



Vision. Leadership. Scholarship.

AATS Update

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughn A. Starnes, MD

This is the time of year when I reflect on the past while looking toward the future. That is particularly true this year as I work with the Program Committee on details for the 100th Annual Meeting and with the Board on our strategic planning.

I encourage members to take part in this historic Annual Meeting. I recommend you register now and secure your housing as there is a lot of interest from surgeons and other medical professionals looking to advance their knowledge and take advantage of all New York has to offer. The scientific program will be unmatched. The Program Committee met in early December and considered a record number of abstracts—20 percent more than last year.

The format of the meeting will be the same as last year with some new elements added. We are planning a session that will feature multiple live surgeries to provide real-time, interactive educational opportunities. There has been a lot of interest in offering the valuable, two-way discussion at the Annual Meeting and we

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

David R. Jones, MD

As the 102nd year of the Association concludes, the Board has turned its focus to the future by conducting a strategic planning session, holding an election for a new Director of the Board, providing a call for volunteer leaders, and establishing a new committee.

Strategic Plan

The Board, along with other key leaders in the AATS, held a strategic planning meeting on Friday, September 13 to discuss the focus of the Association for the next three years. Prior to this meeting, external facilitators conducted interviews and surveys with members to identify areas of need. As a result of this process, the AATS will focus on the following:

- ▼ Implementing a revolutionary quality assessment program to enhance the care of patients with cardiothoracic disease
- ▼ Serving as leaders, educators, and advocates to advance a more disease-specific management approach to the cardiothoracic patient
- ▼ Increasing our educational footprint to improve patient care worldwide
- ▼ Strengthening the Association's commitment to the development and engagement of future leaders in cardiothoracic surgery

The Board met in early December to identify specific tactics to address each initiative. A finalized strategic planning report will be posted on the governance section of AATS.org for members to review. I would like to personally thank all individuals who took the time to participate in the planning session

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AATS Board Profile

Christine L. Lau, MD



I am a general thoracic surgeon, and I have just relocated from the University of Virginia where I was the Division Chief of Thoracic Surgery to the University of Maryland School of Medicine where I am now the Chair of the Department of Surgery. I'm very excited about this next step in my career, and I am hoping to have a larger footprint in the field of surgery. My clinical focus is on all aspects of general thoracic surgery including lung transplantation. I have been

extremely fortunate to have benefited from great mentors throughout my career. Two mentors who have been critical in helping shape my career have been past presidents of the AATS, Dr. Alec Patterson and Dr. Irving Kron. I feel it is important to give back by mentoring the next generation of academic surgeons.

Currently, I am a Director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and Senior Board Member on the AATS Board. My time on both of these Boards has been exciting as many changes have been underway at both organizations. I also am a member of the NHLBI SAT study section which allows me to help shape scientific advancements in our field. Finally, I have been an active member of Leapfrog's Expert panel which allows me to help shape surgical quality on a national front.

The AATS has meant a great deal to me during my career. I was fortunate to benefit from the AATS John W. Kirklin Fellowship/Career Development Award right out of my training. This allowed me to generate preliminary data and subsequently obtain Ko8 funding through the NHLBI. The Ko8 enabled me to develop the skills to become an independent researcher. Currently, I have an R01 studying mechanisms of injury in lung transplantation.

I became an AATS member in 2009. I've been involved on many committees including the Membership Committee, Research Scholarship Committee, Scientific Affairs and Government Relations Committee, Publications Committee, AATS Online Committee, Guidelines Committee, and Centennial Committee. When Dr. Kron was President of the AATS, I directed the Thoracic Skills Course. Being a member of the AATS Board has been a huge honor for me.

I'm interested in educating future academic surgeons and seeing how surgery continues to innovate in the future. One of the best things I find about being involved in the AATS is the Annual Meeting. I make an effort to meet and reach out to new cardiothoracic surgeons. I love the fact that you can have friends in any city you travel to as a thoracic surgeon. ▼



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Clinical Trials Methods Course



Save the Date

October 22-24, 2020
JB Duke Hotel
Durham, NC, USA

Program Directors

David H. Harpole
Marco A. Zenati

For more information visit aats.org/clinicaltrials



Elizabeth A. David, MD, AATS New Member, at various AATS meetings and events



New Member Profile

Elizabeth A. David, MD

New AATS members can participate in the Association in a variety of ways. Elizabeth A. David, MD, an Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC became a member in 2019. She shares her thoughts on the AATS and how she has already been involved in the organization.

What does the AATS mean to you?

The AATS represents leadership, scholarship, and excellence, and membership is a tremendous honor. AATS membership has inspired me to continue to work hard and strive for excellence in all that I do for patients, education, and research.

Why did you want to become an AATS member?

AATS membership has always stood out to me as the highest honor we can achieve in our field. On some of my challenging days as a thoracic surgeon, I will admit that I thought it was a milestone I would not achieve. Women tend to experience imposter syndrome (feelings of inadequacy that persist despite evident success) more commonly than men and some days it gets to me even still. As I was going through the membership process and preparing my application, I was reminded of my achievements to date that qualified me for membership and demonstrate that I am not an imposter and I have earned membership through academic productivity, mentorship of trainees, and surgical volunteerism and leadership. I was also reminded of all the female and underrepresented minority trainees who are filling our training programs now and I recognize the value to them of seeing diversity and inclusion in AATS membership.

How have you been involved so far with the organization?

Prior to becoming a member, I attended several Annual Meetings. I participated in the Leadership Academy twice, both as a new graduate and as an early-career female surgeon. As a new member, I have attended the Annual Meeting and the International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit, where I moderated a session. I reviewed abstracts for the 2020 Annual Meeting and I am serving on the C. Walton Lillehei Residents Forum Committee. I was also privileged to participate in the AATS strategic planning session in September. I hope I am able to contribute in meaningful ways in the future.

What was your experience like attending the strategic planning session?

The strategic planning session was eye-opening. The process, itself, was interesting from the standpoint of brainstorming and listening to ideas about the directions in which the organization should/could go. As a new member, I was nervous to contribute but the senior leaders were very receptive to my ideas and suggestions. It was an honor to feel like new members had a voice.

How else would you like to get involved with the AATS?

I look forward to continuing to learn by actively participating in leadership, research, and educational initiatives sponsored by the AATS, particularly on an international level. I hope that my participation in the AATS will inspire others to pursue excellence in cardiothoracic surgery and AATS membership. ▼



American Board of Thoracic Surgery

Christine L. Lau, MD

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) held its annual retreat in September and discussed the importance of integrating structural heart training into cardiothoracic surgical residency education and ultimately Board certification. This discussion was identified as particularly important and critically relevant given the increasing number of structural heart programs opening across the country and the recent evidence showing short-term outcomes, including mortality, stroke, renal failure, hemodynamic gradients, and quality of life with TAVR is superior to open AVR as far out as five years, even in low-risk patients (NEJM 2019; 380: 1695-1705; NEJM 2019; 380: 1706-1715). This discussion at the ABTS retreat followed on the heels of multiple discussions by thought leaders across the country in structural heart techniques.

After significant discussion and consideration, the Board has proposed to develop three unique residency pathways to ABTS certification. Each of these individual tracks would be tailored to better prepare cardiothoracic surgical residents for the increasing complexities of unique areas within our field. The three tracks would be 1) a cardiac track with emphasis on structural heart training; 2) a cardiothoracic track which would emphasize both cardiac and thoracic; and 3) a general thoracic track. Individuals would choose one of these tracks at the time of their cardiothoracic residency selection. Case volumes and procedure types would differ between the tracks to allow for increased expertise in selected areas. Residents in all three tracks would continue to sit for the same qualifying exam and same oral boards. Furthermore, ABTS would continue to issue an identical cardiothoracic certificate for all three tracks. For those cardiothoracic surgical residents tracking in cardiac/structural heart disease, it was believed by the members of the Board that an ACGME-approved fellowship (following cardiothoracic surgical residency) would allow for further development of expertise in catheter-based techniques. This fellowship would be jointly developed with cardiology and offered to eligible members in either specialty.

There was unanimity on the Board for this exciting change in the cardiothoracic training paradigm. The Board believes this is a critical junction in time to add this structural heart track and develop cardiac surgeons with this expertise. The timing of implementation of this plan is now being actively addressed by the Board. ▼

AATS ONLINE

Advance Your Knowledge
aats.org/aatsonline

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AATS/IACIS Postgraduate Course

February 6, 2020
Ahmedabad, India



AATS/ASCVTS Postgraduate Course

February 7, 2020
Chiang Mai, Thailand



Mechanical Support for the Heart and Lung Symposium: New Devices and Techniques

February 14-15, 2020
Houston, TX, USA



Aortic Symposium

April 23-24, 2020
New York, NY, USA



100th Annual Meeting

April 25-28, 2020
New York, NY, USA



Cardiovascular Valve Symposium

May 14, 2020
Porto Alegre, Brazil



Cardiovascular Valve Symposium

September 19-20, 2020
Shanghai, China



Surgical Treatment for Arrhythmias and Rhythm Disorders

October 2-3, 2020
Boston, MA, USA



Clinical Trials Methods Course

October 22-24, 2020
Durham, NC, USA



International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit

October 30-31, 2020
New York, NY, USA



AATS/JATS Mitral Conclave

November 2, 2020
Nagoya, Japan

Come Make History at AATS Week

The two longest-standing AATS meetings will take place in the same city for the first time since 1994 during AATS Week 2020. The Aortic Symposium and the 100th Annual Meeting will present the latest scientific updates and expert discussions on aortic disease and aortic valve repair over six days in New York, giving attendees the opportunity to maximize their learning opportunities while also taking advantage of all the city has to offer.

Now in its 32nd year, the Aortic Symposium focuses on the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of aortic aneurysms and dissections. It has come to be recognized as the primary international forum for this aspect of cardiothoracic surgery and the faculty includes a number of founders of major aortic aneurysm procedures. These experts will give updates on their groundbreaking work and members of guideline committees will discuss the rationale for the recommendations.

It will be convenient for Symposium attendees to stay and be a part of the 100th Annual Meeting. The content will complement the information presented at the Aortic Symposium by focusing on aortic valve repair in addition to multidisciplinary content that spans the entire specialty. The selected presentations were chosen from a record number of abstract submissions so the quality of the science will be worthy of being included in such a historic meeting.

President Vaughn Starnes states, "We will have the leading experts in the nation and internationally speaking about topics in cardiovascular surgery, cardiology, pulmonary medicine, thoracic surgery, and congenital heart disease. I encourage you to register early because I anticipate there will be a large registration and the early bird always gets the best hotel rooms." ▼

The Member for a Day Experience

Members can give promising medical students and residents insight into life as a cardiothoracic surgeon by serving as Member for a Day mentors at the Annual Meeting. Edward Chen, MD, took part in the program in 2019, saying, "It is the least we can do to encourage future bright students to join our field."

Dr. Chen was paired with Krish Dewan, a medical student from Northeast Ohio Medical University, and found being a mentor easy and enjoyable. "I loved having Krish shadow me. I thought about my days as a



Dr. Chen pairs with Krish Dewan, a medical student from Northeast Ohio Medical University

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Join Us in Houston

Shaf Keshavjee, MD and Mark S. Slaughter, MD

The AATS Mechanical Support for the Heart and Lung Symposium originally scheduled for September 2019 was cancelled due to unfortunate weather in Houston. We hope you'll join us for an outstanding program on the rescheduled date of February 14-15, 2020.

The technology for cardiac and pulmonary support continues to advance at an amazing rate. Clinical application of these technologies is rapidly growing in leading centers. We will be providing attendees with the latest information in mechanical support of the heart and lungs—both in vivo and ex vivo.

The Symposium provides a unique combination of cutting-edge educational experiences. Ex vivo lung perfusion has become standard therapy in lung transplant centers. Symposium attendees will have the opportunity to learn the details of clinical application of EVLP as well as advances in mobile ECMO and totally implantable lung devices.

There will be joint plenaries in addition to separate sessions for heart and lung support. World-class faculty will present on a variety of topics including durable and temporary mechanical circulatory support devices including VADs, ECMO, EX VIVO HEART, EX VIVO LUNG, and para-corporeal perfusion technologies.

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Mechanical Support for the Heart and Lung Symposium

New Devices and Techniques



Register Today

February 14-15, 2020
Marriott Marquis Houston
Houston, TX, USA

Co-sponsored by  www.asaio.com  www.elseo.org

For more information visit aats.org/mechanical



International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit 2019

David R. Jones, MD

In September 2019, 365 attendees from 33 different countries attended the AATS International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit in New York, NY. I am grateful to the faculty of internationally recognized experts who discussed novel approaches and how to employ them. The presentations on immunotherapy, tumor genomics, and advanced technologies for cancers of the lung, esophagus, mediastinum, and pleura, provided learning opportunities for everyone in attendance.

In addition to hearing from leaders in the field, we also had a potential glimpse into the future. High school students who took part in a research project at the Nichols School in Buffalo that was supervised by AATS member Sai Yendamuri, MD, the Chair of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at Roswell Park Cancer Center discussed the results of their research. Najya Fayyaz presented the paper, Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Does Not Compromise Outcomes in NSCLC Patients with Clinical N1 Disease on behalf of her co-authors.

The Poster Competition is always an exciting part of the Thoracic Summit. The Impact of Extent of Resection on Survival in Limited Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer by Vignesh Raman of Duke University earned first place. Second place went to Primary Colorectal Cancer Laterality Predicts Survival After Pulmonary Metastasectomy by Erin Corsini of MD Anderson Cancer Center and third place was awarded to Increasing Lymph Node Yield for Resectable Esophageal Cancer: An Analysis Of Contributing Factors And Effects Of Lymphadenectomy During Esophagectomy In The Society Of Thoracic Surgeons National Database by Uma Sachdeva of Massachusetts General Hospital.

If you were unable to attend, you can view the presentations on AATS Online. To find a particular presentation, use the filter on the left side of the Presentation page to select the meeting from the drop-down menu and set the year to 2019. Focus your search further by using the search box to look for specific topics or presenters.

Work is already underway for next year's Summit which will take place October 30-31, 2020 in New York, NY. I look forward to bringing the community together at this unique event to advance the field of thoracic surgical oncology. ▼

Member for a Day continued

medical student and if I had this opportunity, how would I have wanted to be treated. Using that as a guide, I basically went in with the plan that we were going to be joined at the hip the whole day. Whatever I did, he was going to do as well to get the real-world experience of what it was like at the meeting for an AATS member."

Dewan appreciated that plan. "Dr. Chen was incredibly welcoming and I had a fantastic experience. His approach made me feel comfortable and he provided great advice related to the field. He introduced me to colleagues which was invaluable as I prepared to apply for residency. I am 100 percent committed to pursuing cardiothoracic surgery with an adult cardiac focus."

Potential mentees have already submitted their applications to be a Member for a Day at the 100th Annual Meeting. Members who are interested in serving as mentors should contact Dawn Garrett at dgarrett@aats.org. ▼

Join Us in Houston continued

We are specifically excited about a keynote lecture from Professor Reichart describing how leading-edge biologic therapies combined with mechanical support of the heart were used to achieve success in xenotransplantation.

We are looking forward to seeing the clinicians, scientists, and industry partners who are interested in collaborating and networking on topics important to patient care and advancement of the field. To register, please visit aats.org/mechanical. ▼



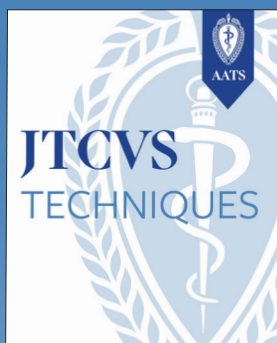
Left to right: Najya Fayyaz presenting Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Does Not Compromise Outcomes in NSCLC Patients with Clinical N1 Disease; Faculty and presenters at the Summit's Poster Competition; Attendees at Summit Plenary Session; David R. Jones, MD, in the Summit Exhibit Hall.

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PUBLICATIONS

Operative Techniques Updates



J. William Gaynor, MD

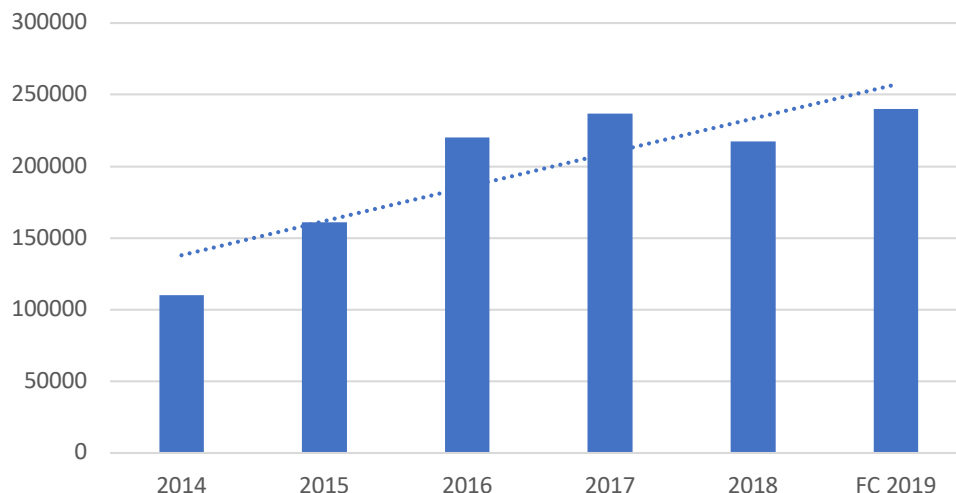
Editor of *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

J. William Gaynor, MD, Professor of Surgery at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, concludes his term as Editor of *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery: A Comparative Atlas (OpTechs)* at the end of this year. His editorial leadership has included several important developments, including significant increases to

online readership and international expansion of the editorial team.

The online readership has doubled during his tenure as Editor. In 2014, *OpTechs* articles were downloaded 110,000 times but that increased to an average of over 230,000 article downloads per year since 2016. Much of this growth in online readership is driven by the high-quality content published in recent years such as “Reoperative aortic valve replacement after previous coronary artery bypass grafting or aortic valve replacement” by Lee and Moon or “Surgical management of esophageal perforation” by Sancheti and Fernandez. Each article had nearly 8,000 article downloads since publication in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

OpTechs Full Text Downloads



Several international associate editors have been appointed in the past few years. Jan D. Schmitto, MD, Yasuhiro Kotani, MD, and Alper Toker, MD have each helped to improve the international presence of *OpTechs* and now one-third of the articles published in *OpTechs* originate from authors in Europe and Asia.

It is a challenge to maintain a robust pipeline of articles for publication and the Associate Editors of each subsection work hard to identify topics and authors for publication. The pipeline of articles and illustrations is in good shape as a result of these efforts.

In October, AATS distributed a RFA for Editor and Associate Editor positions. Many qualified candidates expressed interest, and the Publications Committee is currently completing its review of qualified candidates to recommend to the Board for approval at the December Board meeting. A successor to Dr. Gaynor will be appointed to begin in 2020, and shortly thereafter selected, new Associate Editors will be appointed. ▼

Full library of images from *OpTechs* can be accessed on AATS Online at aats.org/aatsonline.



On average, the AATS Foundation provides funding to **hundreds of professionals** annually and has an impressive international reach, with awardees representing **more than 60 countries**, across six continents.



The support of AATS Foundation donors provides **more than \$1 million of funding for critical programs** geared toward the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons **each year**.

Supporting the AATS Foundation provides practicing surgeons, fellows, and residents with opportunities to **enhance their overall surgical knowledge and technical skills**.

aatsfoundation.org



Impact the Future

David H. Adams, MD

As we approach the end of 2019, the sentiments I presented during my AATS Presidential Address in May are as relevant as ever: **I challenge you to engage with the AATS Foundation and give generously, now.** We should all be willing to underwrite the scholarship that fosters careers and develops leaders.

December 31st is fast approaching, and we are asking you to please consider donating to the AATS Foundation.

Donors like you fund programs that promote excellence in clinical care and, ultimately, improve patient outcomes. Individual contributions remain the most important funding source of our Foundation and elevate us into the leading cardiothoracic charitable organization.

Continued on page 9

AATS Foundation Awards

Congratulations to the awardees of the AATS Foundation 2019 Spring awards:

Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship

This historic program enhances the training of international academic cardiothoracic surgeons by underwriting one year of study at North American institutions.

2020-2021 Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship
Omar Jarral, MD, St. Thomas' Hospital, London, United Kingdom

AATS Research Scholarship

Established in 1986 and funded by the AATS, this program provides North American surgeons with a grant of \$80,000 per year for two years to pursue research, training, and clinical experience.

2020-2022 Second Michael E. DeBakey Research Scholarship
Johannes Kratz, MD, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Research Project: Immune Phenotypes of High-Risk Early Stage Lung Adenocarcinoma

Surgical Investigator Program

This program provides up to \$50,000 annually to support innovative clinical or translational research by young cardiothoracic surgeons for up to two years.

2020-2021 AATS Foundation Surgical Investigators
R. Taylor Ripley, MD, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Research Project: *Environmental Carcinogens Induce Minority MOMP and Upregulate Mcl-1 to Initiate Carcinogenesis in Thoracic Cancers*
Jennifer Chung, MD, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Research Project: *Imaging Aortic Biomechanics for Aneurysm Risk Assessment*
Rachel Vanderlaan, MD, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Research Project: *The Role of Mechanical Forces in the Pathogenesis of Pulmonary Vein Stenosis*

Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship

Sponsored by Medtronic, the fellowship offers surgeons the opportunity to interactively observe valvular heart disease specialists and discuss treatment, technical skills, and management of perioperative patients with them.

2019 Awardees:
Xiaofeng Ye, MD, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai, China
Chunxiao Zhang, MD, Beijing AnZhen Hospital, Beijing, China

Continued on page 9

Radoslaw Wilimski, MD, Public Central Teaching Clinical Hospital in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
Christine Goh, MD, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Australia

Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery Fellowship – Sponsored by Medtronic

Medtronic sponsors this fellowship that engages Japanese cardiothoracic surgeons in an interactive educational opportunity to observe and converse with specialists in the treatment of heart valve disease or advanced minimally invasive thoracic surgery at select host institutions in North America.

2019 Awardees:

Hidenao Kayawake, MD, Kyoto University Hospital, Kyoto, Japan
Yosuke Inoue, MD, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Osaka, Japan
Ryo Itagaki, MD, Jichi Medical University, Tochigi, Japan

Aortic Training Fellowship

Sponsored by Seemine International Medical Co., Ltd. sponsors this fellowship that enables surgeons to gain exposure to the care and treatment of acute aortic dissection cases at Beijing Anzhen Hospital.

2019 Awardee:

Cristiano Spadaccio, MD, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery – Sponsored by AtriCure, Inc.

AtriCure, Inc. sponsors this fellowship to give newly graduated cardiothoracic surgeons the opportunity to improve their atrial fibrillation techniques at a North American host institution.

2019 Awardees:

Nathaniel Langer, MD, Columbia University, New York, NY
Gal Levy, MD, UTMB, Galveston, TX
Robert Lyons, MD, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Chan-Yang Hsu, MD, Tzu Chi University, Taiwan, China
Ihar Kiziukevich, MD, Grodno State Medical University, Grodno, Belarus
Michael Bolanos, MD, University of Kentucky Lexington, KY
Daniil Borisov, MD, Federal Research Clinical Center Moscow, Russia

Honoring our Mentors Programs

The AATS Foundation Honoring Our Mentors Programs recognize prominent cardiothoracic surgeons who have demonstrated long-standing and impactful leadership in the field. These fellowship opportunities and lectureships were established by trainees, patients, and friends to honor prolific figures in the specialty who dedicated themselves to mentoring the next generation of surgeons.

Aldo R. Castaneda Fellowship

Albert Guerrero Becerra, MD, Fundacion Cardioinfantil, Bogota, Colombia

Denton A. Cooley Fellowship

Michael Magarakis, MD, University of Miami, Miami, FL

F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship

Carlson Aruldas, MD, Pavlov First Saint Petersburg State Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia

Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors Program

Saad Hasan, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Minh Quan Vu, MD, Montreal Heart Institute, Montreal, Canada
Abdulrhman Elnaggar, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Kevin Ruixuan, MD, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Ontario
Nataliya Bahatyrevich, MD, UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA
William S. Ragalie, MD, Ronald Regan UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
Dean Schraufnagel, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Kareem Bedeir, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
James Brockett, MD, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY

Jack A. Roth Fellowship in Thoracic Surgical Oncology

Emmanouil Kapetanakis, MD, Attikon University Hospital, Chaidari, Greece

Marc R. de Leval Fellowship

Sandeep Sainathan, MD, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Memphis, TN

Timothy Gardner Lectureship

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Recipients of the Fall awards will be announced in the coming months. To learn more about the various programs, visit aatsfoundation.org. ▼

EACTS Excellence Award

Theodoros Van Bakel, MD, was awarded the AATS Foundation Academic Excellence Award at the Work in Progress session at the EACTS Annual Meeting for his presentation titled, Patient-Specific Computational Modeling of Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting. The award recognizes distinction in scientific presentation at EACTS and other affiliate organizations around the world.



Theodoros Van Bakel, MD
2019 AATS Foundation
Academic Excellence
Award Recipient

In accepting the award, Dr. Van Bakel said, "I want to thank the AATS Foundation and EACTS for this award. I feel encouraged and excited to continue our research on Computational Fluid Dynamics for patient-specific surgical planning and device development" ▼

Impact the Future continued

The AATS Foundation is deeply committed to supporting research and education and is currently funding more young cardiothoracic surgeons than any other time in our history. Your support provides practicing surgeons, fellows, and residents with opportunities to enhance their overall surgical knowledge and technical skills.

As we position ourselves to be a leader in global academic exchange, **we are counting on your generosity now more than ever. Your gift will profoundly impact the future of cardiothoracic surgery around the world.** To make your contribution, please visit aatsfoundation.org, or contact our Director of Development, Katie Federico, at 978-252-2200 Ext. 544 or kfederico@aats.org. ▼

To learn more about
how to give to
the Foundation go to
aatsfoundation.org



AATS Wellness Committee

Ross M. Bremner, MD
Chair, AATS Wellness Committee

Approximately 50 percent of physicians have some degree of “burnout.” The arduous nature of our work, the ongoing changes in medicine, the decrease in autonomy, the increasing burden of bureaucratic tasks, and the challenge of adapting to electronic medical records are a few factors that threaten our gladiator resilience as cardiothoracic surgeons. The effects on

our health, our performance, and on our friends and families are profound. The alarming statistics on suicide, substance abuse, and divorce rates speak to the extremes of this problem and even these issues have not been addressed effectively to date by the medical profession at large. Even less attention has been given to the day-to-day erosion of physician satisfaction and fulfillment and the early recognition of the stresses that threaten our wellness. Awareness and intervention in these early stages can help engage surgeons in meaningful ways that will promote greater satisfaction and sustainability at work and at home.

The AATS has recognized the importance of these issues and has formed a new committee to address them. The Wellness Committee is designing a program for the upcoming 100th Annual Meeting that will provide new insight for our members and offer valuable tools to better identify the warning signs of burnout, as well as strategies to enhance our wellness as cardiothoracic surgeons. We are excited to have the opportunity to engage our members in a meaningful dialog about how we drive transformation in the AATS, in our respective organizations, and in our lives. ▼

Secretary's Report continued

which will serve as the framework for the future of our organization.

Should you have any feedback regarding these items or wish to volunteer to participate in the implementation of these initiatives, please do not hesitate to send me your feedback at secretary@aats.org.

Volunteer Leadership

For more than 100 years, AATS has successfully relied on its members to drive projects, share knowledge, and provide guidance to advance the Association and to our specialty. We hope to continue our tradition of strong volunteer leadership by identifying members to serve in important roles throughout the Association. During the 2020 business meeting, the AATS Board will be providing a nomination slate for the 2020-21 committee and representative positions. Between the AATS and AATS Foundation, there are over 30 committees and representative positions that will have vacancies starting in 2020. I personally recommend that all members actively participate in the Association by submitting a self-nomination. Nominations can be submitted on the AATS website or through an email link which has been shared with all members.

New Committee

In addition to the current AATS committee portfolio, the Board established a new committee to oversee the AATS C. Walton Lillehei Residents Forum. Chaired by Dr. Nahush Mokadam, the committee is tasked with reviewing abstracts and identifying the top submissions to be invited for an oral presentation at the AATS 100th Annual Meeting. I encourage all members to attend the Lillehei Forum in New York to watch our cardiothoracic residents compete for this prestigious award.

New AATS Director

Lastly, I am very pleased to report that over 280 members voted for the Board's Director-at-Large. The AATS Board and Nominating Committee put forth a slate of extremely accomplished cardiothoracic surgeons for consideration and I am proud to announce that Dr. Ralph J. Damiano, MD, has been elected to fill this position. Dr. Damiano is the Professor and Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Damiano will begin his term on April 28, 2020, following the business meeting at the AATS 100th Annual Meeting. ▼

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Surgical Treatment for Arrhythmias and Rhythm Disorders

Save the Date

October 2-3, 2020
Westin Boston Waterfront
Boston, MA, USA

Program Directors

Ralph J. Damiano, Jr.
A. Marc Gillinov

For more information visit aats.org/stars

Important Dates

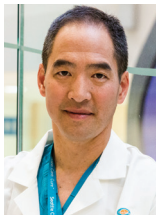
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| Tuesday, December 31 | Final day to make 2019 donation to the AATS Foundation |
| Friday, January 3 | Leadership Academy applications due |
| Wednesday, January 15 | Member for a Day applications due |
| Friday, January 31 | Submissions due for Cardiothoracic Resident Poster Competition and Cardiothoracic Resident Case Report Competition |
| Sunday, March 1 | Deadline for self-nominations to be considered for a 2020 Committee |

The Successes of the Leadership Academy

In 2009, the AATS held the first Leadership Academy to provide attendees the administrative, interpersonal, and mentoring skills necessary to assume leadership roles at their institutions. Every member of that initial class went on to a leadership position and subsequent classes have helped develop numerous leaders in our specialty.

Each year, the program is geared toward a specific career level. In 2020, many AATS members are eligible as it is designed for potential future Division or Section Chiefs or those who have recently assumed this role.

To better explain the impact the Leadership Academy can have on a career, three members of the initial 2009 class shared their experiences:



Jonathan P. Chen, MD

Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

"It was a great honor to be part of the inaugural Leadership Academy group. I found the teachings incredibly important in helping me navigate the waters as a new chief. It also allowed a more direct access to senior leaders in our field, whose mentorship has been sustained throughout later years. I still keep my syllabus from the meeting (and notes!) for easy reference and strongly endorse it to those for whom it is available."



Jennifer S. Lawton, MD

Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery, Johns Hopkins University

"The AATS Leadership Academy has been vital to my career. I was lucky enough to be one of the inaugural cohort of the AATS Leadership Academy. It was FANTASTIC! The way that Dr. Crawford masterfully planned it (with much help from Matt Eaton) so that the faculty and attendees sat together and they spent quality time together all day and at dinner was key. Now, as a faculty member at the Leadership Academy, I still learn so much from the attendees and the faculty at each Academy. It is extremely important to continue this excellent program, as leadership training in medical school and surgical residency and fellowship is lacking."



Abe DeAnda, Jr., MD

Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, UTMB-Galveston

"The AATS Leadership Academy introduced me to lifelong mentors and exposed me to a variety of leadership approaches from senior members of the AATS which continue to resonate with me."

The Board of Directors for the Leadership Academy is currently accepting applications with an application deadline of January 3, 2020. Learn more about the eligibility requirements and the application process on aats.org and email dgarrett@aats.org with any questions. ▼

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WeChat



President's Message continued

will be using moderators to ensure that the surgeon can focus on the patient, while still allowing the audience to ask questions.

There will also be more multidisciplinary content this year to address the needs of a broader audience of physicians and medical professionals. As AATS founder Willy Meyer, MD, said at the very first AATS meeting which included a wide range of medical professionals, "Many minds working in the same direction will get quicker results, for the benefit of suffering humanity."

Working with a multi-disciplinary team was one of the main topics of conversation when the strategic planning group met in September. There was a strong sentiment that in order to lead, educate, and advance disease-specific care of our patients, there needs to be more of a focus on implementing and supporting diagnostic management teams. Increasing the multidisciplinary content and the number of non-surgeons at the Annual Meeting is one of the tactics suggested to achieve this goal.

Expanding the education reach of the Annual Meeting and other AATS meetings was another subject discussed during the strategic planning process. We are planning to live stream parts of the Annual Meeting to reach more people and we will continue to bring AATS educational content to other parts of the world with AATS meetings in India, Thailand, Brazil, and China in 2020. We will partner with other associations for some meetings and hold stand-alone meetings for others. I recently returned from Japan where we held the highly successful AATS/JATS Aortic Symposium and several members took part in the Focus on Thoracic Surgery meeting in China.

A third goal of the Association is the development and engagement of future cardiothoracic leaders. We need to encourage new and established AATS members to participate in the Association and communicate the ways they want to be involved. We also want to establish networks that can facilitate the development of the surgeon scientist.

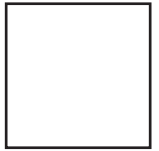
I will be presenting the finalized strategic plan and the Annual Meeting program soon. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and look forward to all that the new year will bring. ▼



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April 23-24, 2020
New York Marriott Marquis
New York, NY, USA



AATS 100th ANNUAL MEETING

April 25-28, 2020
New York Hilton Midtown and
Sheraton New York Times Square
New York, NY, USA

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