STS 2018 Begins

Welcome to the STS 54th Annual Meeting! I am thrilled to welcome you to Fort Lauderdale for this preeminent educational event in cardiothoracic surgery.

The STS Annual Meeting will be packed with interactive learning on hot topics. Over the next 5 days, you’ll experience thought-provoking lectures from renowned faculty and guests, exciting hands-on learning, an abundance of networking opportunities, and a chance to view the latest products and services in the specialty.

A number of sessions will feature perspectives from international experts. A Monday session from STS, the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons, and the Canadian Society of Cardiac Surgeons will provide information on the management of airway injuries post-esophagectomy, management of N2 disease in non-small cell lung cancer, and much more. Also on Monday, surgeons at the International Symposium will explain their treatment approaches, challenges, and ethical dilemmas related to dealing with infectious heart diseases in young adults—especially in light of the current opioid epidemic.

On Tuesday, the Society will team up with the American Association of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, and the Society for Vascular Surgery to discuss controversial issues in general thoracic surgery, including surgical management of pulmonary metastases, management of malignant pleural mesothelioma, surgery in small cell lung cancer, and chest wall tumors.

In addition to collaborative sessions with international participants highlighted above, special presentations with the European Association for Thoracic Surgery, the American College of Chest Physicians, the European Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, and the Society for Thoracic Surgery will provide information on the management of airway injuries post-esophagectomy, management of N2 disease in non-small cell lung cancer, and much more. Also on Monday, surgeons at the International Symposium will explain their treatment approaches, challenges, and ethical dilemmas related to dealing with infectious heart diseases in young adults—especially in light of the current opioid epidemic.

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On Tuesday, the Society will team up with the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery in a session on the treatment options available for bicuspid aortic valve disease associated with pure aortic valve insufficiency and root dilation. In the afternoon, STS will partner with the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation in a new session on contemporary experience with left ventricular assist device therapy around the globe. STS also will join with the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons to discuss controversial issues in general thoracic surgery, including surgical management of pulmonary metastases, management of malignant pleural mesothelioma, surgery in small cell lung cancer, and chest wall tumors.

In addition to collaborative sessions with international participants highlighted above, special presentations with the American Association of Thoracic Surgery, the American College of Chest Physicians, the European Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, and the Society for Vascular Surgery also are part of the program.

Changing Patient Population Drives Critical Care Symposium

The definition of a “traditional” cardiothoracic surgery patient is evolving. As patients become older and more frail, the strategies to ensure good outcomes and handle issues that arise postoperatively are changing.

“Clinicians need to be up-to-date on the elements of care for these patients, who are more complex and have more comorbidities,” said moderator Rakesh Ch. Arora, MD, of the University of Manitoba and St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, Canada.

This year’s STS/AATS Critical Care Symposium will help members of the entire cardiothoracic surgery team do just that. Categorized into three sessions, the topics discussed at the Symposium will cover how to make things go right, what to do when things go wrong, and handling end-of-life decisions.

“How to make things go right” includes good communication and using checklists, especially when patients transition to different members of the health care team.

Moderator Michael S. Firstenberg, MD, of Summa Akron City Hospital in Ohio, noted that checklists help to ensure that all clinicians involved in a patient’s care are on the same page about major issues. “This seems to be a painfully obvious way to reduce morbidity and mortality, but there has been some resistance, most likely because people are not sure how to implement the process,” he added.

The “when things go wrong” portion of the Symposium will emphasize both the practical and ethical aspects of managing challenging situations. “Clinicians tend to focus on the positive experiences, but we all know that there’s a certain reality where things don’t always go well,” Dr. Firstenberg said.

Failure to rescue has been strongly tied to variations in mortality, and studies suggest that systems-level interventions may improve the quality of care. “The literature in cardiothoracic surgery and other high-risk settings has shown that bad outcomes are rarely the result of one individual,” said Dr. Firstenberg. “How can we make sure things will go well? You need an integrated, predictable process. It’s this kind of process that gives you an orchestra, rather than just a group of musicians playing their individual parts.”
Avalus™ Bioprosthesis

Indications: The Avalus bioprosthesis is indicated for the replacement of diseased, damaged, or malfunctioning native or prosthetic aortic valves. Contraindications: None known. Warnings/Precautions/Adverse Events: Only physicians who have received proper training in valve replacement should use this device. Accelerated structural deterioration due to calcific degeneration of bioprosthesis may occur in children, adolescents, young adults, and patients with altered calcium metabolism (e.g., chronic renal failure, or hyperparathyroidism). Adverse events can include: angi, cardiac arrhythmias, endocarditis, heart failure, hemolysis, hemolytic anemia, hemorrhage, infection other than endocarditis, intravascular or perivalvular leak, mycotic aortic infection, nonstructural valve dysfunction (leaflet entrapment/impingement, obstructive paravalvular ingrowth, suture dehiscence, inappropriate sizing or positioning, or other), pericardial effusion or tamponade, prosthesis infection, prosthetic thrombosis, stroke, structural valve deterioration (calcification, leaflet tear or perforation, or other), thromboembolism, tissue dehiscence, and transient ischemic attack. These complications could lead to reoperation, explant of the bioprosthesis, permanent disability, or death. Caution: Federal law (USA) restricts this device to use by or on the order of a physician. For a listing of indications, contraindications, precautions, warnings, and potential adverse events, please refer to the Instructions for Use. For countries that use eIFUs, consult instructions for use at www.medtronic.com/manuals. Note: Manuals can be viewed using a current version of any major internet browser.

WE HEAR YOU.

Innovation

The first thing we do as collaborators is listen. You have shared your surgical experience and expertise, and together, we develop meaningful comprehensive options for your patients.

Stop by our booth to see our innovations.
O
n behalf of the Society’s staff, I join STS President Rich Prager in welcoming you to The Society of Thoracic Surgeons 54th Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. As is the past, the Annual Meeting will provide you with a wide range of educational, networking, and social offerings.

Because there is so much to experience between Saturday and Wednesday, this STS Meeting Bulletin will help you keep track of what’s happening and provide up-to-date information about new sessions, meeting room locations, exhibitor descriptions, and much more.

Watch for the Monday and Tuesday/ Wednesday editions of the Bulletin; the newspapers will be placed in bins throughout the convention center. Check the front page left-hand column in each issue for a quick summary and update of the day’s activities. The Bulletin also provides a handy reference to the Exhibit Hall, which is an important component of the meeting experience. The Exhibit Hall is a great place to learn about new and improved technology and products, and it offers the perfect opportunity to see and meet with colleagues and friends. Surveys from past meetings show that the majority of attendees make a point of visiting with the exhibitors at least three times over the course of the meeting. The STS Exhibit Hall opens its doors at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, with a reception that runs through 6:30 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be served throughout the Exhibit Hall. While you’re there, I hope you will stop by the STS booth (#807). Staff members will be there, eager to talk with you about—and provide updates on—all things STS. Be sure to ask about plans to upgrade and expand the STS National Database—including the new STS Informatics Database component for mechanical circulatory support device procedures, our public reporting initiatives, exciting developments from the STS Research Center, and upcoming educational programs.

You also will want to take a moment and talk with the STS Government Relations staff, who can bring you up to date on the Society’s many efforts on Capitol Hill. From coding and reimbursement issues to the future of health care reform legislation and regulation, STS continues to champion the specialty in Washington. Stop by and learn more. There’s a lot going on—and you’ll want to understand the implications for your practice.

If you are not already an STS member, please stop by the STS booth and learn about the many membership benefits we have to offer, including a complimentary subscription to The Annals of Thoracic Surgery. Those attendees who are not cardiothoracic surgeons—i.e., other physicians, CT surgery and general surgery residents, medical students, and all allied health care professionals—should especially note that our rolling admission process for Candidate, Pre-Candidate, and Associate Membership allows for the prompt disposition of their STS membership applications, typically within a week or two, so that they can start enjoying the benefits of STS membership almost immediately. CT surgeon applications for Active and International Membership also are reviewed and approved by our Board of Directors three times per year, and those applications received by March 16 will be eligible for consideration when the Board next meets on April 29. Even if you already are an STS member, please pick up a membership packet for a colleague; you will be helping both your colleague and your Society.

All the scientific sessions at this 54th Annual Meeting, including the symposia, meet the experts sessions, breakout sessions, hands-on sessions, and invited talks, create a vast array of educational opportunities—more than any one person could ever attend onsite. Fortunately, the STS 54th Annual Meeting Online is included free with your Annual Meeting registration. This online product will allow you to catch those sessions you weren’t able to attend—and review all the sessions you did attend—in the comfort of your home or office throughout the year.

In closing, please know that all of us on the staff are here to serve you. Look for the distinctive green STAFF ribbon on our name tags, and please don’t hesitate to let us know if there’s anything we can do to help. Thank you for attending, and enjoy the meeting!

Rob Wynbrandt
STS Executive Director & General Counsel

If you are not already an STS member, please stop by the STS booth and learn about the many membership benefits we have to offer.

Learn How to Navigate the Paradigm Shift in Health Care

Changes in technology and business practices have transformed the delivery of health care. This year’s Practice Management Summit will arm cardiothoracic surgeons with the information that they need to succeed in this evolving environment.

One of the greatest changes over the past 10 to 15 years is the decreasing number of cardiothoracic surgeons in private practice, with most cardiothoracic surgeons now employed by or affiliated with a hospital system. “Our specialty is very hospital-based, primarily because we are involved with major operations and use expensive equipment. Increasing overhead costs and changes in reimbursement have made it difficult for cardiothoracic surgeons to be in private practice,” said moderator Frank L. Fazzalari, MD, MBA, Chair of the STS Workforce on Practice Management.

A panel of experts on the business aspects of cardiothoracic surgery will help attendees better position themselves for success, whether they are self-employed or hospital-employed. Discussions about contracts will include perspectives from both the employee and employer perspectives. Information also will be presented on fair market value compensation for cardiothoracic surgeons in the United States.

“If this information is very important for surgeons who are negotiating employment contracts,” said Dr. Fazzalari. Experts also will discuss professional opportunities for cardiothoracic surgeons at the corporate level, how health care providers can cope with uncertainty and unexpected surprises, and how organizations can be designed to be more reliable and resilient. “Our presenters are at the leading edge of changes in the clinical and financial aspects of cardiothoracic surgery,” Dr. Fazzalari said, noting the Summit’s important benefit of how customers experience interactions with the Summit’s speakers. “We have plenty of time for discussion, so attending the Summit will be a great way to have your questions answered.”

New Session Focuses on Diversity in CT Surgery

Recognizing the growing diversity of cardiothoracic surgery patients and the population at large, the Society’s Special Ad Hoc Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion has designed a new session to address the role of diversity and inclusion in the cardiothoracic surgery workforce and explore why physicians who are underrepresented in medicine are important for the optimal delivery of cardiothoracic surgical care.

During the session, David Acosta, MD will explain how a diverse environment can improve health care outcomes, as well as an organization’s overall effectiveness and productivity. Dr. Acosta is the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Following Dr. Acosta’s talk, a panel discussion will be held among Society leaders, a patient advocate, a medical student, a cardiothoracic surgery resident, and an academic and community-based cardiothoracic surgeon. Initial results from a recent survey of US-based STS members will be presented, and questions from the audience will be encouraged.

Photography and Recording Policy

Photography and recording of STS/AATS Tech-Cor 2018 sessions are strictly prohibited, except by authorized personnel. Recording of STS 54th Annual Meeting sessions is strictly prohibited, except by authorized personnel.

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 “Medtronic” when prompted; the password is case sensitive.
Get the Most Out of the Annual Meeting

Whether it’s your first time attending the STS Annual Meeting or your 20th, making the most of your time in Fort Lauderdale will require planning and a good dose of flexibility. Three veteran meeting attendees share their best advice to help you maximize your experience.

DOWNLOAD THE APP

“Planning your schedule at the meeting can be a challenge,” said Robin G. Cohen, MD, MMM, Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. “It’s true that you have to juggle in order to see the things that interest you, and you can’t always attend everything you want to.”

If you haven’t already, download the STS Meetings app, available at sts.org/mobileapp, to help you stay on schedule. You can save sessions and presentations to your personal itinerary, then set alerts so that you’re reminded when they’re about to begin. You also can use the app to read scientific abstracts and take notes during presentations.

“The discussion opportunities are very informal and provide ample opportunity for further interaction and exchange of new ideas.” —KEVIN D. ACCOLA, MD

GET A WELL-ROUNDED EXPERIENCE

While many Annual Meeting sessions offer in-depth science, technology, and hands-on learning, others address the practice management side of cardiothoracic surgery. These sessions include the Practice Management Summit (Monday), Diversity and Inclusion in Cardiothoracic Surgery: What’s in It for Me? (Monday), and The Importance of Physician Documentation in Reimbursement (Monday).

Kevin D. Accola, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Cardiovascular Surgeons PA in California, encourages his colleagues to attend the STS Key Contacts session on Monday and the Health Policy Forum on Tuesday so that they are prepared to advocate for the specialty.

“It’s essential that cardiothoracic surgeons and others in our field become knowledgeable about changes in our health care system, as they impact our daily practice,” he said.

Dr. Accola also strongly encourages attendees to participate during sessions, whether it’s during the Q&A portion of a session or via polling software available in select sessions. “The discussion opportunities are very informal and provide ample opportunity for further interaction and exchange of new ideas,” he said.

VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL

In addition to offering insightful information about Annual Meeting sessions, this issue of the STS Meeting Bulletin offers a map of the Exhibit Hall and descriptions about what companies are offering at their booths (see pages 8-11).

“I frequently find a new instrument or idea that I hadn’t thought of,” said Dr. Cohen. “Visiting the Exhibit Hall also helps you establish relationships with salespeople and their managers who might be good resources in the future.”

The Society has a booth in the Exhibit Hall (#807) where attendees can learn about everything STS, such as membership, The Annals of Thoracic Surgery, STS-PAC, and the STS National Database.

Data managers and surgeons participating in the STS National Database should take time to visit the STS Regional Data Managers booth (#1112). “It’s a great way to find out what’s going on around the country and how to become more involved with local efforts,” said Syama Prince, RN, BSN, AACC, Director of Cardiovascular Outcomes at HCA North Texas in Dallas.

“These regional initiatives are where some of the strongest networks are built.”

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Networking is an essential component of the Annual Meeting experience. “People I’ve met at the Annual Meeting have remained mentors throughout my career and become close friends,” Dr. Accola said.

Dr. Cohen agreed. “I would advise new and young members to not be shy about attending social events and approaching even the most famous members in our field,” he said. “I think STS is a really inclusive organization that is welcoming of young talent.”

One of the highlights of the meeting is the President’s Reception, which will be held on Sunday evening at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa. The event allows attendees to connect with leaders in cardiothoracic surgery in a picturesque, informal setting. It’s not too late to purchase a ticket; you can do so at Registration on the first floor.

On the other evenings, industry-sponsored satellite activities feature expert talks and oftentimes a free meal (find a list to the left). “Many surgeons have been invited to industry dinners in advance by their local reps,” Dr. Cohen said. “These can be another good way to learn about new technology in development.”

RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES

Relaxing in your hotel room with room service can be a refreshing option after days filled with learning and socializing. “The meeting can be a lot to take in. There’s nothing wrong with getting in some downtime so that you’re ready to go tomorrow,” Prince advised.

Hear from Experts at Industry-Sponsored Satellite Activities

Satellite activities are programs offered by industry and held in conjunction with the STS 54th Annual Meeting. They are not developed or sponsored by STS.

**MONDAY**

**Abbott**

Hemodynamics Matter for Exercise Reserve, Left Ventricular Mass Regression, and Durability

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, Grand Ballroom E

1881 SE 17th St.

**AtriCure/MediaSphere Medical**

Concomitant Surgical Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation: Navigating Controversies and Growing Your Practice

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa, Caribbean V

3030 Holiday Dr.

**St. Jude Medical**

Latest Innovations in Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, Grand Ballroom D

1881 SE 17th St.

**TUESDAY**

**Thompson Surgical**

Optimal Exposure for Mitral Valve Surgery: If You Can’t See It, You Can’t Fix It

6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, Grand Ballrooms ABCD

1881 SE 17th St.

**Kevin D. Accola, MD**

asks a question during the 2017 Annual Meeting.

CT Surgery Residents Prepare to Win Jeopardy Title

Cardiothoracic surgery residents from Europe and the United States will face off Sunday evening in the ultimate cognitive challenge—the STS Cardiatheracic Surgery Jeopardy Championship.

Qualifying competitions were held at the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting in October 2017 and the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association Annual Meeting in November 2017.

EACTS winners Priyadharsan Ariyaratnam, MRCS and Joshil Lodhia, MRCS from Castle Hill Hospital in Cottingham, United Kingdom, will compete against STSAs winners Terry Shih, MD and Stephanie G. Worrell, MD from the University of Michigan on Sunday from 4:45 p.m. to 5:55 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall Learning Lab Theater.
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*Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 2018
Sternal Fixation Mechanical Comparison, Worcester, MA.
www.klsmartinnorthamerica.com
Developed in conjunction with Dr. Jeko Madjarov,
Carolinas HealthCare System
Patient #8,992,530. Additional Patents Pending
I also am very pleased about the three outstanding guest speakers at the General Session on Tuesday morning. Not one, but two speakers have been chosen for this year’s Thomas B. Ferguson Lecture. John Ayanian 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 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. Following the two presentations, Keith Naunheim, Dave Shahian, Alan Speir, and I will participate in a panel discussion on health care reform.

The C. Walton Lillehei lecturer will be Laura J. Snyder, a historian, philosopher, and writer. Her talk, “The Philosophical Breakfast Club and the Invention of the Modern Scientist,” will describe how a group of thinkers at Cambridge University in the early 19th century introduced four major principles into scientific inquiry and, as a result, transformed medical science.

A full listing of presentations is available in your Program Guide, a publication that you will find invaluable for planning your schedule. New this year, the scientific abstract information is available in an e-only Abstract Book (sts.org/abstractbook) and in the STS Meetings app (sts.org/mobileapp).

On behalf of the Society’s leadership, thank you for joining us here in Fort Lauderdale. Welcome to the meeting!

Richard L. Prager, MD
STS President
RAM® AVR/MVR PROCEDURE

Learn about LSI’s automated instrumentation for minimally invasive aortic and mitral valve replacement at LSI Booth 537 and experience hands-on training in our LSI Innovation Boutique.

REDEFINING MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC SURGERY

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A&E Medical  625, 925
Farmington, NJ
A&E Medical’s products include MYO/Wire® temporary thoracic closure and St край™ B sternal wires, MYO/Punch rotating surgical punch, MYO/ Lead disposable patient cable, and DoubleWire high-strength sternal closure system.

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.

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 Interventional. The U Plus 90 Interventional system works in conjunction with the Ribloc® U Plus Chest Tube 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. CardioCafé®, a cardiovascular scaffold, is the first of the company’s ADAPT™ tissue-engineered bioprosthetic valve 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 has been providing professional placement services and proven results to hospitals, physician groups, and practice management organizations since 2003. The company offers professional services 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’ diverse product lines include market-leading fluid management systems, angiographic products, thrombolytic products, and venous products. More information is available at www.Angiodynamics.com.

Astithe Medical, Inc  730
San Diego, CA
Astithe 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 on urology and hospital-acquired acute conditions that require rapid diagnosis/risk assessment, such as acute kidney injury and sepsis.

Atlantic Medical USA  801
Tustin, CA
Atlantic 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 BioScience franchise is designed to improve a surgical line of enhanced sealants and hemostatic products to complement surgical techniques across thoracic, cardiac, vascular, and other surgical specialties.

Baxter  1113
Deerfield, IL
Baxter’s Bioloruissurgery business unit offers a comprehensive line of biologic and synthetic products that advance surgical care. Bioloruissurgery specializes in intraoperative wound and tissue management and aims to improve a surgical line of enhanced sealants and hemostatic products to complement surgical techniques across thoracic, cardiac, vascular, and other surgical specialties.

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 technologies while improving the lives of people around the world. Baylis has offices in Montreal, Toronto, Boston, and London.

BD  1316, 1221
Franklin Lakes, NJ
BD is a global medical technology company advancing health by improving discovery, diagnostics, and care delivery. The company’s innovative product portfolio, leadership, and partnerships help make a difference for global health care.

Berlin Heart Inc  1103
The Woodlands, TX
Berlin Heart is the only company worldwide that develops, manufactures, and distributes ventricular assist devices for patients of every age and body size. EXCOR Pediatric provides pediatric to long-term support options specifically for infants and children awaiting heart transplants. EXCOR Pediatric is approved for use in the United States under Humanitarian Device Exemption regulations by the Food and Drug Administration.

BFW Inc  1005
Louisville, KY
BFW Inc. is a worldwide leader in surgical illumination and headlight video imaging. Experience the foremost innovations in bright, portable, QR capable LED headlamps, the new Hatteras™ LED light source—unmatched intense illumination for headlights and instrumentation, and state-of-the-art Pharo HD™ coaxial headlight for imaging system.

BioSafe Science & Engineering  214
Austin, TX
BioSafe Science & Engineering is developing and commercializing proprietary valve repair—technologies that provide an alternative to valve replacement for aortic valve disease. The company’s HeartStar Aortic Annuloplasty Devices are designed to simplify and standardize aortic valve repair for patients undergoing surgery for aortic insufficiency or mitral regurgitation.

Bolton Medical / Terumo  1730
Seabrook, TX

Boston Medical Products, Inc  F06
Shrewsbury, MA

Boston Scientific  1024
Minneapolis, MN

Cardiac Surgical Unit Advanced Life Support  1219
Simpsonville, SC
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, on-site 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

ClearFlow  833
Anaheim, CA
ClearFlow’s mission is to support best practices and develop guidelines to prevent chest tube occlusions. ClearFlow’s PlasmaFlow 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

Columbia University Advanced Life Support  1219

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 devices offering in EVAR, leg therapies, PE prevention, and embolization.

CorMatrix Cardiovascular  631

CorMatrix Cardiovascular markets its ECM®, Bioflow™ devices for vascular repair, pericardial repair and reconstruction, cardiac ligation, rinsing, and CarGano ECQ Envelope for CIEDs. CorMatrix ECM Technology allows surgeons to restore the native anatomy of cardiovascular tissue in need of repair, serving as a superior alternative to synthetic or cross-linked materials.

CryoLife, Inc  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. Founded in the company’s inception in 1984, it is estimated that its products and tissues have helped more than 1 million worldwide patients.

CT Assist  209
Philippi, WV
CT Assist is a managed service provider of cost-effective cardiovascular 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 cardiac, vascular, and anesthesia professionals.

CTSnet  1013
Chicago, IL
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 needs of the global cardiothoracic community.

Derma Med Tech  1436
Houston, TX

Designs For Vision  1104

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
www.edwards.com

Edward 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.

EHM 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 advancement of science, health, and technology professionals. Elsevier empowers better decision making and delivery of better care. www.elsevier.com

Essential Pharmaceuticals  207
Durham, NC
Supporting the preservation of human systems. Originally developed for cardio-surgery, Custodiol® HTX offers superior convenience, water-like viscosity, and no need for additives or filters, which makes it a preferred solution for many transplant centers.
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, anatomy, pathophysiology and therapy and disseminate the useful results thereof. Visit Booth 926 for more information.

European Society of Thoracic Surgeons 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

Fehuling Surgical Acworth, GA

Fehuling 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 set, including NEW retractor designs for unmatched atrial exposure of the left atrium. Their RAMO and SuperPlast instruments are designed specifically for cardiovascular procedures (needle holders, forceps, clamps, and MICS).

Frymise Associates Medical Market Research F07

Menlo Park, CA

Frymise 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. Frymise 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 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 premorbid respiratory levels, fewer wound complications, and better postoperative mobility. It is useful for any thoracic surgery, including sternotomy, fractured rib, and other chest trauma patients.

General Thoracic Surgical Club 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.

Geneseo BioMedical 1100

Denver, CO

Designing the Standard. Geneseo BioMedical, Inc provides unique devices for cardiac surgery, including annuloplasty for mitral and tricuspid repair, sternal suture, retractor, and sternal stabilization devices, instruments for minimally invasive aortic, transcatheter aortic valve implantation, and robotic surgeons, as well as coagulopathies, cardiac surgery, larynx, suture guards, retraction clips, and myocardial needles. www.geneseobiomedical.com

Getinge Wallingford, CT

Getinge is a leading global provider of innovative solutions for operating rooms, intensive care units, hospital water and 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 innovative solutions to medical problems for decades. More than 30 million Gore medical devices have been implanted worldwide. Products include vascular grafts, endoprosthesis, on the interventional devices, surgical materials, and sutures for use in vascular, cardiac, and general surgery. For more information, visit 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 devices 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-enabling 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 Fort Lauderdale, FL

Hayes Locums provides physician search services, from 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 to the utmost integrity, which physicians and clients have grown to trust.

HCA 937

Oakwood, 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 Plaza, The 1425

Plano, TX

The Heart Hospital Baylor Plaza is a cardiovascular specialty hospital in North Texas that opened May 5, 2017. Over the past 10 years, its quality outcomes and guest satisfaction scores have consistently been in the top 5% of recognition, praise, and accolades from international giants in the health care field. Visit 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 HVSI welcomes you to become a part of something very unique. Membership is available online.

International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery 924

Beverly, MA


Interface Diagnostics 108

 Parsippany, NJ

Interface Diagnostics is a public molecular diagnostics company providing specialty medical tests focused primarily on thyroid, esophageal, and gastrointestinal. The company’s most recently launched product is MyPlex for Lung Cancer, which differentiates local recurrence of cancer vs formation of new primary tumors. Interface also offers ThyGenX, ThyraMiR, PanCraGEn, and BarEiGen.

Intuitive Surgical 814

Sunnyvale, CA

Intuitive Surgical, Inc designs, manufactures, and markets robotic 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 preternostomy: the GrandFlex® JACE Medical is a cosmetic and culture committed to creating innovative, transformational technologies that facilitate open chest surgery and to promote, for the public benefit, research into cardiovascular, and thoracic physiology, anatomy, pathophysiology and therapy. Visit Booth 1715 and see how the company “thinks outside the paradox.” Get more information at JACEmed.com.

Jinwha Medical Cheongju, 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 Device Companies are in the business of reaching more patients and restoring more lives. The group represents Ethicon USL, LLC, Nevo/Wave Microwave Ablation, and DePuy Synthes.

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Kapp Surgical Cleveland, OH

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Karl Storz Endoscopy 312

El Segundo, CA

Karl Storz offers solutions for thoracic surgery, including standard instrumentation, disposable instruments that offer economic solutions for thoracoscopic procedures. The ENDOCAMELEON® System provides brilliant, natural color rendition and innovative visualization capabilities.

Kinedan Inc 1533

Camarillo, CA

Visit Kinedan’s booth to view the demonstration of the SuperCable®, Polymer Iso-Elastic™ Stent System, which solves limitations of metal cable, wire, and plating systems. SuperCable provides a dual strand footpath, which reduces cut-through. It elastically absorbs load and maintains compression. The low-profile clamp minimizes palpability, and the polymer cable allows for quick rotation.

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KLS Martin, a responsive company, is focused on innovation, simplicity, and solutions, MedPartners Locum Tenens specializes in placing qualified physicians and leaders in health care facilities. 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 Scottsdale, AZ

LoupeCam® is the market leader in head-mounted HD operating microscopes. LoupeCam® 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.

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LSSI Solutions’ RAM® Device is an automated, dual curved needle anular suturing device that places a single wide-hemostatic suture in one squeeze. The SEW-EASY® Device is an intraluminal needle-based anular suturing device that places sutures through the sewing cuff in one squeeze. With 11 years of proven clinical results, COR-KNOT™ isuture faster technology you can trust.

Med Alliance Solutions 824

Sycamore, IL


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Coral Springs, FL

MedPartners Locum Tenens specializes in placing well-qualified physicians and advanced practice clinicians in locum, locum-to-locum, and direct hire positions offering positions while making this process as seamless as possible for client facilities. Their highly skilled recruiters assist in this process from pre-qualification to final placement.

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ake 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
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Prevea Health - Booth #129
LPMC Pinckney - Booth #131

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

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Western Thoracic Surgical Association (WTSA)

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

Wexler Surgical, Inc

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Wexler Surgical designs and manufactures a variety of titanium and stainless steel specially surgical instruments and products for cardiac, vascular, and thoracic, and micro surgery. Come see its WTSI/Ergo line of products at the STS/CTSNet Career Fair. Visit the Optimus Series. Visit www.wexlersurgical.com for more information about products and services, or email sales@wexlersurgical.com.

Wolters Kluwer Publishing

Atlanta, GA

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.

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Zimmer Biomet Thoracic & Spine

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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 treatments for surgeons and patients, including the RibFixTM Bl Thoracic Fixation System and the Sternalock® Blu PrimaryClosure System.

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A Website Presented by Cardiothoracic Surgeons Committed to Improving Patient Care

Available in both English and Spanish, this website is easily viewable on computers, tablets, and smartphones.

All information has been reviewed by STS members and is divided into the following sections:

- Adult Heart Disease
- Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease
- Lung, Esophageal, and Other Chest Diseases
- Heart and Lung Transplantation
- Before, During, and After Surgery

Visit sts.org/patients to download a printable PDF for referring your patients to this website.
Experts Explore Innovations in Multidisciplinary Care

Collaboration among members of the multidisciplinary health care team has never been more important. And while allied health professionals have made significant contributions to performance improvement and research, forums to discuss these findings have been limited.

The goal of the Multidisciplinary Innovations in Cardiothoracic Patient Care session is for attendees to leave with specific strategies for implementing innovative patient care approaches that foster improved outcomes and efficient care delivery.

“This session is a tremendous opportunity for allied health professionals worldwide to come together, network, and share innovative best practices,” said Jill Ley, RN, MS, of the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, a moderator of the session.

The first presentations will focus on key lessons from centers demonstrating exceptional outcomes for patients treated with transcatheter aortic valve replacement, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), or long-term ventricular assist device (VAD) support. The care of these patients is complex and challenging, and speakers will offer advice on developing these programs.

Burnout among health care professionals is high, especially among those in the cardiothoracic surgery setting. It can have devastating effects on both health care professionals as well as patients, so strategies to combat this problem will be discussed.

“Burnout is more prevalent in health care workers than ever before—especially in those caring for the critically ill—and is associated with deleterious effects such as decreased quality of care, patient satisfaction, and staff retention rates,” said Mary Zellinger, RN, MS, of Emory University in Atlanta, who will discuss this topic. “Increasing awareness and identifying potential interventions will contribute to restoring the health and well-being of all members of the interprofessional team, as well as improve outcomes for our patients.”

The session also will feature an international perspective on optimizing patient safety throughout the continuum of care. Speakers from the Netherlands and United Kingdom will share information on negative pressure wound therapy, as well as how medical and nursing innovations can contribute to patient outcomes.

Following the invited lectures will be the presentation of five scientific abstracts. The topics include a nurse-driven protocol for ECMO support, using a VAD with a total artificial heart in a child, the impact of an enhanced recovery program on postoperative narcotics use, the effect of frailty and age on outcomes in cardiac surgery, and a mechanical circulatory support program at a children’s hospital.

“We are extremely excited to offer this new, comprehensive session designed specifically for multidisciplinary team members,” said Ley. “We look forward to a lively session.”

CRITICAL CARE
continued from page 1

Instruments.”

Dr. Arora noted that another issue to consider, given the changing patient population, is long-term outcomes. “What happens when older patients leave the hospital and go home? Are they surviving? Or are they thriving?”

Advances in technology have been helpful in prolonging life, and high-cost innovations such as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) are being used with increasing frequency; however, the use of ECMO is controversial.

“We’ll explore the moral and ethical aspects, as well as fiscal responsibility, in futile situations,” said Dr. Firstenberg. Following that discussion, two cardiothoracic surgeons will square off in a debate about whether ECMO-assisted CPR should be included as part of every cardiopulmonary arrest protocol.

“It’s the first time we’ve included a debate in this Symposium, and we’ll present case examples and ask for audience participation,” said Dr. Arora. “I’m excited about this new addition because attendees will gain perspectives that they can implement with their multidisciplinary teams when they get home.”

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The 2018 STS mobile app is supported by Medtronic and is compatible with iOS and Android mobile devices.
Mingle Oceanside at the President’s Reception

network with STS surgeon leaders and fellow meeting attendees at the President’s Reception on Sunday evening. This high-profile event will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on an oceanfront terrace at the luxurious Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa. While a tropical-themed band plays in the background, enjoy gourmet food stations and an open bar. Colorful tropical birds will be on hand to help set the mood. This reception takes the place of the STS Social Event, which previously had been held on Monday evening, leaving the night open for industry-sponsored events or socializing with your colleagues. Tickets can be purchased at Registration for $95, subject to availability. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with leaders in cardiothoracic surgery in a picturesque, informal setting.

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 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

SCHEDULE

continued from page 1

1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Residents Symposium: Transitioning From Residency to a Successful Practice
Palm Ballroom A, Second Floor

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
How-To Video Session: Technical Tips to Avoid Pitfalls and Simplify Congenital Procedures
Floridian Ballroom A

How-To Video Session: Tips and Tricks to Maximize Efficiency in Minimally Invasive General Thoracic Surgery
Floridian Ballroom D

2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Scientific Posters
Third Floor Concourse

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Opening Reception in STS Exhibit Hall
Hall A/B/C, First Floor

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
President’s Reception (ticket required)
Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa

STT Bermuda 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 16, 2018.

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/stoniversity.

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*Chest. 2013;143(suppl 5):7S-37S
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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 for the latest information on STS educational programs.
Video-Based Sessions Offer Dynamic Learning

Video-based learning is gaining momentum as a preferred learning medium across many disciplines, including cardiothoracic surgery. Instructional videos have proven to be better than textbooks for showing technical nuances of challenging operations. See how dynamic and effective video-based learning can be during three sessions on Sunday that will focus solely on videos within adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart surgery.

“Most meetings present a lot of data. The video presentations step away from the data and show you how to perform a typical operation,” said Gorav Ailawadi, MD, co-moderator of the adult cardiac session. “Attendees will get advice from experts on how to perform these operations quickly and safely.”

**ADULT CARDIAC SURGERY**

In a daylong session, 24 videos will be shown in the categories of mitral/atrial fibration surgery, coronary artery disease, aortic valve/aortic surgery, and heart failure surgery.

“A lot of different topics will be covered, but the theme is to provide surgeons with something they can take back to their practices and institute immediately,” Dr. Ailawadi said. In the first part of the session, videos will demonstrate challenging scenarios for mitral valve repairs, including patients with mitral annular calcification, rheumatic disease, and hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy. Two of the videos will demonstrate a robotic repair and minimally invasive techniques to reposition the papillary muscles together, Dr. Ailawadi said.

Another two videos will demonstrate techniques to close the left atrial appendage during cardiac surgery. One is effective surgical closure using sutures, while the other uses clips and devices to close the appendage, he said.

During the section on coronary artery disease, videos will show a coronary endarterectomy to remove plaque, minimally invasive and robotic approaches to coronary artery bypass grafting procedures, and robotic hybrid coronary revascularization.

Several presentations will feature aortic valve procedures, such as sutureless aortic valve replacement, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) through alternative approaches including the carotid and transscaval arteries, removing a dysfunctional TAVR valve, arch reconstruction, and dealing with abscesses in the aortic root.

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) will be among the topics highlighted in presentations about treating heart failure. Videos will demonstrate how to maintain perfusion to the lower extremities and how to decompress the left ventricle. Other videos will demonstrate techniques for the use of short- and long-term LVADs, as well as the subcostal approach for a pump exchange and a non-sternotomy approach for implanting an LVAD.

**CONGENITAL AND PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY**

Twelve video presentations in a half-day session will explore Ebstein anomaly, systemic atioventricular (AV) valve disease, complex biventricular repairs, and mechanical surgical support.

“We’ve focused the videos in categories that highlight the procedures that congenital heart surgeons face every day. We want to emphasize interaction between the presenters and the audience so that attendees have all their questions answered,” said co-moderator James S. Tweddell, MD. Videos will highlight approaches for treating newborns with severe Ebstein anomaly, including surgery on the tricuspid valve to achieve a two-ventricle repair, as well as a conversion of single-ventricle palliation. Patient selection for the various approaches also will be explained.

The second group of presentations will explore repair options for the left side systemic AV valve. Videos will show the use of a CorMatrix cylinder valve in newborns and infants with mitral valve disease, the use of a Melody valve as a mitral valve replacement, and an AV repair for patients with single-ventricle anatomy, Dr. Tweddell said.

Complex biventricular repairs will be highlighted in three videos. The first will explain the use of a Nikaidoh procedure to achieve a two-ventricle repair in patients with complex transposition, he said. A second video will demonstrate biventricular repairs in patients with complex heterotaxy, and a third will show a double-switch procedure for patients with a congenitally corrected transposition.

The final group of presentations will examine mechanical surgical support options, including an ECMO simulation training program, how to identify treatment options for patients with heart failure with congenital heart disease, and how to manage the complex anatomic challenges seen in older Fontan patients, Dr. Tweddell said.

**GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY**

Minimally invasive approaches for lobectomies, segmentectomies, and esophagectomies will be demonstrated in a series of general thoracic surgery video presentations. Other videos in the session will explain lean approaches to surgery and recovery, as well as novel techniques for finding nodules during procedures.

“This session is set up to help STS members engage in the process of higher quality, minimally invasive surgery. These videos are about better ways to do it and better ways to do it faster with higher quality and at lower cost,” said session moderator Robert J. Cerfolio, MD.

Video-assisted thoracoscopic (VATS) and robotic approaches to lobectomies and segmentectomies will be shown. For esophagectomies, presenters will detail three approaches: robotic Ivor Lewis, transhiatal, and endoscopic.

“The robotic platform allows more patients to get a minimally invasive operation, but it comes down to the surgeon,” said Dr. Cerfolio. “If we can teach surgeons how to perform really good surgery with VATS, they don’t need a robot. If you have a robot, you can do it without VATS. We want high-quality surgery either way. We want them to do it with a robot or VATS, not an open technique.”

The one non-technical presentation in the session will be “Lean and Efficient Surgery and Recovery: A Systems Approach.” Lean systems can be used to reduce variables by optimizing processes supporting surgeries, from developing a surgery team to setting up the operating room.

“Reducing variables reduces costs and increases quality. That improves value,” Dr. Cerfolio said. “The goal of this session is to show via video what quality surgery looks like. As in sports, everything is on the videotape. All of your mistakes and all of your victories are videotaped and can be broken down and assessed. That is true for surgery.”

“As in sports, everything is on the videotape. All of your mistakes and all of your victories are videotaped and can be broken down and assessed.”

— ROBERT J. CERFOLIO, MD
Session Explores Primary Causes of Sudden Cardiac Death

Although relatively infrequent, the two primary causes of sudden cardiac death—hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) and anomalous aortic origin of a coronary artery (AAOCA)—can be difficult to manage. Surgeons often have difficulty mastering reproducible techniques that maximize benefits and minimize risk.

The Adult Congenital Heart Disease Symposium will focus on these two challenging conditions through invited lectures, a panel discussion, and questions from attendees.

“Our goal is for the Symposium to be of interest to a broad audience,” said Stephanie M. Fuller, MD, of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, who is one of the Symposium moderators. “We tried to select diseases that cover the life span. These conditions are appealing to both adult cardiac surgeons and congenital heart surgeons.”

HCM

Surgical myectomy is the criterion standard for most patients with obstructive HCM and drug-refractory symptoms. “A question for many surgeons is how to do an adequate myectomy to relieve obstruction, especially when left ventricular outflow tract obstruction is present,” said James S. Tweddell, MD, of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, who is another Symposium moderator.

Although it’s rare, Dr. Tweddell said an individual with HCM may have a resting diastolic defect with no obstruction. “For these patients, we need to determine the role of cavity enlargement,” he said.

Experts on myectomy will describe different surgical techniques, including basal septal myectomy, the transventricular approach for midventricular obstruction, and cavity enlargement using an apical approach for nonobstructive HCM.

Added to the challenges of surgery is identifying individuals who are high risk for conventional surgery. “Ablation is an option for high-risk patients, but the outcomes are less predictable. Surgeons must understand risk stratification and appropriate referral for ablation,” explained Dr. Tweddell.

AAOCA

AAOCA is increasingly being recognized, primarily because of better detection by echocardiography. But the optimal management of individuals with AAOCA is controversial, leaving many surgeons uncertain of the best way to manage the condition.

“If the patient is asymptomatic, what do you do? AAOCA often occurs in teenagers, a particularly challenging group of patients because of the high risk of sudden cardiac death, which is so tragic,” said Dr. Tweddell.

“Do you let teenagers with [AAOCA] play sports? How do you identify the condition in advance, and what is the best management strategy?” — JAMES S. TWEDDELL, MD

Experts will try to answer these questions by offering information on imaging and nomenclature, different management approaches for adults and children, surgical unroofing, the current role of bypass grafting, and when it’s best to operate on the anomalous right coronary artery.

| Adult Congenital Heart Disease Symposium: Surgical Management of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Anomalous Aortic Origin of a Coronary Artery in Children and Adults | Sunday, January 28 |
| 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Floridian Ballroom B-C |
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