Relax and Recharge in Fort Lauderdale

Scenic beaches and waterways make Fort Lauderdale a prime vacation destination, but the city offers much more. Before and after the STS Annual Meeting, attendees can take advantage of a diverse selection of lively shopping and entertainment districts, cultural activities, and fine dining.

**STANDOUT CUISINE**

It should be no surprise that Fort Lauderdale features a wealth of delicious seafood, given its waterfront location. After the meeting wraps up for the day, head to one of the area’s many outstanding restaurants. The 15th Street Fisheries is located directly inside the Lauderdale Marina, offering you a prime view. There’s a more formal dining room upstairs and a casual dockside restaurant downstairs. Both menus feature a variety of fresh seafood, which you can enjoy while watching yachts, fishing vessels, and other boats cruising down the Intracoastal Waterway.

Market 17 is a farm-to-table restaurant featuring housemade charcuterie and a constantly changing rotation of dishes. A unique option is the restaurant’s “dining in the dark” experience. This multicourse meal is served in a pitch-black private room, with the idea being it will heighten your other senses by experiencing the food without the help of your sight. The chef creates new dishes separate from the main menu, and reservations are required as only two seatings are offered each night.

Other great dining options include Greek Islands Taverna (authentic Greek), Sea Watch on the Ocean (fresh-caught seafood dining set on a bluff 50 yards from the ocean), and Shooters Waterfront (laid-back experience with a view).

**NEARBY SIGHTS**

If you plan to arrive before the meeting or stay after, Fort Lauderdale has plenty to do for every interest. The Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale spans the north and south banks of the New River, which is located right downtown. Meander along the waterfront while you visit shops, restaurants, museums, and other attractions. In the area’s historic district, the Stranahan House is the oldest surviving structure in Broward County, built in 1901 as a trading post and converted into a residence in 1906. In the arts and science district, the Riverwalk Art Museum features permanent exhibits and rotating shows, while the Broward Center for the Performing Arts hosts concerts, Broadway shows, and other events.

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Video-Based Sessions Page 7

**SESSIONS**

**Education with an Edge**

If you want to stay at the forefront of what’s new in cardiothoracic surgery, mark your calendar now for the STS 54th Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, January 27, through Wednesday, January 31, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

“The meeting will be an unparalleled educational experience,” said STS President Richard L. Prager, MD. “This is an opportunity to meet colleagues and friends from around the world, hear new ideas and concepts, and learn from each other.”

This meeting promises to be more edgy. “For example, instead of having several sessions consisting only of scientific abstracts, we encouraged our program committee to incorporate not only the very best abstracts—of which there were many—but also lively debates and surgical videos,” said Himanshu Patel, MD, Chair of the Workforce on Annual Meeting.

**HOT TOPICS IN EACH SUBSPECIALTY**

All cardiothoracic surgery team members will find educational programming relevant to their everyday practices. Three “How To” video sessions will be held on Sunday—one for each subspecialty (see page 7). These dynamic sessions will feature video presentations on common cardiothoracic surgical procedures, with speakers offering unique insights. Other sessions on Sunday include the Practice Management Summit, the STS/AATS Critical Care Symposium, and the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Symposium.

On Monday and Tuesday, sessions for adult cardiac surgery will cover arrhythmia/atrial fibrillation, ischemic disease, mitral and tricuspid valves, and more.

“Cardiothoracic surgery is moving at a rapid clip. Some of our operations are moving from large, open procedures to small, minimally invasive, transcatheter, and other less invasive procedures to improve the health of our patients,” said STS Secretary Joseph F. Sabik III, MD. “It’s a very exciting time to be in heart surgery, and we’ll explore all of these topics at the meeting.”

The general thoracic surgery sessions will feature presentations on robotic surgery, esophageal disease, lung cancer, and more. Monday’s “Lung Cancer I” session will tackle the current opioid epidemic in the United States. It also will present an abstract on factors associated with new persistent opioid use after lung resection and an invited talk on the thoracic surgeon’s role in addressing the issue.

“For the first time, we’ll have a session on Tuesday dedicated to health services research and database analyses,” said David Tom Cooke, MD, a member of the Workforce on Annual Meeting. “We’ll also have sessions highlighting innovative clinical general thoracic surgery research, including lung cancer, esophageal cancer, and lung transplantation.”

Congenital heart surgeons can expect a mix of scientific abstracts, invited talks, debates, and videos covering disease processes in both children and adults.

“We’re going to have sessions on management of Ebstein anomaly from the newborn to the adult, complex two-ventricle repairs in patients with heterotaxy syndrome, and systemic atroventricular valve repair in children with congenital heart disease,” said James S. Tweddell, MD, a member of the Workforce on Annual Meeting.

**IMPROVING DIVERSITY**

A new session on Monday will tackle diversity and inclusion in cardiothoracic surgery. Speakers will discuss how a diverse cardiothoracic surgery workforce can improve patient outcomes by increasing cultural competency and mitigating unconscious provider bias (see page 6).

“The session will enable you to best interact with your communities and provide care for your patients in a culturally competent manner,” said Dr. Cooke, who also chairs the Special Ad Hoc Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.

Other new offerings include a collaborative session with the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation, STS University courses on peroral endoscopic myotomy and minimally invasive aortic and mitral valve surgery, and a session explaining how you can start a diversity initiative at your own center.
Positive outcomes: the product of great partnerships.


Names you know that consistently deliver products that help you improve the health and well-being of others. What you may not know is that we’ve unified these proven solutions into one Getinge—adding to the value we offer you through our expertise in acute care therapies and surgical workflows.

You provide the support your patients need for positive outcomes. We strive to do the same for you, by working to understand your needs and deliver ongoing expertise, education, and consultation. We believe that patient success stories begin with strong partnerships.

To learn more, visit Get2KnowGetinge.com
Looking at Tomorrow’s Technologies
Tech-Con pulls back the curtain on innovative products

Learn about cutting-edge technologies and new developments in cardiothoracic surgery at STS/AATS Tech-Con 2018. Held Saturday, January 27, the day before the opening of the 54th Annual Meeting, Tech-Con will offer separate tracks for adult cardiac and general thoracic surgery.

Tech-Con also will feature a Shark Tank session, in which entrepreneurs will pitch their innovative cardiothoracic surgery products to the audience and a panel of experts in medical device development. Representatives of several companies developing robotic technology also have been invited to present.

“I think not attending Tech-Con leaves you a bit antiquated,” said Tech-Con Task Force Co-Chair James D. Luketich, MD. “So many new techniques and technologies will be coming out at Tech-Con. You may not be doing these procedures today, but they’re what we’re going to be doing tomorrow.”

Tech-Con registration is separate from Annual Meeting registration. Register today at sts.org/annualmeeting. Continuing medical education credit will not be offered for Tech-Con programming.

Symposium Highlights Techniques to Manage Heart Infections

Infectious heart disease, especially as a result of the current opioid epidemic, is on the rise among young adults. At the International Symposium, surgeons from around the world will explain their approaches to dealing with these infections, the central challenges they face, and the ethical disease management dilemmas related to infectious heart disease in young adults.

“Many surgeons in developing countries don’t have the resources they need to treat these patients,” said session moderator Juan P. Umaña, MD, of Fundacion Cardioinfantil-Instituto de Cardiologia in Bogota, Colombia.

“Imaging techniques are not readily available, so discussing a simple algorithm in how to approach these patients will be a major focus.”

Taweesak Chotivatanapong, MD, will explain approaches he uses in the treatment of infected mitral valves in patients with rheumatic heart disease. Dr. Chotivatanapong is from the Central Chest Institute of Thailand.

“The symposium’s focus will then shift to the bicuspid aortic valve in a presentation by Joseph E. Bavaria, MD, of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

“One of the issues in developing countries is the fact that aortic and mitral valves don’t get repaired as often as they should,” Dr. Umaña said. “Dr. Bavaria will talk about how to repair and secure the infected bicuspid aortic valve. He will review the long-term prognosis of the repaired valve in young adults.”

Michele De Bonis, MD will examine the timing of surgery for endocarditis to avoid neurological complications. He is a surgeon at Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan, Italy.

“With less access to medical and dental care, patients tend to have more infections of native valves or previously implanted prostheses,” Dr. Umaña said. “This will focus on two big issues—the fact that valves need to be repaired more often and how to approach and repair those infected valves.”

Enrico Ferrari, MD, of CardioCentro Ticino in Lugano, Switzerland, will explain transcatheter interventions for previous repairs that are failing.

“This talk will bring into the mix technologies that are being applied in developed countries and try to rationalize their use for the international community,” Dr. Umaña said.

Darshan Reddy, MBChB will discuss the use of anticoagulants and how they can affect valve thrombosis. He is from Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban, South Africa.

“Thrombosis of a previously implanted prosthesis is a big issue,” Dr. Umaña said. “How to handle them pharmacologically or perhaps mechanically is something that is worth discussing.”

To wrap up the session, Joseph S. Coselli, MD, of the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, will explain the latest treatments used at his institution to manage infected aortic prostheses, particularly Dacron tubes or endoprostheses.

“This is a big issue because often you are faced with young patients who require extensive operations to remove the bulk of the disease,” Dr. Umaña said. “That may require extra-anatomic bypasses or the use of homografts that sometimes are not available in developing countries. This talk will be of tremendous value to the international community.”

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: CONFRONTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN YOUNG ADULTS UNDERGOING CARDIAC SURGERY
Monday, January 29
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Room 304

Juan P. Umaña, MD

EDUCATION
continued from page 1

how physician documentation drives reimbursement.

View the Advance Program and register for the meeting at sts.org/annualmeeting.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

STS 54th Annual Meeting: The Society of Thoracic Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of 26.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons has been approved by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion to award 31.7 Category I CEUs for this activity.
STS 54th Annual Meeting Program

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2018
6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tech-Con Exhibits
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST—Visit Tech-Con Exhibits
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Tech-Con Adult Cardiac Track II: Innovations in Aortic Valve and Aortic Aneurysm Management
Tech-Con General Thoracic Track II: Emerging and/or Game-Changing Technologies in the Management of Esophageal Diseases
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH—Visit Tech-Con Exhibits
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Tech-Con Adult Cardiac Track II: Contemporary and Future Mitral Valve and Atrial Fibrillation Practice
Tech-Con General Thoracic Track II: Emerging and/or Game-Changing Minimally Invasive Surgery and Other Technologies
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. BREAK—Visit Tech-Con Exhibits
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Tech-Con Joint Session: Robotic Cardiotoracic Innovations and “Shark Tank”—Rapid Fire Pitches of Revolutionary Technology
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tech-Con Reception

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018
7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Adult Congenital Heart Disease Symposium: Surgical Management of Hypoplastic Cardiomyopathy and Anomalous Aortic Origin of a Coronary Artery in Children and Adults Practice Management Summit
STS/AATS Critical Care Symposium: When Things Go Wrong in the ICU and What to Do About It
CHEST® STS: Advanced Bronchoscopy and Surgical Airway Symposium

STS University courses will provide opportunities for hands-on learning.

SCA @ STS: Integrating Perioperative Echocardiography Into Cardiac Surgical Clinical Decision Making
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Multidisciplinary Innovations in Cardiothoracic Patient Care
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. “My Turn” Adult Cardiac: How-To Video Session
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. BREAK
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Residents Symposium: Transitioning From Residency to a Successful Practice
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. How To Video Session: Technical Tips to Avoid Pitfalls and Simply Congenital and Pediatric Cardiac Surgical Procedures
How To Video Session: Tips and Tricks to Maximize Efficiency in Minimally Invasive General Thoracic Surgery
2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Scientific Posters
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception in STS Exhibit Hall
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. President’s Reception

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018
6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall
Scientific Posters
7:00 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. Opening Remarks
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. J. Maxwell Chamberlain Memorial Papers
8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Abstract Presentations
9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. BREAK—Visit Exhibits and Scientific Posters
9:40 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Introduction of the President: Keith S. Nunnheim
9:50 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Presidential Address: Richard L. Prager
10:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. BREAK—Visit Exhibits and Scientific Posters
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Adult Cardiac: Arrhythmia/Atrial Fibrillation
Basic Science Research: Adult Cardiac
Basic Science Research: General Thoracic Congenital: Adult Congenital
Critical Care
NEW! Diversity and Inclusion in Cardiothoracic Surgery: What’s In It for Me?
General Thoracic: New Technology
STS/CATS/SCCS: Difficult Decisions in Thoracic Surgery—Advice From Canadian and American Experts
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. BREAK—Visit Exhibits and Scientific Posters
1:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Clinical Scenarios: Cardiologists and Surgeons Working Together
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Adult Cardiac: Aorta I
Adult Cardiac: Ischemic Congenital: Pediatric Congenital I
General Thoracic: Lung Cancer I
General Thoracic: Lung Transplantation
International Symposium: Confronting Infectious Diseases in Young Adults Undergoing Cardiac Surgery
SVS @ STS: Sharing Common Ground for Cardiovascular Problems
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. BREAK—Visit Exhibits and Scientific Posters
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Adult Cardiac: VAD Transplant/ECMO
Ethics Debate: Neighborly Help or Itinerant Surgeons Working Together
Research Using the STS National Database
STS Key Contacts: Advocates for Cardiothoracic Surgery
The Anesthesia Academy: Preparation and Interpretation of National Database Research
NEW! The Importance of Physician Documentation in Reimbursement
Women in Thoracic Surgery: How to Successfully Implement Surgical Innovations and New Technologies Into Practice
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Scientific Posters and Wine
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting (STS Members Only)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018
6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Scientific Posters
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Meet the Experts Sessions
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Health Policy Forum: The Changing Medicare Quality Reporting and Payment Landscape
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Thomas B. Ferguson Lecture
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. BREAK—Visit Exhibits and Scientific Posters
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Adult Cardiac: VAD Transplant/ECMO
Ethics Debate: Neighborly Help or Itinerant Surgeons Working Together
Research Using the STS National Database
STS Key Contacts: Advocates for Cardiothoracic Surgery
The Anesthesia Academy: Preparation and Interpretation of National Database Research
NEW! The Importance of Physician Documentation in Reimbursement
Women in Thoracic Surgery: How to Successfully Implement Surgical Innovations and New Technologies Into Practice
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Scientific Posters and Wine
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting (STS Members Only)

EACTS @ STS: Bicaval Aortic Valve Repair With Aortic Valve Insufficiency and Proximal Aortic Aneurysm Repair
NEW! STS/ISHLT Joint Symposium: LVAD Therapy in 2018 — Worldwide Perspectives
General Thoracic: Mediastinal/Pulmonary
General Thoracic: Mediastinal/Pulmonary
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Patient Safety Symposium: Biases and Errors — Why Do We Do What We Do
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. BREAK—Visit Exhibits and Scientific Posters
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cardiothoracic Surgery Education
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Adult Cardiac: Aorta II
Adult Cardiac: Aorta II
Advanced Therapies for End-Stage Cardiopulmonary Disease
Congenital: Pediatric Congenital II
ESTS @ STS: Controversial Issues in General Thoracic Surgery — Perspectives From Europe and North America
General Thoracic: Esophageal
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Quality Improvement

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018
6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration & Breakfast
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. STS University
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. STS University (courses repeated)

Register today at sts.org
Understanding Bias Helps Improve Patient Safety

Medical errors may have roots in cognitive biases

"There are a lot of biases that come into play when we make decisions." - MICHAEL S. KENT, MD

n this era of evidence-based medicine, evidence can sometimes be ignored during diagnosis and treatment, leading to adverse events. The 2018 Patient Safety Symposium will explore how cognitive biases and “rules of thumb” can affect clinical decisions.

“The purpose of the symposium is to explore, understand, and talk about these biases,” said moderator Michael S. Kent, MD. “We will give specific examples to help explain these biases and how we make decisions when it comes to individual patients.”

Symposium topics include how heuristics affect everyday decisions, why evidence is sometimes ignored, how root cause analysis could be used to reduce biases, and how surgeons can learn from errors.

Physicians often must make decisions when the evidence does not appear to fit a specific case or if no guidelines have been developed, said Dr. Kent, a member of the STS Workforce on Patient Safety.

“Even though there is a lot of evidence for helping us make clinical decisions, it is our job as physicians to make individual decisions based on individual patients,” he said. “With that context, there are a lot of biases that come into play when we make decisions.”

One speaker will be a psychiatrist with expertise in understanding biases. He will explain heuristics, which are rules of thumb used in everyday life.

“We allow these biases to become part of our subconscious, and they make a great impact on how we make decisions,” Dr. Kent said. “The psychiatrist will explain how they are present even if we don’t know about them and how they affect our decision making.”

A cardiothoracic surgeon will explore how surgeons override guidelines, such as those for blood transfusion rates. There is great variability among institutions and even among surgeons in the same institution about transfusion rates, Dr. Kent said.

Biases are at the root of this variability, and one option to reduce their impact is root cause analysis.

“This is a technique where providers look at a surgical error in retrospect and try to understand why it happened,” Dr. Kent said. “The goal is to prevent future errors. Root cause analysis has been useful in helping providers identify biases that might impact their decisions.”

In addition, a cognitive psychologist, whose focus has been the integration of concepts from psychology, computer science, and the social sciences, will address how experts in medicine and other high-pressure environments make decisions and deal with complexity.

The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion and a question-and-answer session.

Reimbursement Changes Require Better Reporting from Surgeons

A cardiothoracic surgeon spends years learning and honing skills related to surgery, but must spend relatively little time studying the business side of medicine. That may be about to change. New reimbursement rules are forcing changes in the day-to-day activities of surgeons who must now place more emphasis on documentation, coding, and data collection.

“Daily billing needs are emerging as more important, and they will play a role in the future,” said Scott C. Silvestry, MD. “Understanding what a physician has to do in terms of documenting their visits and potentially billing for these visits is emerging as an important skill set.”

Dr. Silvestry is the moderator of a new session designed to teach surgeons the nuances of documenting all aspects of their work. Presenters will explain how to note the complexity of the case, the number of patient visits, time spent on a case, and the effort required by the surgeon.

“If you are going to write it once, it should reflect the amount of work that you put in and use the appropriate words so that the coders can record the appropriate credit for your work, as well as the complexity of the illness,” said Dr. Silvestry, a member of the STS Workforce on Coding and Reimbursement. “We will address how that is done in the current environment.”

The session’s speakers will explain reimbursement requirements, the documentation needed for medical necessity, diagnosis, and services rendered.

“This session will provide the start of competency toward a more productive interaction with one’s coders, coding applications, and hospital data personnel,” Dr. Silvestry said. “Attendees will leave with a good idea of the current requirements for documentation.”

"Understanding what a physician has to do in terms of documenting their visits and potentially billing for these visits is emerging as an important skill set." - SCOTT C. SILVESTRY, MD
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.

“It is the vision of our President, Dr. Richard Prager, and the STS leadership to see a workforce equipped to care for diverse populations both nationally and internationally by cultivating an inclusive environment,” said David Tom Cooke, MD Task Force Chair.

During the session, David A. 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. Afterward, Dr. Cooke will lead a discussion among a panel of Society leaders, a patient advocate, a medical student, a cardiothoracic surgery resident, and academic and community-based cardiothoracic surgeons. Results from a recent survey of US-based STS members will be presented, and questions from the audience will be encouraged.

“The panelists will offer their insights on the importance of a diverse workforce and how it benefits their patients,” Dr. Cooke said. “The goal of the session is to educate attendees about how diversity and inclusion can be valuable to their practices, service lines, training efforts, and relationships in the communities where they practice.”

David Tom Cooke, MD

STS Moves to Create a More Diverse Specialty Session aims to cultivate environment of inclusion in cardiothoracic surgery

“Diversity and inclusion are important to the STS. We know that the more diverse the cardiothoracic surgery workforce is, the better we can serve our communities.”

DAVID TOM COOKE, MD

Moving forward, the Task Force will help STS develop programs and resources that will not only further diversify the cardiothoracic surgery workforce, but also lead to a better understanding of health care disparities among cardiothoracic surgery patients and, ultimately, better patient outcomes.

“Diversity and inclusion are important to the STS. We know that the more diverse the cardiothoracic surgery workforce is, the better we can serve our communities,” Dr. Cooke said.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY: WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?
Monday, January 29
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Floridian Ballroom B-C
Video-Based Sessions Highlight Unique Insights into Common Procedures

Textbooks and peer-reviewed publications are not ideal formats for showing the technical nuances of challenging operations. Cardiothoracic surgeons are visual learners, and videos are an important educational tool. To showcase this dynamic learning format, the 2018 Annual Meeting will feature three sessions that focus exclusively 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 Goran 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 daylight session, 24 videos will be shown in the categories of mitral/atrial fibrillation 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 anular 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. Tweddell 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 transcaval 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 atroventricular (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 CoreMatrix 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 of 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 cost 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.”

*MY TUBE* ADULT CARDIAC HOW-TO VIDEO SESSION

Sunday, January 28
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Grand Ballroom A-B

HOW-TO VIDEO SESSION: TIPS AND TRICKS TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY

Sunday, January 28
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Floridian Ballroom D

HOW-TO VIDEO SESSION: TECHNICAL TIPS TO AVOID PITFALLS AND SIMPLIFY CONGENITAL AND PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Sunday, January 28
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Floridian Ballroom A
WE HEAR YOU.

You have shared your surgical experience and expertise and from that we introduce our pericardial valve — the Avalus™ bioprosthesis.