



**The Society of Thoracic Surgeons**  
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# News

## STS Press Release

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## **Frederick L. Grover Receives Bakken Scientific Achievement Award**

### ***STS award recognizes outstanding scientific contributions in cardiothoracic surgery***

Phoenix – Dedicated surgeon and researcher Frederick L. Grover, MD today was awarded the 2016 Earl Bakken Scientific Achievement Award by The Society of Thoracic Surgeons during the organization's 52nd Annual Meeting.

“The Earl Bakken award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions that enhance the practice of cardiothoracic surgery,” said 2015-2016 STS President Mark S. Allen, MD. “There is no question that Dr. Grover’s efforts in the development and growth of the STS National Database over the past 30 years have made a tremendous impact on the specialty and have made cardiothoracic surgery safer for our patients. His visionary thinking in this area has benefited us all.”

Dr. Grover was among a group of surgeons tasked with creating the STS National Database, which officially launched in 1989 with the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database, followed by the General Thoracic Surgery Database and the Congenital Heart Surgery Database. Dr. Grover served on the STS National Database Committee for 13 years and as Chair of the STS Workforce on National Databases. He personified the proposition that clinical data are the foundation for scientific advancement, and he continues to remain involved with the Database, considered the international gold standard for clinical outcomes databases.

“If you trace the history of all clinical registries that are prominent in the field of cardiovascular medicine today, you will find that Fred likely contributed in some way to their implementation,” said David A. Fullerton, MD an STS Past President and colleague at the University of Colorado, Denver. “Not only was he instrumental in getting the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database off the ground, but he also worked with the American College of Cardiology (ACC) to get its first clinical registry started and helped create a registry within the Veterans Administration medical system.”

Dr. Grover plays an active role with STS quality initiatives and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the steering committee for the STS/ACC TVT Registry™, a database launched in 2011 in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that monitors outcomes from transcatheter valve therapies, including transcatheter aortic valve replacement.

“All cardiothoracic surgeons can learn something from Dr. Grover’s commitment to our specialty,” said Dr. Allen. “His dedication to his patients, research, and surgical innovation has made him a model for all surgeons to follow.”

Throughout his life, Dr. Grover has been passionate about serving others. He was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve. He volunteered for many decades with the Boy Scouts of America and the Rotary Club. He also is very involved with his church and travels frequently to Nepal on charitable surgical missions.

“It would be hard to travel to Kathmandu and not find someone who has been touched by the work that Fred has done,” said Dr. Fullerton. “He helped surgeons in Nepal establish two cardiac surgery programs in Kathmandu, basically from scratch, and remains committed to keeping those programs self-sufficient. I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this award than Fred.”

Dr. Grover earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Duke University. After a junior residency at Duke, he moved to the University of Colorado, where he completed residencies in general surgery and cardiac surgery. After living and working in San Diego, California, and San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Grover returned to Denver, where he’s been since 1991.

Dr. Grover currently is a Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of Colorado and has held many faculty positions and appointments there, including the Aragón/Gonzalez-Gústí Chair of Surgery.

An STS member since 1974, Dr. Grover was the Society’s 2006-2007 President.

Dr. Grover also is an accomplished researcher. He has authored or co-authored more than 300 published manuscripts and 50 book chapters. He was one of the principal investigators on the Randomized On/Off Bypass (ROOBY) trial, which examined on-pump versus off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting surgery and ultimately led to significant changes in clinical practice. He also has lectured at numerous regional, national, and international meetings.

The Earl Bakken Scientific Achievement Award was established in 1999 through a grant from medical equipment company Medtronic, Inc., to honor individuals who have made outstanding scientific contributions that have enhanced the practice of cardiothoracic surgery and patients’ quality of life.

The award is named for Medtronic Co-Founder Earl Bakken. Among numerous other achievements, Bakken developed the first wearable artificial pacemaker.

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Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,100 cardiothoracic surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest. The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.