.

**LoupeCam** **1217**  
**Scottsdale, AZ**  
LoupeCam® is the market leader in head-mounted HD surgical cameras and is the ONLY company offering cross platform (Mac, Windows, and soon Android) compatibility. The company offers five different magnification lenses to match all surgical points of view, along with a Bluetooth foot pedal that allows for hands-free control of the camera.

**LSI Solutions** **537, 637**  
**Victor, NY**  
LSI Solutions’ RAM® Device is an automated, dual curved needle annular suturing device that places a 3.5-mm wide horizontal mattress subannular suture in one squeeze. The SEW-EASY™ Device is an automated dual linear needle prosthetic suturing device that places sutures through the sewing cuff in one squeeze. With 11 years of proven clinical results, COR-KNOT® is suture fastening technology you can trust.

**Med Alliance Solutions** **824**  
**Sycamore, IL**  
ISO 13485-certified medical device distributor committed to providing high-quality specialty devices for cardiothoracic surgery worldwide. Exclusive US distributor of French instruments manufacturer Delacroix-Chevalier and operational partner of Michigan-based Surge Cardiovascular for open heart surgical products.

**Medela AG** **803**  
**McHenry, IL**

**Medistim** **917**  
**Plymouth, MN**  
Medistim is the standard of care in the operating room. With the unique combination of transit time flow measurement and high-frequency ultrasound imaging guidance to help reduce and minimize the risk of negative postoperative outcomes, Medistim’s quality assessment technology offers surgeons quantifiable validation and guidance during cardiovascular, vascular, transplantation, and neurosurgery.

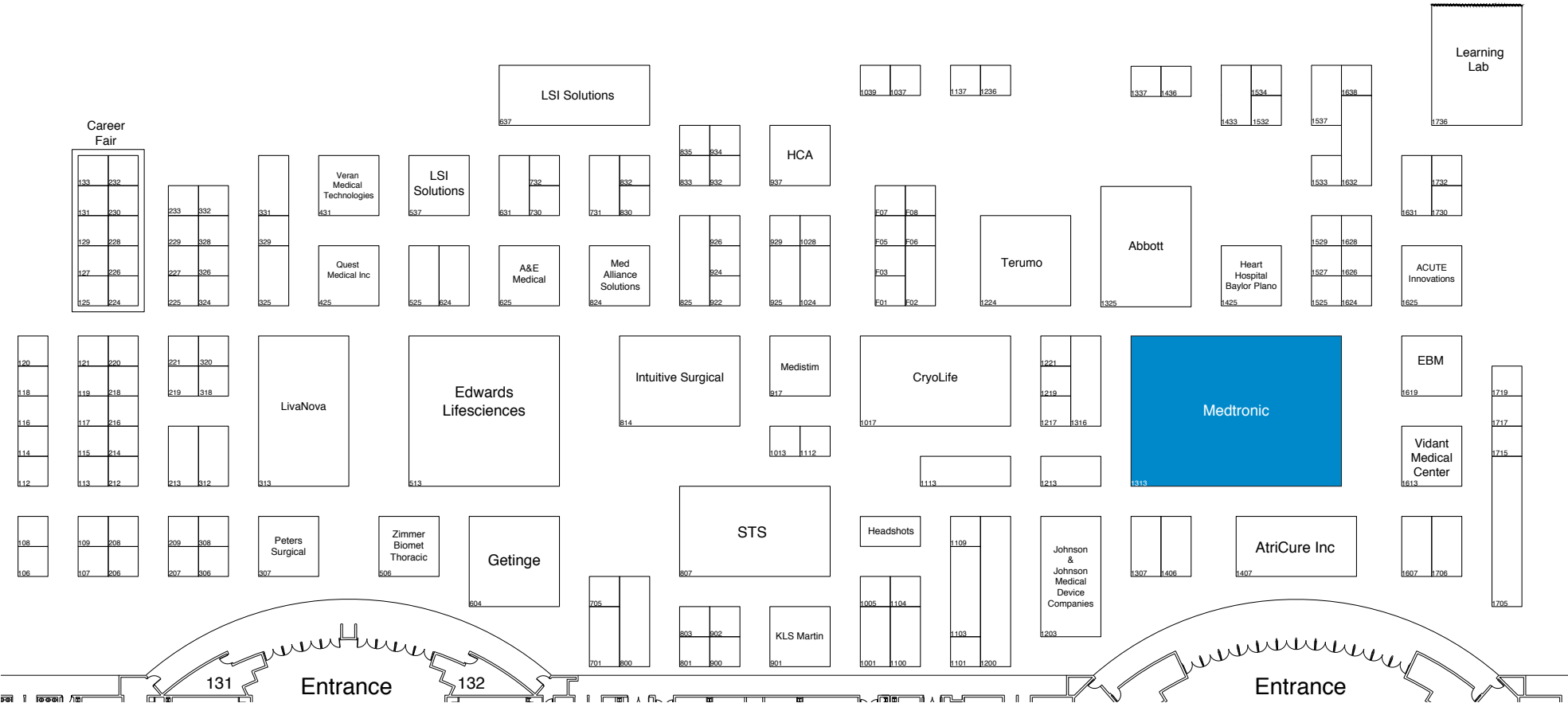
**MedPartners Locum Tenens** **112**  
**Coral Springs, FL**  
MedPartners Locum Tenens specializes in placing well-qualified physicians and advanced practice clinicians in locum, locum-to-perm, and direct hire staff and leadership positions while making this process as seamless as possible for client facilities. Its highly skilled recruiters assist in this process from pre-qualification to final placement.

**Medtronic** **1313**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
As a global leader in medical technology, services, and solutions, Medtronic improves the lives and health of millions of people each year. The company uses its deep clinical, therapeutic, and economic expertise to address the complex challenges faced by health care systems today. Let’s take health care Further, Together. Learn more at [Medtronic.com](http://Medtronic.com).

2018 ANNUAL MEETING EXHIBITORS cont.

<b>MedXpert North America</b> Edmond, OK MedXpert North America, LLC is a producer of medical devices (implants and instruments) specialized for all kind of procedures in the thoracic part of the human body. The company produces StraTos for three different indications (deformity, reconstruction after tumor resection, and trauma) and StraCos for two indications (trauma and reconstruction).	<b>107</b>	<b>Nadia International</b> Austin, TX Educational/surgical bronze sculptures for the thoracic surgeon. Museum-quality limited editions are created by the world famous sculptor Ronadró. More than 7500 surgeons in 77 countries collect his fine works of art. Introducing MIRACLE OF LIFE II and IN GOD's Hand II at the 2018 meeting.	<b>1109</b>	<b>Otto Trading Inc.</b> Santa Ana, CA	<b>320</b>	<b>Pharma Technology</b> Las Vegas, NV	<b>F05</b>
<b>Microsurgery Instruments, Inc</b> Bellaire, TX Microsurgery Instruments is one of the leading suppliers of surgical instruments and loupes. The company's instruments include titanium scissors, needle holders, and DeBakey forceps. Its Super-Cut scissors are the sharpest in the market, and its newly designed surgical loupes offer up to 130-mm field of view and up to 11x magnification.	<b>329</b>	<b>National Death Index</b> Hyattsville, MD	<b>206</b>	<b>Oxford University Press</b> New York, NY Visit the Oxford University Press stand to browse prestigious surgery books at an exclusive conference discount, and collect your free sample copies of the journals of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery: European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery and Interactive CardioVascular and Thoracic Surgery.	<b>216</b>	<b>Pinnacle Biologics</b> Chicago, IL Pinnacle Biologics delivers photodynamic therapy (PDT) to patients through its line of products. By administering an FDA-approved biopharmaceutical drug that is selectively retained in tumors and activated by an FDA-approved laser light, PDT can eradicate tumor cells. The two primary uses for Pinnacle's drug include the treatment of esophageal cancer and of non-small-cell lung cancer.	<b>1532</b>
		<b>Nova Innovations</b> Las Vegas, NV	<b>225</b>	<b>P &amp; M Harmony</b> Las Vegas, NV	<b>106</b>	<b>Providence Health &amp; Services</b> Seattle, WA Providence Health & Services is affiliated with Swedish Health Services, Pacific Medical Centers, and Kadlec. Together, the organizations include more than 5,000 employed providers, 35 medical centers, and more than 600 clinics in Alaska, California, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Providence is currently recruiting providers in nearly all medical specialties throughout the West. <a href="http://providence.org/providerjobs">providence.org/providerjobs</a>	<b>220</b>
		<b>Olympus America Inc</b> Center Valley, PA Olympus Medical Systems Group develops solutions for health care professionals that help improve clinical outcomes, reduce overall costs, and enhance quality of life for their patients. By enabling less invasive procedures, innovative diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy, and early stage lung cancer evaluation and treatments, Olympus is transforming the future of health care.	<b>1307</b>	<b>Peters Surgical</b> Plymouth, MA Vitalitec Geister will be displaying all its products, highlighting the Peters CV Suture, Enclose II Anastomosis Assist Device, Cygnet Flexible Clamps, Intrack Atraumatic Temporary Clamps and Inserts, and Geister ValveGate and ValveGate PRO line.	<b>307</b>		

2018 EXHIBITOR MAP



# STS Exhibit Hall Hours

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



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# DT

Destination Therapy

# SO MUCH DATA IN SUCH A SMALL DEVICE.

**HeartWare™ HVAD™ System**  
The ONLY intrapericardial VAD approved for DT.

# Medtronic

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**Qualiteam srl** **208**  
**Chiaverano, Italy**  
Qualiteam designs products to improve postoperative recovery. Its dual-function sternum and breast supports are unlike any other. They comfortably protect the internal closure from the outside day and night and effectively assist the healing sternum to decrease sternal infections, pain, and pulmonary complications, which ultimately decreases health care costs.

**Quest Medical Inc** **425**  
**Allen, TX**  
Quest Medical Inc is a medical device manufacturer and worldwide distributor specializing in protecting the heart during cardiac surgery with the Quest MPS 2® and Microplegia. Quest also offers a unique variety of aortic punches, safety valves, vascular loops, and an anesthesia line designed for optimum cardiovascular surgery.

**R&D Surgical USA Inc** **830**  
**Austin, TX**  
R&D Surgical USA / Xenosys USA serve the cardiac, thoracic, and vascular community with innovative products, including a portable next-generation LED surgical headlight offering freedom and convenience at less than 1 oz weight, a full range of custom surgical loupes giving an unbeatable field of vision and depth of focus, all while being light and comfortable, and the Xenosys wireless HD surgical camera system.

**Regional Data Managers: STS National Database** **1112**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**  
The Regional Data Manager booth provides opportunities for surgeons to interact with data managers from around the country who are actively involved with STS Regional Database efforts and collaborative STS groups. Come learn about regional activities and initiatives!

**Rose Micro Solutions** **922**  
**West Seneca, NY**  
Rose Micro Solutions sells high-quality optical loupes and LED lights for less! Its loupes start at \$279. Rose is a family business consisting of four brothers, and the company is named after their mother Rose. Stop by Booth 922 to see the company's new line of TTL loupes—you'll love the optics. Visit Rose online at [www.rosemicrosolutions.com](http://www.rosemicrosolutions.com) or call 716-608-0009. The company is rated A+ with the BBB.

**Rultract/Pemco Inc** **1706**  
**Cleveland, OH**  
Rultract's surgical retractors provide gentle and uniform lift, allowing maximum exposure for IMA dissection, redo hearts, xiphoid entry, subxiphoid pericardial procedures, minimally invasive procedures (Thoratrak capable), parasternal procedures, pediatric/ASD, t-incisions, transabdominal GEA midcab, pectus, LVAD extraction, and TEMLA procedures.

**Scanlan International** **1705**  
**St. Paul, MN**  
Highest-quality surgical products designed and manufactured by the Scanlan family since 1921. More than 3000 titanium and stainless steel surgical instruments, including SCANLAN® Super Cut™ and Premier™ Scissors, SCANLAN® Legacy Needle Holders and Forceps, Memory Dilators, VATS SCANLAN® Dennis Rib Cutter and Rocco Nodule Clamps, and SCANLAN® Single-Use Products.

**Society of Thoracic Surgeons, The** **807**  
**Chicago, IL**  
STS represents more than 7,100 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who 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. At the booth, learn more about member benefits, advocacy efforts (including STS-PAC), opportunities to participate in the STS National Database and publicly report outcomes, and cutting-edge research being conducted via the STS Research Center. You also can donate to The Thoracic Surgery Foundation, the Society's charitable arm, and get advice from *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* staff on submitting your manuscript. Stop by Booth 807 or visit [www.sts.org](http://www.sts.org) to learn more.

**Sontec Instruments** **1607**  
**Centennial, CO**  
Sontec offers headlights, loupes, and the most comprehensive selection of exceptional hand-held surgical instruments available to the discriminating surgeon. There is no substitute for quality, expertise, and individualized service. Sontec's vast array awaits your consideration at its booth.

**St. Luke's University Health Network** **127**  
**Bethlehem, PA**

**Staff Care** **219**  
**Dallas, TX**

**STS/CTSNet Career Fair**  
**Back of Aisles 100-200**  
Make sure to stop by the STS/CTSNet Career Fair, which will give you the chance to meet face-to-face with top employers. Recruiters will be available to talk with you about career opportunities. The Career Fair will be open during Exhibit Hall hours.

**Summit International Medical Technologies** **1028**  
**Franklin, MA**  
Summit International Medical Technologies is a specialty medical device company, devoted to offering high-quality, clinically innovative products.

**Sunoptic Technologies** **1717**  
**Jacksonville, FL**  
Sunoptic Technologies offers a premium line of TITAN branded surgical headlights, xenon light sources, HD video cameras, recording devices, LED products, and fiber optic cables, as well as a full array of accessories (including lamps), parts, and repair services, direct to the surgical marketplace. The company delivers outstanding market-oriented products, combining high quality with exclusive distribution worldwide.

**SurgiTel/General Scientific Corp** **212**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**  
SurgiTel is the manufacturer of premium loupes and headlights sold around the world from its headquarters in Ann Arbor, MI. Holding a variety of patents, SurgiTel is always on the forefront of vision and ergonomics.

**Synapse Biomedical** **318**  
**Oberlin, OH**

**SynCardia Systems, Inc** **1433**  
**Tucson, AZ**  
The SynCardia temporary Total Artificial Heart (TAH-t) is the world's only FDA, Health Canada, and CE approved Total Artificial Heart. It is approved as a bridge to transplant for patients dying from end-stage biventricular failure. Visit Booth 1433 for updates on the 50cc TAH-t and destination therapy.

**Talis Clinical, LLC** **F02**  
**Streetsboro, OH**  
Talis Clinical develops technology that integrates electronic health record, medical device, and other system data to provide tools at the point of care and remotely on any mobile platform. Its Advanced Clinical Guidance Engine "intelligizes" the data to bring meaningful and actionable patient information customized to each caregiver's role, including live wave forms.

**TandemLife** **324**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**  
CardiacAssist, Inc dba TandemLife exists to deliver Life Support Simplified, with one small pump enabling any type of extracorporeal circulatory support your patients may need. Its unique pump has enabled the company to develop its most innovative product lines to date: TandemLife, TandemLung, Protek Duo, and VoyagerVest.

**Terumo** **1224**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**  
Vascutek, a Terumo company, will display an extensive range of sealed woven and knitted polyester grafts for peripheral, abdominal, and cardiothoracic surgery. Terumo will display the VirtuoSaph® Plus Endoscopic Vessel Harvesting System, Beating Heart and Surgical Stabilization products, and Terumo® Perfusion Products.

**Thompson Surgical** **1719**  
**Traverse City, MI**  
Thompson Surgical is a leader in exposure and the original manufacturer of the table-mounted Thompson Retractor. Cardiovascular surgeons will benefit from the Thompson Bolling Retractor, which provides extremely low-profile, stable, and uncompromised exposure of the heart structures for valve procedures. "Set it and forget it." -Steven Bolling, MD

**Thoracic Surgery Foundation, The** **807**  
**Chicago, IL**  
TSF was established in 1988 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. As the charitable arm of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, its mission is to foster the development of surgeon scientists in cardiothoracic surgery, increasing knowledge and innovation to benefit patient care.

**Thoramet Surgical** **306**  
**Madison, CT**  
Thoramet Surgical Products sells the most complete line of video-assisted thoracoscopic surgical instruments available. Produced in the US in the company's own facilities, they are the surgeon's choice. Come to Booth 306 to see their unique versatility. Thoramet has the feel you want, the actuation you need, and the patterns you demand.

**Transonic** **331**  
**Ithaca, NY**  
Transonic is the original inventor and innovator of transit-time flow measurement devices for coronary artery bypass grafting surgery, CHD repair, cardiopulmonary bypass, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation cases. For more than 33 years, Transonic flow measurement systems have been used to advance physiologic understanding, as well as to provide surgeons with peace of mind that their anastomoses are patent prior to closure.

**Veran Medical Technologies** **431**  
**St. Louis, MO**  
Veran is a privately held medical device company headquartered in St. Louis, MO. The company's main focus is assisting physicians in the early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. Veran has developed and commercialized an FDA-cleared, next-generation electromagnetic navigation platform called the SPiN Thoracic Navigation System, which includes both endobronchial and transthoracic approaches.

**Vidant Medical Center** **1613**  
Robust, nationally recognized cardiovascular care flourishes at Vidant Medical Center, built on the strength of world-renowned specialists serving the eastern one-third of North Carolina. Working in tandem with The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Vidant brings together cardiac, thoracic, and vascular surgeons, cardiologists, clinical trials, as well as diabetes and obesity research. At its vast campus in Greenville, North Carolina, it offers an environment where academic, employed, and private practice physicians work cohesively to meet the heart and vascular needs of this medically underserved region. [vidanthealth.com](http://vidanthealth.com)

**Virginia Cardiac Services Quality Initiative** **900**  
**Virginia Beach, VA**  
VCSQI is a nonprofit consortium of cardiac practices whose mission is to improve heart care quality, patient experience, and costs. VCSQI's clinical-financial database helps clinicians identify best practices and measure the impact of quality initiatives. Its Support and Alignment Network (SAN2.0) program focuses on preparing practices for the transition to Advanced Alternative Payment Models.

**Vitalcor, Inc/Applied Fiberoptics** **525**  
**Westmont, IL**  
Vitalcor, Inc is a supplier of medical devices used primarily in cardiothoracic surgery. Since 1975, Vitalcor has provided products that take input from teaching and practicing surgeons to make their practice easier. The company takes pride in offering quality products and providing exceptional customer service.

**Weatherby Healthcare** **113**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
Since 1995, Weatherby Healthcare has established itself as an expert in locum tenens staffing for physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. The company employs nearly 600 employees committed to filling locum tenens assignments in large-scale health care networks, hospitals, and clinics nationwide. For more, visit [weatherbyhealthcare.com](http://weatherbyhealthcare.com).

**Western Thoracic Surgical Association** **934**  
**Beverly, MA**  
WTSA's annual meeting combines first-rate scientific papers with family-oriented activities. Please join WTSA June 27-30, 2018, at the Ritz Carlton Bacara in Goleta, CA. [www.westernthoracic.org](http://www.westernthoracic.org)

**Wexler Surgical, Inc** **1200**  
**Houston, TX**  
Wexler Surgical designs and manufactures a variety of titanium and stainless steel specialty surgical instruments and products for cardiac, vascular, thoracic, and micro surgery. Come see its VATS/MICS instruments and ask about the Optimus Series. Visit [www.wexlersurgical.com](http://www.wexlersurgical.com) for more information about products and services, or email [sales@wexlersurgical.com](mailto:sales@wexlersurgical.com).

**Wolters Kluwer** **308**  
**Phoenix, AZ**

**World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery** **732**  
**Montreal, Canada**  
The mission of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery is to promote the highest quality comprehensive cardiac care to all patients with congenital heart disease, from the fetus to the adult, regardless of the patient's economic means, with an emphasis on excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

**Zero Gravity Skin** **705**  
**Miami Beach, FL**

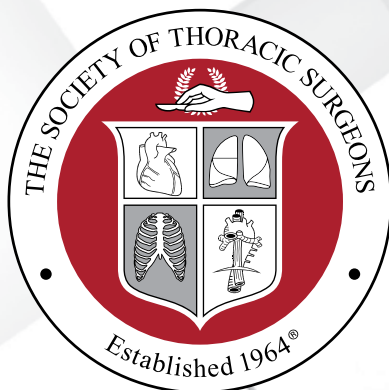
**Zimmer Biomet Thoracic** **506**  
**Jacksonville, FL**  
Founded in 1927, Zimmer Biomet is a global leader in musculoskeletal health care. The company designs, manufactures, and markets a comprehensive portfolio of innovative thoracic products and treatment solutions for surgeons and patients, including the RibFix™ Blu Thoracic Fixation System and the SternaLock® Blu Primary Closure System.

## Meet with Top Employers

Make sure to stop by the STS/CTSNet Career Fair, which will give you the chance to meet face-to-face with top employers. Recruiters will be available to talk with you about career opportunities. The Career Fair will be held in the Exhibit Hall.

- Aultman Hospital - Booth #127
- Cox Health - Booth #224
- Essentia Health - Booth #228
- Kaweah Delta Health Care District - Booth #226
- Piedmont Health - Booth #230
- Pikeville Medical Center - Booth #125
- Prevea Health - Booth #129
- UPMC Pinnacle - Booth #131

*Note: This list of employers is accurate as of January 11, 2018.*



# MARK YOUR *Calendars!*

## 2018 STS Educational Courses

**Symposium on Robotic Cardiac Surgery:  
Mitral Valve Repair, Coronary Bypass, and More**

March 23-24, 2018

Chicago, IL

**Symposium on Robotic Thoracic Surgery**

May 18-19, 2018

Chicago, IL

**STS/ELSO ECMO Management Symposium**

July 13-15, 2018

Tampa, FL

**Advances in Quality & Outcomes:  
A Data Managers Meeting**

September 26-28, 2018

Hollywood, CA

**15th Annual Multidisciplinary Cardiovascular  
and Thoracic Critical Care Conference**

October 4-6, 2018

Washington, DC

**ACS/STS Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Future:  
Technology Overview for Residents and Medical Students**

October 22, 2018

Boston, MA

**STS/EACTS Latin America Cardiovascular Surgery Conference**

November 15-17, 2018

Cartagena, Colombia

Visit [sts.org/meetings](https://sts.org/meetings) for the latest information on STS educational programs.



# Survey Reveals Key Traits Sought in Mentors

**M**entorship in cardiothoracic surgical training has an important influence on personal development, career selection, advancement, and productivity. Despite its importance, mentorship has remained uncharacterized, and its specific role among residents has not previously been assessed adequately.

In a session this afternoon, Elizabeth H. Stephens, MD, PhD, of New York Presbyterian Hospital, will share results from questions related to mentorship in the 2017 Thoracic Surgery Directors Association/Thoracic Surgery Residents Association In-Training Exam Survey. The survey asked about characteristics that residents want in their mentors and the current gaps residents are experiencing in mentorship.

Virtually all residents (91%) responded that they valued mentorship and considered it crucial to success. They reported that most of their mentors were mid-career and focused on both clinical practice and research.

"This group of mentors had certain perceived benefits, such as leadership, inclusion in research, and advice regarding research," said Dr. Stephens. "Mentors at

different career stages and clinical or research focus bring different strengths."

The survey also revealed that residents highly valued mentorship that could guide their career paths in areas such as obtaining interviews and networking. However, of those residents who currently had mentors, nearly a quarter said they lacked mentorship in these areas.

Dr. Stephens said the results indicated a number of differences between what residents were seeking in mentors and the impact of the mentor. "The role of mentorship, including traits sought and its impact, changes throughout training and also varies with gender and program type," she said.

With regard to gender, more female residents than male residents valued mentors who could serve as role models and help with networking. Women also reported that their mentors were less effective than they desired in teaching technical skills and clinical ability. "It's unclear if these findings are related to the different traits valued by women or to mentors being less effective in imparting specific knowledge and training to women," said Dr. Stephens.

## Can Social Media Bridge the Mentorship Gap?

"Women in surgery often report a lack of mentorship as a significant obstacle to career

progression and job satisfaction and also value same-sex mentors as sharing a sense of history and understanding of both personal and professional career paths," said Mara B. Antonoff, MD, of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, another presenter.

Unfortunately, same-sex mentors for women are lacking in surgery—especially in cardiothoracic surgery, where women represent only about 5% of practicing cardiothoracic surgeons.

Dr. Antonoff and her coauthors hypothesized that social media is a useful supplement to physician and trainee interactions, particularly for women in cardiothoracic surgery who may lack access to same-sex mentors at their own institutions. In a separate survey, the researchers asked trainees in various surgical specialties about the role of social media in enhancing mentorship.

The results showed that approachability, ability to match by field of interest, availability, and sharing of information about daily life made prospective mentors on social media more attractive to all surgical trainees. Compared with trainees in other surgical

specialties, cardiothoracic surgery trainees were more likely to say that they valued the role of same-sex mentorship in their career path

but lacked exposure to same-sex mentors at their own institutions. In addition, cardiothoracic surgery trainees were more likely than other surgical trainees to use social media for building a network of same-sex mentors.

They also were more likely to seek advice from same-sex mentors on

work-related topics such as survival, politics, conflicts, and career planning.

"Social media brings a new dimension to networking, allowing for interactions that may be asynchronous and geographically remote," said Dr. Antonoff. "Social media serves as a valuable tool to enhance networking and mentorship of cardiothoracic surgeons, particularly for women."

Recognizing the importance of mentorship for the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons, the STS Workforce on Career Development is creating a platform to connect early career mentees with mentors. Workforce members also are planning a Twitter chat this spring; visit [sts.org/career-development](http://sts.org/career-development) for more details on upcoming chats. ■

## Cardiothoracic Surgical Education

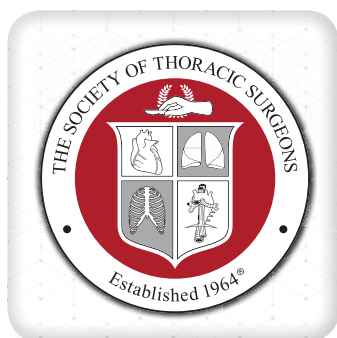
Tuesday

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rooms 220-221

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The 2018 STS mobile app is supported by Medtronic and is compatible with iOS and Android mobile devices.



Get hands-on instruction from experts in several cardiothoracic surgical procedures.

## Put Knowledge into Practice at STS University

Cap off your Annual Meeting experience by attending STS University on Wednesday morning. These hands-on courses allow attendees to gain experience with a wide variety of cardiothoracic surgical procedures. Expert instructors will work closely with small groups, providing the opportunity for ample questions and individual instruction.

Each STS U course will be offered from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and again from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and you must purchase separate tickets in addition to your Annual

Meeting registration. Visit Registration in the Atrium Lobby to see which courses still have availability.

Please note that STS University features *only* hands-on learning, and attendees are strongly encouraged to review the didactic lectures in advance. View course materials at the STS University viewing station located in the Floridian Ballroom Foyer, online at [sts.org/stsuniversity](http://sts.org/stsuniversity), or through the STS Meetings app.

**Course 1:** Essentials of TAVR

**Course 2:** TEVAR and Aortic Arch Debranching Procedures

**Course 3:** Mitral Valve Repair

**Course 4:** Valve-Sparing Aortic Root Replacement

**Course 5:** Aortic Root Enlargement Procedures and Aortic Valve Leaflet Reconstruction

**Course 6:** VATS Lobectomy

**Course 7:** Advanced Open Esophageal and Tracheal Procedures

**Course 8:** Chest Wall Resection, Reconstruction, and Pectus Surgery

**NEW! Course 9:** Minimally Invasive Aortic and Mitral Valve Surgery ■

## Data Indicate Improved Outcomes Using LVADs

The use of left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) is increasing, not only as a bridge to transplant but also as destination therapy. This has generated a growing clinical and academic interest in mechanical circulatory support and the treatment of patients with these devices.

In a new session organized by STS and the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation, speakers will address these issues for a global audience, including cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, VAD coordinators, and other providers involved in the care of patients with LVADs.

“The goal of the Symposium is to introduce a broad range of practitioners to the most recent clinical trial data and emerging areas of investigation in the field of mechanical circulatory support,”

said moderator Gabriel Sayer, MD, of The University of Chicago Medicine.

One topic of particular interest is the optimal approach to LVAD implantation.

The progressive miniaturization of these devices has made minimally invasive implantation an attractive option, but challenges exist, and data comparing outcomes with those of conventional implantation are few. Still, the available data indicate improved outcomes with minimally invasive implantation compared with conventional surgery, and many experts believe that minimally invasive implantation should become the preferred approach, unless otherwise indicated.

Another important area of focus is biventricular failure, which is a particular challenge, as little progress has been made in its treatment. In addition, the outcomes associated with biventricular support have been inferior to those associated with left-sided support strategies. New durable biventricular support options are emerging, however, and speakers will describe these options.

An additional goal of the Symposium is to contrast the American and European experiences with LVAD therapy. Dr. Sayer noted that a highlight will be a presentation by Finn Gustafsson, MD, PhD, of Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen, Denmark, who will discuss the European experience with the HeartMate 3 LVAD. HeartMate 3, which received CE Mark approval in Europe in 2015, has been evaluated in several studies, including the HeartMate 3 CE Mark clinical trial, which demonstrated a 92% survival rate at 6 months. Dr. Gustafsson will discuss the implications of these findings and also will present data from the ELEVATE registry, which was developed to evaluate HeartMate 3 in the post-market approval setting. ■

**STS/ISHLT Joint Symposium: LVAD Therapy in 2018—Worldwide Perspectives**

**Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Room 304

## THANK YOU!

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons gratefully acknowledges the following companies for providing educational grants for the STS 54th Annual Meeting.

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This list is accurate as of January 29, 2018.

## Claim Continuing Medical Education Credit

The STS 54th Annual Meeting utilizes an entirely electronic evaluation and CME/Perfusion CEU credit claim

process. Both physicians and perfusionists can use this system to claim credit, complete evaluations, and print CME/Perfusion CEU certificates. Certificates of Attendance also are available for other attendees and international physicians not wishing to claim CME/Perfusion CEU credit. Attendees will not be able to evaluate and claim CME/Perfusion CEU credit for ticketed sessions unless they have registered for those sessions. *Please note that CME credit is not available for the Residents Symposium, Residents Luncheon, or STS/AATS Tech-Con 2018.*

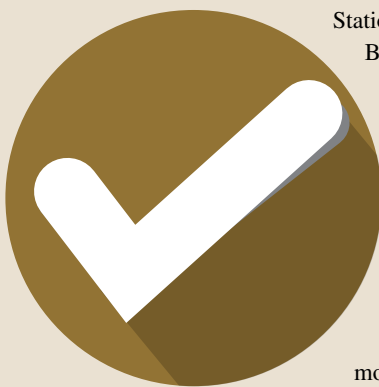
Attendees can complete the overall meeting evaluations and all individual session evaluations onsite at CME Stations located in the Grand Ballroom Foyer and the Floridian Ballroom Foyer. Certificate printing is available.

Attendees also can complete evaluations and claim credit by visiting [sts.org/2018evaluation](http://sts.org/2018evaluation) or using the STS Meetings app. In order to make this process more convenient for attendees, the meeting evaluations will be available online through Monday, February 12, 2018.


Attendees can log in to the website with the following information:

**Username:** 6-digit member ID number located on the upper right corner of their meeting badge

**Password:** First initial and last name ■





A diver is shown in a dark, rocky cave environment. The cave walls are covered with large, intricate, glowing blue structures that resemble lymph nodes or complex biological networks. The diver is positioned in the lower right, holding a light that illuminates the scene. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and high-tech.

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# Presenters Meet the Media in STS Press Conferences

The Society will host three press conferences on Tuesday highlighting some of the exciting research being presented at the STS 54th Annual Meeting. The press conferences will take place at 10:00 a.m. in Room 208.

## Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery Compared to Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in Patients Younger Than 50 Years of Age: Long-Term Outcomes

**Speaker:** Wael I. Awad, MD, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, United Kingdom  
**Discussant:** Robbin G. Cohen, MD, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

## Factors Associated With New Persistent Opioid Use After Lung Resection

**Speaker:** Alex A. Brescia, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
**Discussant:** David T. Cooke, MD, University of California Davis Health, Sacramento

## Consequences of Refusing Surgery for Esophageal Cancer: A National Cancer Database Analysis

**Speaker:** Sebron W. Harrison, MD, Weill Cornell Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, New York, NY  
**Discussant:** Mark S. Allen, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN ■



# European and North American Strategies Differ for Controversial Procedures

Level 1 evidence is often missing in cardiothoracic surgical practice, due to a lack of controlled trials. As a result, standard treatment and management may vary between continents.

Those differences will be explored in this afternoon's collaborative session from STS and the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS).

Session moderators Janet P. Edwards, MD, of the University of Calgary in Canada, and ESTS President Kostas Papagiannopoulos, MD, of St. James University Hospital in Leeds, United Kingdom, will lead the comparative discussion on a variety of controversial issues in general thoracic surgery, including the surgical management of lung metastases, multimodal approaches to the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma, surgical management of small cell lung cancer, and approaches to treatment of primary chest wall malignancies.

"We selected hot topics that are considered controversial in Europe and North America and chose expert speakers who can give their take on what's currently happening in each area," Dr. Edwards said. "Our session will

compile the evidence in these domains to help practicing surgeons make the best possible treatment decisions for their patients."

The speakers will address whether it's appropriate to operate on lung metastases and whether it actually prolongs survival. Survival after resection of lung metastases likely varies based on many factors, including tumor type. Speakers will provide advice on when metastectomy is advisable, Dr. Edwards said. As for malignant pleural mesothelioma, surgeons will discuss options for multimodal therapy, as well as the availability of clinical trials.

Discussion of limited-stage small cell lung cancer is expected to address which cases should be managed with surgical resection. Finally, surgeons will explore complex reconstruction following a chest wall tumor. Chest wall tumors are relatively uncommon, and some patients may benefit from multimodal therapy.

Considering existing differences in current practice, as well as possible recommendations for change, may convince general thoracic surgeons to rethink treatment in these domains, Dr. Edwards said. ■

## ESTS @ STS: Controversial Issues in General Thoracic Surgery

**Tuesday**  
 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
 Room 316

## Review STS University Lecture Material Online



STS University courses feature only hands-on learning. No didactic lectures will be given during the activity, so attendees are encouraged to view the lectures online prior to Wednesday morning. You can access the lectures at the STS University viewing station located in the Floridian Ballroom Foyer. You also can access them through the STS Meetings app or by visiting [sts.org/stsuniversity](http://sts.org/stsuniversity). ■

## Recording Policy

Recording of STS 54th Annual Meeting sessions is strictly prohibited, except by authorized personnel. ■

## SCHEDULE

*continued from page 1*

Advanced Therapies for End-Stage Cardiopulmonary Disease  
 Room 315

Congenital: Pediatric Congenital III  
 Room 305

ESTS @ STS: Controversial Issues in General Thoracic Surgery – Perspectives From Europe and North America  
 Room 316

General Thoracic: Esophageal  
 Floridian Ballroom B-C

**4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**  
 Quality Improvement  
 Room 304

## WEDNESDAY

**6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**  
 Registration & Breakfast  
 Hall D Lobby, First Floor

**7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**  
 STS University  
 Hall D, First Floor

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
 STS University (courses repeated)  
 Hall D, First Floor

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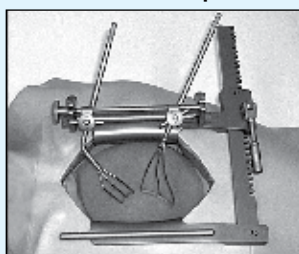
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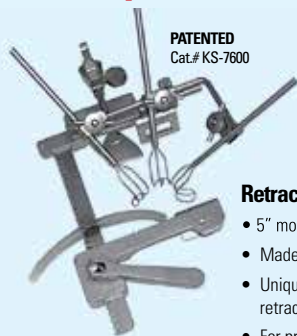
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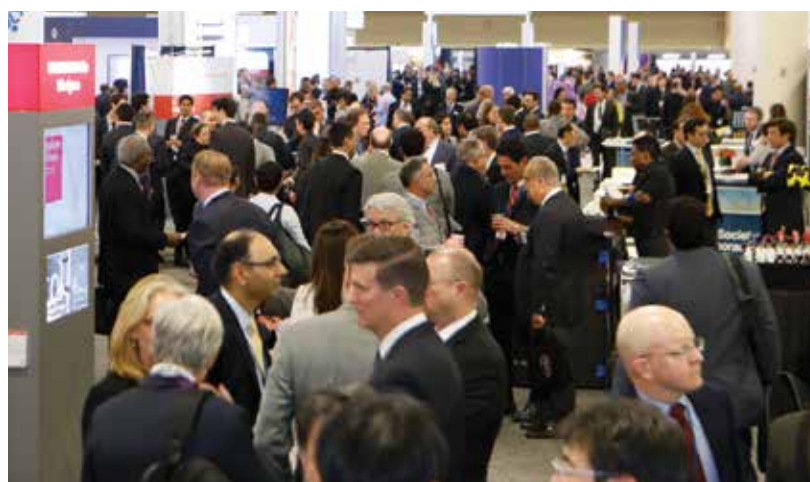


Focused on the  
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# Photo Gallery

The Exhibit Hall opened on Sunday evening, and attendees were able to visit with vendors while enjoying refreshments. Residents competed for the STS Jeopardy championship, with the University of Michigan emerging victorious. On Monday, an important session on diversity was held, poster authors discussed their work, and several awards were presented.



## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*continued from page 1*

As one example of the power of the Quality Collaborative in improving outcomes, Dr. Prager described an initiative to increase use of the internal mammary artery in coronary bypass surgery. The success was the result of identifying rates of use at various sites, offering educational sessions, creating an exclusion form for operating surgeons who chose not to use the internal mammary artery, and providing feedback.

Subsequent Quality Collaborative initiatives were successful in reducing ventilator time, decreasing unnecessary blood transfusions, and identifying when the critical or sentinel thought process or care process occurred leading to a patient's death.

"Cardiac and thoracic surgeons have a unique opportunity with the data we have from our registries in the United States and worldwide to explore our outcomes and comparative performances, and—with understanding and feedback, discussion, and resetting of approaches and goals—create improvements, knowledge, and benefit for patients and our national health care systems," he said.

Dr. Prager then reinforced the integral role of performance analysis and feedback for success in the sport he loves: tennis. Through short video clips of interviews with players and coaches, attendees heard how performance measurement, performance feedback style and timing, and personal qualities lead to improvement and success.

Dr. Prager captured the essence of the interviews by noting that cardiothoracic surgeons must embrace their failures, as that is the path to greatness, and should always think about getting better—not winning, but getting better—in order to be successful.

"The commitment of [tennis] players is unwavering and the recognition that performance feedback is essential is understood by every player at every level. Perhaps we can learn from their commitment and approaches," said Dr. Prager.

He added, "Accepting performance feedback and looking at our outcomes is as much about our character as our talent or ability as surgeons, and as our future tennis stars recognize, there always are ways to improve."

"For all of us, while this may seem to be an aspirational narrative, the mastery of the approach, whether it is a hospital network, an individual hospital, or an individual surgeon, our professional innovation, our seeing, will create success," he said. ■

"Accepting performance feedback and looking at our outcomes is as much about our character as our talent or ability as surgeons."

—RICHARD L. PRAGER, MD



## QUESTION OF THE DAY

*What has been your favorite presentation so far?*TIMOTHY RYAN,  
MS, NP-C  
Omaha, NEDEEMY REKKAS,  
MD  
Waukesha, WILUCAS HENN, MD  
Youngstown, OHDEKEA  
LITZENDORF, PA  
Arlington, VA

“ The ethical discussion on ECMO. It’s a hot topic right now, and no one has the right answer. ”

“ The abstract presentation on robotic biatrial cryo-maze ablation for persistent lone atrial fibrillation. The fact that such a complex procedure can be done with a minimally invasive technique is amazing. I love anything to do with robotics. ”

“ Michael Mack’s presentation. He made the argument for specialized centers for valve surgery to improve outcomes. ”

“ There have been so many, but I’d have to say the President’s Address. It was so inspiring. How could you not love it? Plus, tennis happens to be my favorite sport. ”

## Join Us Online!

Follow STS on social media to stay on top of Annual Meeting news, and share your meeting experience using the hashtag #STS2018.



The Society  
of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)



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@STS\_CTSurgery



The Society  
of Thoracic Surgeons

Stay connected TOP TWEETS  
#STS2018

The STS-PAC Board of Advisors meets at #STS2018 in Fort Lauderdale.



@STS\_Advocacy

Cardiologists & CT Surgeons working together to manage valve dz: “A rising tide floats all boats.”  
-Michael Mack @STS\_CTSurgery #STS2018

@JulieDoberne

Dr. Prager and @DavidCookeMD highlighting the priority of diversity & inclusion @STS\_CTSurgery. An honor to be a member of the task force. Important to recognize the POSITIVES and INSPIRE everyone you meet. Mentors are truly impactful at all career stages. #STS2018 #MedEd #tssmn



@JackieKOliver

Very inspirational presidential address from Dr. Prager - “successful people are comfortable being uncomfortable” #sts2018

@OPreventzaMD



Congrats to Dr. Pena-Oscuvilca, TSF Travel Award recipient, from Peru! Visit STS #807 to learn about awards. #STS2018 @STS\_CTSurgery

@CTSurgeryFdn



@AlexBresciaMD answering questions after a great talk on new persistent opioid use after lung cancer surgery at #STS2018 @STS\_CTSurgery

@CHarringtonMD

Had a great time presenting data on age-mismatching in lung transplant outcomes. Thanks @STS\_CTSurgery for the opportunity to present! #STS2018

@david\_j\_hall

## Free Wi-Fi Available

Complimentary wireless internet, supported by Medtronic, is available in the common areas and meeting rooms of the Convention Center for all STS Annual Meeting attendees. To connect to the wireless internet, select “STS 2018” from the available networks. Launch a web browser and follow the instructions to connect, entering password “Medtronic1” when prompted; the password is case sensitive. ■



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**Caution:** Federal law (USA) restricts these devices to sale by or on the order of a physician.

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