

# AATS Foundation

Fostering Careers • Developing Leaders



Annual Report **2019**



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Leadership

### MISSION:

Supporting cardiothoracic surgeons in research and education

### VISION:

A dynamic and innovative future of continued excellence in cardiothoracic surgery

### VALUES:

- > Global Academic Exchange
- > Innovation
- > Collaboration
- > Advancing Patient Care
- > Fostering Leadership
- > Trusted Stewardship





# Fostering **Careers** • Developing **Leaders**

As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement for the AATS Foundation, we thank you for your generous support and dedication to our specialty. Your contributions have provided research and educational opportunities for cardiothoracic surgeons around the world.

We are proud to share that in 2019:

- > The fundraising goal was surpassed, resulting in a total of more than \$1.7M invested in the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons
- > AATS member giving increased, demonstrating the value of funding individual surgical scholarship
- > The AATS Board continued to invest in the success of the Foundation by providing matching donor grants totaling \$266K
- > Nearly 200 individuals were funded, substantially enhancing their careers and, ultimately, advancing patient care
- > The inaugural David J. Sugarbaker Memorial Lectureship was presented as part of the 99th AATS Annual Meeting to recognize the legacy of our dear friend and mentor
- > A 3-year strategic planning session was held with an outcome goal to expand the Foundation's reach and global academic exchange through structured programs and partnerships



**David H. Adams, MD**



**Timothy J. Gardner, MD**

As you read through this Annual Report, we know you will come away with an appreciation for the importance of our programs and the significant impact they have on the careers of cardiothoracic surgeons and, therefore, our specialty. The following pages highlight the unique opportunities the AATS Foundation offers because of the commitment of our donors, leaders, and partners.

We are confident that our programs will continue to foster careers and develop leaders, and we look forward to the future growth of the AATS Foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

With gratitude,

**David H. Adams, MD**  
President, AATS Foundation  
99th AATS President

**Timothy J. Gardner, MD**  
Secretary, AATS Foundation  
82nd AATS President



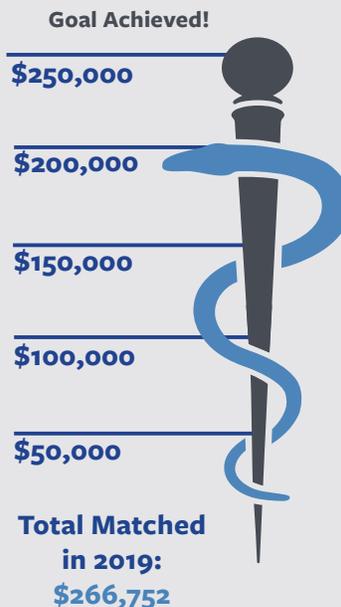
# 2019 PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE AND DONOR STATISTICS

Generous donors and partners ensured that 2019 ended on a positive note for the AATS Foundation. The philanthropic arm of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery will continue to foster careers and develop leaders in 2020. We are proud to share some highlights and accomplishments achieved last year.

The overwhelming support of many donors fulfilled the initial AATS \$250,000 matching grant. Believing strongly in the importance of investing in the success of the AATS Foundation, the AATS Board issued a new matching grant for every individual, one-time gift of \$5,000 or more.

Participation from those who have taken part in the match is greatly appreciated and resulted in an additional \$266,752 invested in the Foundation in 2019.

## 2019 Matching Grants



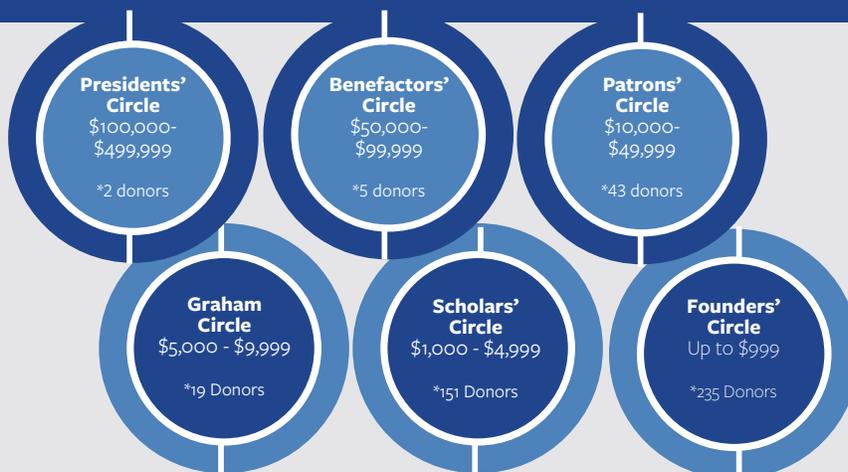
**ALL DONORS:**  
**630** Gifts made by  
**455** Total Donors

**MEMBER DONORS:**  
**458** Gifts made by  
**401** Total Members



27% of members donated to the AATS Foundation in 2019.

## 2019 Donors per Lifetime Giving Circles





Research Scholars, Drs. Smita Sihag and Damien J. LaPar were recognized by Drs. David H. Adams and Timothy J. Gardner at the AATS Foundation reception at the 99th AATS Annual Meeting.



The inaugural lecture of the AATS Foundation Gardner Lectureship was presented by Dr. James I. Fann at the University of Texas Medical Branch.



Dr. Duke E. Cameron (98th AATS President) led educational demonstrations and met with patients at Drum Tower Hospital in Nanjing, China.



Foundation awardee Dr. Vanessa Menezes met with mentor Dr. Jack A. Roth during her time participating in the Jack A. Roth Fellowship in Thoracic Surgical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center.



Dr. Lars G. Svensson speaks with Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors awardees during the annual leadership program.



The late Dr. David J. Sugarbaker (94th AATS President and past AATS Foundation President) was recognized at the 99th AATS Annual Meeting.



# BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT

Because of you, the AATS Foundation is making an impact on the future of cardiothoracic surgery.

Contributions totaling more than \$1.4M from 455 generous donors and partners allowed the AATS Foundation to surpass the 2019 fundraising goal. The additional funding provided through the AATS matching grant, resulted in a total of more than \$1.7M invested in the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons.



Because of you, more than \$830K of funding for young investigators' clinical and translational research was provided last year.



“The AATS Foundation awards can be pivotal for young surgical investigators. They provide initial pilot funding to early career investigators to help establish the foundations for a future successful academic career. I continue to support the AATS Foundation because this crucial early support to surgical investigators results in long-term investigational research in cardiothoracic surgery, which is one of the core missions of the AATS.”

-Dr. Michael E. Halkos, AATS Foundation Advisory Council Member, donor, program host, and past Surgical Investigator award recipient



Since 2014, the AATS Foundation has funded **23 Surgical Investigators** who have collectively received more than **\$13M in funding** in the years since receiving their initial seed funding.

Because of you, research awardees have conducted cutting edge research with many subsequently becoming leaders in the field and obtaining \$108M in funding since receiving their seed funding.



Since 1986, the AATS Foundation has funded **43 Research Scholars** who have collectively received more than **\$95M in funding** in the years since receiving their initial seed funding.



“I am truly in debt to the AATS Foundation for providing me with funding as a young investigator to facilitate subsequent NIH Funding (R01) which has allowed me to transition to research funding independence. The AATS Foundation is vital to providing surgeons the opportunity to innovate and drive our specialty.”

-Dr. Pavan Atluri, AATS Foundation Advisory Council Member, donor, and past Research Scholar award recipient



Because of you, 25 programs were supported around the globe across our three subspecialties, promoting excellence in clinical care, and directly impacting patient outcomes.



“I am very grateful the AATS Foundation gave me the opportunity to spend 4 weeks in the department of Cardiac Surgery in Cleveland Clinic... This fellowship became a great incentive to start up a robotic mitral valve program in my own center...”

-Dr. Tom Verbelen, AATS Foundation Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship award recipient with host Dr. Marc Gillinov

Because of you, nearly 200 professionals from 26 countries were funded by the AATS Foundation in 2019.



Because of you, educational content was shared, hands-on workshops were conducted, and lectures were presented to surgeons who treat underserved patients in various locations around the world.

Because of you, medical students, residents, and fellows were given access to one-on-one mentorship, the most valuable asset for any young medical professional.

“My experience through the AATS Summer Internship program only reinforced my dedication to a career in academic surgery that incorporates early phase translational research.”

-Iris Liu, AATS Foundation Summer Internship award recipient with Dr. Daniela Molena





# EVARTS A. GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

The AATS Foundation’s longest running program is the Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship which was established in 1951. This historical fellowship provides support for young international surgeons to come to North America to intensify their training in a program of special interest, and to increase their international contacts.

Since the inception of the fellowship, 67 young surgeons from 33 countries have been awarded. We recognize and honor this renowned fellowships’ past recipients.



Dr. Laura Besola (center) from Padova, Italy was recognized at the AATS 99th Annual Meeting and will spend time at St. Paul’s Hospital with host Dr. Anson Cheung.



**Past awardees expressed gratitude and explained the tremendous impact this program had on their careers when reflecting on their experience.**

“I feel proud and honored to have been one the members of the distinguished Graham Fellows group of cardiothoracic surgeons. And also very grateful to my mentor and former Chief, Dr. Aldo R. Castañeda (74th AATS President), a magnificent surgeon and a wonderful human being, to whom I feel very much indebted for many reasons.”

-Dr. Eduardo Otero Coto, Spain, 1978-1979 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling fellowship recipient





“During my training as a Graham Fellow I spent most of the year in Massachusetts General Hospital with Dr. Mathisen...I acquired basic knowledge and techniques in clinical study in MGH, but more importantly, I established a long-term relationship of cooperation with Dr. Mathisen and other elites in the field of thoracic surgery.”

-Dr. Haifeng Wang, China, 2013-2014 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship award recipient



“Despite detailed planning for the Graham Traveling Fellowship, the year was full of exciting surprises. Among many others, I met with Dr. Thoralf Sundt (97th AATS President) and Dr. Hartzell Schaff (93rd AATS President) at the Mayo Clinic, whom supported and instructed me on my way to learning and teaching. These role models introduced me to clinical excellence, patient safety and respectful attitude towards everyday work through their example in treating colleagues, fellows and patients...The Graham Traveling Fellowship pushed my career into a deep and broad sense of togetherness among fellow Cardiothoracic surgeons around the world.”

-Dr. Ari Mennander, Finland, 2006-2007 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship award recipient



“I want to thank my teachers Dr. Cosgrove (80th AATS President) and Dr. McCarthy, not only for teaching me cardiac surgery but also for showing me that there are no free lunches. To make a difference you have to make an effort, and that’s what they do, every day. When I first came to the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Cosgrove told me “I want your year to be great”. My year wasn’t great, it was sensational.”

-Dr. Anders Franco-Cereceda, Sweden, 1999-2000 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship award recipient with hosts Drs. Delos Cosgrove (left) and Patrick McCarthy (right)



“This had an enormous impact in my scientific and clinical career throughout my life. Thanks to the training in North America, I visited and had close networks with top Canadian and US cardiothoracic centers. This network has helped me to learn, exchange and develop my skills in the area of thoracic surgery.”

-Dr. Ari Harjula, Finland (right), 1986-1987 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship award recipient under the aegis of Dr. Norman Shumway (67th AATS President)

“A milestone on my training, a fantastic experience that made me a better person, surgeon, physician, and researcher. The best opportunity for a foreign surgeon to train in North America.”

-Dr. Christian Kreutzer, Argentina, 1998-1999 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship award recipient under the aegis of Dr. Richard Jonas (86th AATS President)





# OUR PROGRAMS: ENSURING THE FUTURE OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

The AATS Foundation provides educational and research opportunities for surgeons, fellows, and residents from around the world to enhance their surgical knowledge, technical skills and advance innovation in cardiothoracic surgery.

## FELLOWSHIPS & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Today, the AATS Foundation has numerous cardiac, thoracic, and congenital fellowships that are available to surgeons worldwide. These programs offer a variety of opportunities for those interested in all areas of cardiothoracic surgery, such as robotic surgery, minimally invasive surgery, valve disease, and atrial fibrillation.

### MULTI-SPECIALTY

- > **David J. Sugarbaker Memorial Lectureship**
- > **Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship**
- > **Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery Fellowship**  
*Sponsored by Medtronic*
- > **Summer Intern Scholarship**  
*Supported by Scanlan*
- > **AATS Foundation Gardner Lectureship**

### ADULT CARDIAC

- > **Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship**  
*Sponsored by Medtronic*
- > **Aortic Training Program**  
*Sponsored by Seemine International Medical Co., Ltd.*
- > **Chinese Surgeons International Training Program**  
*Sponsored by Medtronic*
- > **Cardiac Surgical Robotics Program**  
*Sponsored by Intuitive Surgical*
- > **Denton A. Cooley Fellowship**
- > **Every Heartbeat Matters Valve Fellowship**  
*Sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences Foundation*
- > **Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors**
- > **James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery**  
*Sponsored by AtriCure Inc.*

- > **Lawrence H. Cohn Clinical Scholar Program**
- > **Travel Awards for AATS Meetings**



2019 Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors  
award recipients

### CONGENITAL

- > **Aldo R. Castaneda Fellowship**
- > **Marc R. de Leval Fellowship**

### THORACIC

- > **F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship**
- > **Jack A. Roth Fellowship in Thoracic Surgical Oncology**
- > **Thoracic Surgical Robotics Fellowship**  
*Sponsored by Intuitive Surgical*
- > **Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship**  
*Sponsored by Ethicon China*



“Overall, this was a phenomenal experience that has provided a career inspiring insight into cancer management at a world-renowned cancer centre and enabled me to develop key concepts that I can incorporate into my own practice. As importantly, I have also developed lifelong friendships with a fantastic group of surgeons that I hope to continue to engage with over the course of my career.”

-Dr. Gerard J. Fitzmaurice, AATS Foundation Jack A. Roth Fellowship in Thoracic Surgical Oncology award recipient with Dr. Jack A. Roth



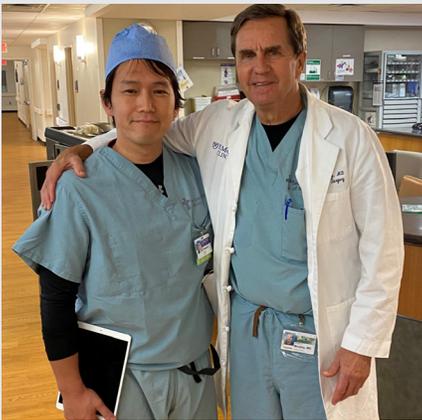
AATS Foundation award recipients were recognized at the 99th AATS Annual Meeting

## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The AATS Foundation is responsible for funding the research initiatives of the AATS through programs that address the cardiothoracic specialty as a whole. These research programs honor several of the pioneers in cardiothoracic surgery and support cutting edge research and future leaders in the field.

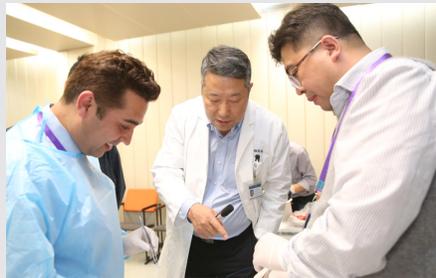
- > AATS Research Scholarship
- > Academic Excellence Award

- > C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum
- > Surgical Investigator Program



“Participating in this fellowship has changed my impression of cardiovascular surgery. The vastness of the world and the many stimuli and experiences I have received have made my future career more ambitious.”

-Dr. Takeshi Kinoshita, AATS Foundation Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery Fellowship award recipient with host Dr. Doug Murphy



AATS Foundation awardees around the world.



# 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

The following summary of the AATS Foundation financial report is for the year ended December 31, 2019\*. Assets total \$9.4M, which represents a nearly \$1.8M increase from 2018, and liabilities total \$1.1M, which represents a \$530,000 increase from 2018.

**Total Operating Revenue** of more than \$2.5M in 2019 (see Chart 1 – compared with \$2.1M in 2018), which breaks down as follows:

**Grants & Contributions, General Unrestricted Funds:** \$268,698 (compared to \$174,637 in 2018).

**Grants & Contributions, Restricted Funds:** \$1,177,823 (compared to \$1,122,964 in 2018).

**AATS Grant:** \$717,955 (compared to \$704,555 in 2018).

**AATS Matching Grant:** \$266,752 (compared to \$95,129 in 2018).

**Interest/Dividends:** \$137,478 (compared to \$82,678 in 2018).

**Total Operating Expenditures** amounted to more than \$2.1M (see Chart 2 – compared to \$1.3M in 2018), which breaks down as follows:

**Grants & Contributions:** \$1,659,039 (compared to \$856,926 in 2018).

**General & Administrative Expenses:** \$401,722 (compared to \$397,950 in 2018).

**Development Costs:** \$38,920 (compared to \$33,693 in 2018).

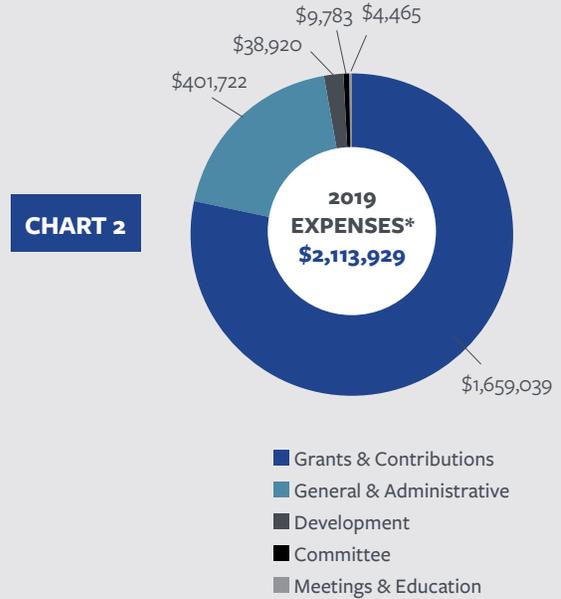
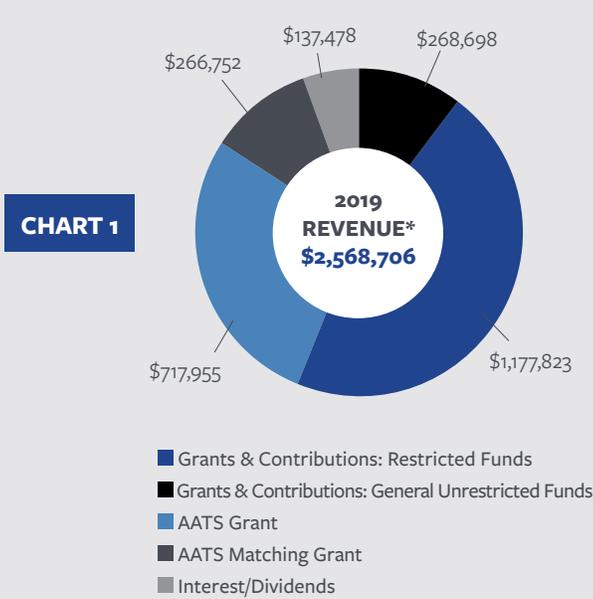
**Committee Costs:** \$9,783 (compared to \$5,803 in 2018). 2019 costs were higher due to a bi-annual meeting to update the Foundation’s strategic plan and future initiatives.

**Meetings & Education Costs:** \$4,465 (compared to \$5,565 in 2018).

We ended the fiscal year with unrestricted net assets of \$4,713,412 and \$3,597,792 in net assets restricted for programs in 2020 and beyond.

The financial position of the AATS Foundation is stronger than ever due to the generosity of our supporters.

**Emile A. Bacha, MD**  
Treasurer, 2019





# AATS FOUNDATION PARTNERS

The AATS Foundation partners with corporations and organizations to fund select educational programs.

Help advance patient care and ensure excellence in cardiothoracic surgery by becoming a distinguished partner. The AATS Foundation Development Office will work closely with your staff to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

Current projects supported by partners include:



**Atricure, Inc.**

- > James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery



**Ethicon China**

- > Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship



**Medtronic**

- > Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship
- > Chinese Surgeons International Training Program
- > Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery Fellowship



**Edwards Lifesciences Foundation**

- > Every Heartbeat Matters Valve Fellowship
- > Educational Workshops in Argentina, Brazil, China, India, and Thailand
- > Lawrence Cohn Program
- > Travel Awards for symposiums and educational workshops



**Intuitive Surgical, Inc.**

- > Advanced Lobectomy Course
- > Cardiac Surgical Robotics Program
- > Thoracic Surgical Robotics Fellowship



**Scanlan**

- > Summer Intern Scholarship

**Seemine International Medical Company**

- > Aortic Training Fellowship

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2019 ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS:

- > **American Association for Thoracic Surgery**
- > **Baylor College of Medicine, Michael DeBakey Department of Surgery**
- > **Cleveland Clinic**
- > **Toronto General Hospital, Division of Thoracic Surgery**

To learn more about becoming an AATS Foundation partner, contact Katie Federico, Director of Development, at [kfederico@aats.org](mailto:kfederico@aats.org) or 978-252-2200 Ext. 544.



## AATS FOUNDATION HOSTS

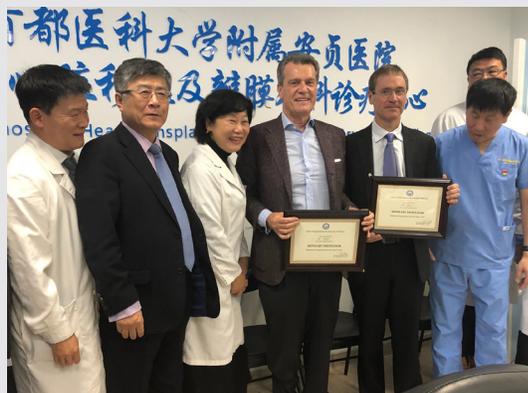
It is a great privilege to honor the mentors who volunteer their time and energy hosting awardees. Their dedication and leadership are critical to the success of these programs, and it cannot be expressed enough how grateful the Foundation is for their mentorship. The guidance and counsel of the hosts embody the mission of the AATS Foundation in **supporting cardiothoracic surgeons in research and education.**

“It has been an honor and pleasure working with the AATS Foundation and the excellent recipients of the James L. Cox Fellowship. Our program affords a broad exposure to the core principles of the Cox Maze IV operation, setting up an AF program, and applying minimally invasive and robotic approaches. In addition to the experience gained while at our institution, I have enjoyed staying in touch with each of the AATS recipients as they implement changes to their practice. Many thanks to the AATS Foundation for the vision and support of for this form of educational activity.”

-Dr. Vinay Badhwar, AATS Foundation program host



### Thank you AATS Foundation hosts for the opportunities you provide to awardees from around the world.



“Duke has recently had the opportunity to host two brilliant thoracic surgeons through the AATS Foundation’s Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship. These visits were characterized by mutually beneficial educational experiences during their visit, and each of these Fellows made a strong impact among faculty, residents, and students at Duke. We have remained in contact since the conclusion of their Fellowship, and I hope to be able to visit their centers in Ningbo and Tianjin during the upcoming AATS Focus China.”

-Dr. Thomas A. D’Amico, AATS Foundation program host



“I have been honored to host the recipient of the “Honoring Our Mentors Program” under the Dr. Denton A. Cooley Fellowship. The recipient has the opportunity to spend four weeks studying at Dr. Cooley’s famed Texas Heart Institute located in the Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas. This program, as do the others, reflects the AATS Foundation’s efforts to enhance education and innovation by bringing the community of cardiothoracic surgeons together creating bonds, friendships, and camaraderie that last a lifetime.”



-Dr. Joseph S. Coselli, AATS Foundation program host, 96th AATS President



“For me, being a part of the AATS Foundation is one of the most important activities that I participate in. The Foundation invests in our Association’s future as it supports our young faculty as they pursue an academic career.”

-Dr. Pedro J. del Nido, AATS Foundation program host, 95th AATS President

*To learn more about being an AATS Foundation host, please contact Heather Goss at [hgoss@aats.org](mailto:hgoss@aats.org) or 978-252-2200 Ext. 518*

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2019 HOST INSTITUTIONS:**

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Beijing Anzhen Hospital
- Boston Children’s Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic
- Duke University Medical Center
- Emory University School of Medicine
- Franciscan St. Francis Hospital
- Mayo Clinic
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital
- Pittsburgh Medical Center
- Texas Heart Institute
- The Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Toronto General Hospital
- University of California, Davis Medical
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado Hospital
- University of Maryland
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- University of Washington
- Washington University School of Medicine
- West Virginia University



# LIFETIME GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS

Leadership Circle	\$500,000+
Presidents' Circle	\$100,000 - \$499,999
Benefactors' Circle	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Patrons' Circle	\$10,000 - \$49,999
Graham Circle	\$5,000 - \$9,999

The AATS Foundation is grateful for donors who have made significant contributions throughout the years. Thank you to the following Lifetime Giving Circle Members:

## Leadership Circle \$500,000+

American Association for Thoracic Surgery  
Edwards Lifesciences Foundation  
Intuitive Surgical, Inc.  
Medtronic

## Presidents' Circle \$100,000-\$499,999

David H. Adams, MD  
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Anonymous  
*Facilitated by David J. Sugarbaker, MD*  
AtriCure, Inc.  
Cleveland Clinic  
*Facilitated by Lars G. Svensson, MD, PhD*  
Ethicon  
Ethicon China  
Mehmet C. Oz, MD  
Chris & Jane Petrin and Friends & Family of Ford-Petrin  
Texas Medical Center

## Benefactors' Circle \$50,000-\$99,999

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## Patrons' Circle \$10,000-\$49,999

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Baxter Healthcare

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Morton A. Cohn, MD  
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Scott J. Swanson, MD  
Christo I. Tchervenkov, MD  
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Chun-Sheng Wang, MD  
Gerhard Ziemer, MD, PhD

## Graham Circle \$5,000-\$9,999

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Erle H. Austin, MD  
Trevor Axford, MD  
Carl L. Backer, MD  
Richard J. Battafarano, MD

Boston Scientific  
Raphael Bueno, MD  
Duke E. Cameron, MD  
Joe Y. Chang, MD  
Michael I. Chow, MD  
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*Facilitated by Timothy A. Dernbach, MD & J. Marvin Smith, III, MD*  
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