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AATS Update

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY

VOL. 3 | ISSUE 4 | December 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shaf Keshavjee, MD

As we get ready to welcome a new year, we look forward for what is to come in 2022. The **AATS 102nd Annual Meeting in Boston on May 14-17, 2022** is fast approaching. After two years of virtual meetings, I know everyone is excited to reconnect in person. The enthusiasm in our community for returning to an in-person meeting is proven by the huge number of abstract submissions we have received: the **second-highest number ever!** I think most people would agree that the value of in-person connection, learning, and networking cannot be replaced by virtual meetings. Of course, the health and safety of presenters, attendees, and staff will be the top priority as we continue to plan the Annual Meeting.

I would like to highlight a couple of unique elements of the 102nd Annual Meeting:

- A **Mitral Conclave Workshop** and an **Aortic Symposium Workshop** will be held on **Friday May 13, 2022** in Boston immediately preceding Annual Meeting.
- Annual Meeting will also incorporate several accepted abstracts from the 2021 **International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit** that was cancelled.

The 102nd Annual Meeting will feature two incredibly exciting **keynote speakers**:

Martine Rothblatt, creator of SiriusXM, and founder, Chairperson and CEO of United Therapeutics. As one of the world's top pioneers in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, she is a genuine futurist with a deep

Continued on page 2



SECRETARY'S REPORT

David R. Jones, MD

As AATS Secretary, it is my distinct honor to serve as Co-Chair of the Publications Committee. During this time, I had the opportunity to work closely with *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (JTCVS) Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Richard D. Weisel, as he continued to grow the impact factor of our flagship publication, launch two open access journals, and provide mentorship and leadership to his editorial board. Under Dr. Weisel's leadership, JTCVS has achieved many important milestones and the AATS journal program has significantly expanded its size and impact.

Manuscript submissions to the JTCVS doubled from approximately 2,000 to 4,000 submissions annually. Dr. Weisel appointed additional editors and editorial board members, and together the editors delivered rapid turnaround times. The average time to first decision decreased from 24 days to 15 days. During his editorial tenure, Dr. Weisel worked with Dr. Eugene Blackstone, JTCVS Statistical Editor, to implement a sta-

Continued on page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Page 2

▼ **Membership**

Page 3

▼ **AATS Board of Directors**

Page 4

▼ **Committees**

Page 5

▼ **News**

Page 5

▼ **Important Dates**

Page 7

▼ **Meetings**

Page 9

▼ **AATS Foundation**

Page 11

▼ **Publications**

President's Message continued

belief in technology. Martine has shown over and over again that the seemingly impossible can be made possible, making every vision a reality.

Malcolm Gladwell, a five-time New York Times bestselling author, journalist, and public speaker. He is also the producer of the well-known podcasts *Revisionist History* and *Broken Record*. Best known for challenging the way we think, Malcolm has appeared on Time's Top 100 Most Influential People list and Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers.

Martine and Malcolm are trailblazers and indeed true outliers in their fields, who have changed the world; and each have already made a lasting impact on peoples' lives and society as a whole. Martine and Malcolm truly embody AATS core values of research, innovation, and leadership. Needless to say, both promise to deliver transforming and memorable lectures at the AATS plenary sessions.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year, and look forward to seeing you all at what promises to be an incredibly exciting in-person AATS meeting in Boston in May! ▼

Secretary's Report continued

tistical review process to ensure the conclusions of each manuscript are supported by appropriate statistical analysis.

The impact of JTCVS has grown under Dr. Weisel's leadership with an Impact Factor that exceeded 5.2 for the first time in the Journal's history. In 2020, *Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* debuted an Impact Factor of 2.1, which has been driven by a manuscript transfer model from JTCVS established in 2015. Most recently, Dr. Weisel helped lead the expansion of the AATS journal program, establishing two new open access journals, *JTCVS Techniques* and *JTCVS Open*.

I would like to thank Dr. Weisel for his outstanding service for the past seven years as Editor-in-Chief, and I would like to welcome Dr. Alec Patterson as the new Editor of the AATS journals. ▼

MEMBERSHIP

New Member Spotlight

AATS welcomed 33 new members in 2021. The 6 new members below graciously share their thoughts on the AATS and how they were inspired to apply for membership.



Lauren Kane, MD

The Heart Center at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, Orlando, FL, USA

What are the most pressing issues within cardiothoracic surgery that you are most interested in monitoring?

"Gender Equity; Closing of the pay gap between male and female surgeons; Health equity for all patients with cardiothoracic disease."



Tomasa Centella, MD

Hospital Ramon y Cajal, Cirug, Madrid, Spain

How do you plan on becoming involved in the organization?

"I hope to continue learning and actively participating in the activities sponsored by AATS, especially in research and educational initiatives. I rely on my participation in AATS to encourage surgeons in my country to take part in more international activities."



Julian Smith, MD

Monash Health, Glen Iris, VIC Australia

What is your number one piece of advice for trainees?

"Follow your dreams, aim high, and always maintain a work-life balance."



Roberto Lorusso, MD

Maastricht University Medical Centre, Maastricht, Netherlands

Describe a significant case/patient interaction that impacted your career.

"In 1996, I saw a boy who died from refractory cardiac arrest during a WPW percutaneous ablation (he was so unfortunate to have a marked left coronary dominance, with refractory spasm of the left coronary system with cardiac arrest) who could not be saved by expeditious cardio-pulmonary support. I decided to work to develop portable and miniaturized CPB/ECMO systems to be able to counteract such unfortunate events, particularly in hospital, but also for any type of sudden cardio-pulmonary failure. I think I did my best in enhancing and developing systems and techniques for mechanical circulatory support in such a setting"



David Kalfa, MD

Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

Why did you want to become an AATS member?

"To serve the Association, my surgical community, and my patients as well as I can. Overall to improve the quality of care for children and adults with congenital heart disease."



Iki Adachi, MD

Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX, USA

What does the AATS mean to you?

"Dream. Becoming the AATS member was one of my ultimate goals I had when I started my career." ▼

Ke-Neng Chen, MD, AATS Board Member



Ke-Neng Chen, MD, of Peking University Cancer Hospital became an AATS member in 2014; and he was elected as an AATS Board Member in 2018. That same year, he joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (JTCVS). Dr. Chen has worked diligently to foster communication between Chinese and American surgeons and to encourage Chinese surgeons to join the AATS. This year, he was appointed AATS International Director on the Board of Directors.

He actively participates in the activities of AATS as audience, panelist, speaker, reviewer, and faculty, especially at AATS Annual Meetings. He hosted the 2016 (Shanghai), 2017 (Beijing), 2018 (Chengdu), and 2019 (Guangzhou) AATS Focus postgraduate education conferences as co-director and major faculty. These Focus conferences promoted the mutual communication of Chinese and American thoracic surgeons and enhanced the influence of AATS in China.

Dr. Chen is currently the Professor of Oncology/Surgery/Thoracic Surgery of Peking University Cancer Hospital and Chair of Thoracic Surgery I, as well as Vice Chair of the Thoracic Oncological Center. He completed his clinical training in the First Affiliated Hospital of Lanzhou University, where he successively



worked as intern, resident, chief resident, lecturer physician (equivalent to assistant surgeon/assistant professor), and associate chief surgeon (associate professor). During this period, he completed his master's degree of oncology at the Cancer Institute and his PhD at the First Hospital of Wuhan University.

In 2005, Dr. Chen, Jie Wang, MD, (medical oncologist) and Guangying Zhu, MD, (radiation oncologist) organized and established the multidisciplinary team (MDT) for lung cancer at Peking University Cancer Hospital. In addition to his teaching and research (clinical trials and translational research), he continues a weekly MDT outpatient clinic, MDT conferences, and consultations.

As a thoracic surgeon, Dr. Chen is dedicated to the surgical treatment of esophageal cancer and lung cancer, particularly in the narrow gastric conduit reconstruction for esophagus after esophagectomy; perioperative enteral nutrition support of esophageal cancer; and the promotion of preoperative treatment of esophageal cancer in China. He also actively participates in clinical trials for perioperative targeted therapy of lung cancer (CTONE1103 and CTONE1104), preoperative immunotherapy (CheckMate816), and postoperative immunotherapy of esophageal cancer (CheckMate577).

The esophageal cancer database in Dr. Chen's department is the support database of the UICC/AJCC (Union for International Control/American Joint Committee on Cancer) TNM staging system of esophageal cancer, and the lung cancer database in Dr. Chen's department will be the support database of TNM staging system of lung cancer.

Dr. Chen's professional commitment extends to membership and leadership in numerous medical organizations in China, including the Chinese Medical Doctors' Association, the China Anti-Cancer Association, the Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology, and the World Association of Chinese Doctors. In 2020, he

Continued on page 3

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AATS Board of Directors

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Foundation President

David H. Adams

Mount Sinai Health System

received the second award of the Scientific and Technological Progress of China.

Dr. Chen has long been committed to the promotion of the concept of multidisciplinary diagnosis and treatment of thoracic tumors in China. In 2005, he organized the biannual Sino-US multidisciplinary Academic Exchange Conference on Lung Cancer (seven conferences were held successfully as of 2019). Approximately 100 scholars and experts from the United States have attended these meetings, which promoted the popularization of the MDT concept of lung cancer in China. ▼



Vision. Leadership. Scholarship.

COMMITTEES

AATS Scientific Affairs and Government Relations 2020-2021 Year in Review



Joseph Woo, MD

This year saw the culmination of several educational and advocacy efforts. AATS Scientific Affairs and Government Relations (SAGR) has shepherded three distinct educational symposia: Grant Writing Workshop, Clinical Trials Course, and Innovation Summit. These have been convened in various permutations as stand-alone meetings and as adjuncts of the AATS Annual Meeting. Participation has been very robust and attendee surveys indicate significant career development value and interest in future meetings. SAGR has had a long history of engaging federal research agency leadership to advocate on behalf of surgical investigators. AATS Secretary Dr. David R. Jones, during his tenure leading SAGR, actively and successfully interacted with the NCI. Recently, SAGR met with Dr. Gary Gibbons, Director of the NHLBI, strongly endorsing and successfully gaining his vital support of the CTSN, the potential RFA for a Lung Transplant Research Consortium, and the participation of NIH officers at AATS Annual Meetings. SAGR also met with CSR leadership to enhance surgeon scientist participation on Special Emphasis Panels. Recently, SAGR conducted a multi-decade analysis of cardiothoracic surgeon federal grant funding and the potential impact of the whole range of AATS educational programs and observed very encouraging trends. A detailed manuscript is under revision with the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (JTCVS). Most recently, SAGR has been intricately involved in the evolution of the AATS Digital Universe and its future role as the foremost resource for grant funding, research, and educational opportunities. As Dr. Sasha Krupnick has undertaken leadership of SAGR, his exciting vision of markedly expanding surgeon participation on NIH study sections holds great promise for further transforming the pivotal role of surgeons in discovery and innovation. ▼

5th AATS Member Art Showcase

The AATS values all the talents of our members both in and outside of the operating room. The AATS 102nd Annual Meeting will host the 5th AATS Member Art Showcase. The display will highlight members' many artistic talents, from painting, to photography, and beyond.

If you would like to submit to the Showcase, please submit the following by Wednesday, March 30, 2022:

- ▼ High resolution file of your artwork
- ▼ Artist Name and Institution
- ▼ Title of your artwork if applicable
- ▼ Date of creation

If your file is too large to send via email, please contact meetings@aats.org. ▼



An Update from Women in Thoracic Surgery



Lauren C. Kane, MD, *The Heart Center at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children*
Associate Professor, Congenital Heart Surgery
President, Women in Thoracic Surgery



The Women in Thoracic Surgery (WTS) are having an exciting year living our missions and goals. Along with the whole world, we have taken risk, leaps of faith, and are appreciative of our amazing partners and supporters. 2021 has seemed to be just a slightly better version of 2020. Some amazing feats were accomplished, such as the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines to the world in record time. The politicization of vaccines is nothing new. Distrust, fear, confusion, as well as hope and belief, has informed people's decisions concerning vaccination and the public health crisis. The field of cardiothoracic surgery have been leaders in the treatment and support of those effected, with therapies such as ECMO, thoracic procedures, and lung transplants. So much has been learned and is yet to be fully understood.

Despite the ongoing challenges, the WTS has been focused on bringing yearlong projects to fruition. We are excited to announce that our website re-design is finally in the home stretch. You can see for yourself at www.wtsnet.org and explore all the goings on. We are most excited to have our "Find an Expert" search function up and ready to help program committees, academic centers, and individual surgeons find well qualified women thoracic surgeons to speak in their area of expertise for their programs, panels, and grand rounds.

The WTS is planning its next Speed-Mentoring Event, created and led by Dr. Stephanie Worrell. This one-hour event has been an incredible way for trainees and practicing women thoracic surgeons to have a space to meet. To inspire each other and form lasting relationships as mentors and mentees, providing support for the next generation of women thoracic surgeons. Our inaugural AATS – WTS Midcareer Award launched this year, with Medtronic's support, and we are excited to announce the winners soon.

The WTS has grown from a handful of passionate leaders into a very respectable, progressive, and proficient organization. This is due to the amazing women thoracic surgeons who have graciously given of their time and expertise, in support of the WTS's mission to encourage the next generation of aspiring surgeons. Today, there are more accomplished women thoracic surgeons who have served as, or are in line to be, president of various thoracic surgical associations and societies than ever before. Many of which have served as President of the Women in Thoracic Surgery. Congratulations to these women and to the cardiac, thoracic, and congenital surgical communities for working towards a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive field of thoracic surgeons.

Thanks to the AATS and Drs. Starnes, Moon, and Keshavjee's support, we are preparing for our third year of WTS Cardiac and Thoracic sessions at the upcoming AATS 102nd Annual Meeting. It is an amazing opportunity for us to showcase current research and impactful work being done in both cardiac and thoracic surgery. Be sure to stop by the WTS Reception to show your support and celebrate the small wins we all must be grateful for this year.

The WTS will be opening the process of self-nominations and nominations for openings in our leadership committee. We encourage you to get involved and help us make the WTS an even better organization in 2022. ▼



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Important Dates

December 15, 2021

Application Deadline: Leadership Academy

January 15, 2022

Application Deadline: Member for a Day Program

January 17, 2022

Abstract Submission Deadline: Surgical Treatment for Arrhythmias and Rhythm Disorders

January 31, 2022

Application Deadline: Cardiothoracic Resident Poster Competition

January 31, 2022

Application Deadline: Cardiothoracic Resident Case Report Competition

January 31, 2022

Submission Deadline: 102nd Annual Meeting Perioperative and Team-Based Care Poster Competition

February 7, 2022

Submission Deadline: 102nd Annual Meeting Late Breaking Clinical Trial Abstracts

AATS Global Grand Rounds

The monthly AATS Global Grand Rounds Webinar series provides attendees the opportunity to learn from and engage with surgical experts and leaders from across the globe. Participants have the unique experience to learn surgical techniques from experts, have a virtual seat in roundtable discussions, and participate in practice changing debates that address key aspects of Adult Cardiac, Thoracic Oncology, and Congenital specialties. Below is a recap of the webinars that took place over the past few months.



ADULT CARDIAC

AATS

Global Grand Rounds Webinars



July 28, 2021: Adult Cardiac

Degenerative Mitral Repair: Case-Based Approach

presented by Joanna Chikwe, Steven F. Bolling, and A. Marc Gillinov. This webinar attracted a global audience from Peru, Mexico, Lithuania, and beyond.



CONGENITAL

AATS

Global Grand Rounds Webinars



September 29, 2021: Congenital

Enhanced Recovery After Congenital Cardiac Surgery

moderated by Stephanie Fuller and Ram Kumar Subramanian. Attendees participated from around the world including Taiwan, India, and Iraq.



THORACIC

AATS

Global Grand Rounds Webinars



October 27, 2021: Thoracic

Uniportable Approach to Lung Resection: A Video Session with Experts

moderated by Gaetano Rocco and Paula Ugalde Figueroa. Viewers tuned in from locations around the world, including Romania, Hong Kong, Columbia, Macedonia, Japan, and Germany.

To view the AATS Global Grand Round Webinars on-demand and claim CME, please visit aats.org. ▼

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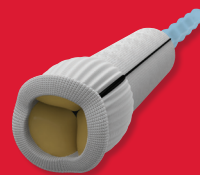
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MEETINGS

Surgical Treatment for Arrhythmias and Rhythm Disorders



The AATS Surgical Treatment for Arrhythmias and Rhythm Disorders will take place in-person Sunday, March 20-21, 2022 at **The Westin Boston Seaport District in Boston, MA**. This course is a two-day, interactive forum to support the exchange of information between electrophysiologists and surgeons. Program Directors, Ralph J. Damiano Jr. and A. Marc Gillinov have prepared a program that provides a comprehensive, unbiased review of the surgical treatment of cardiac arrhythmias and rhythm disorders. The Abstract Submission Deadline is Monday, January 17, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET. For more information, please visit aats.org. ▼



Surgical Treatment for Arrhythmias and Rhythm Disorders



March 20-21, 2022
The Westin Boston Seaport District
Boston, MA, USA

Update Your Profile

Check that the information in your aats.org profile is current to ensure you are receiving AATS information that is most important to you. By updating your contact information and sharing your areas of interest, you will be able to optimize your use of AATS Online and receive relevant AATS news. While you are in your profile, you can upload a recent photo, view your AATS activity, and more. To access your profile, log in using the "Sign In" or "My Account" link at the top of aats.org. ▼



AATS

Global Grand Rounds Webinars



AATS Education Committee is pleased to offer educational webinars, with expert lectures and live Q&A, for the cardiothoracic specialty. The webinars support the Association's education core value and offer CME credits.

Visit aats.org for upcoming dates.




AATS 102nd Annual Meeting

May 14-17, 2022


Hynes Convention Center

See You In Boston!





AATS 2022



May 13-17, 2022
Hynes Convention Center
and Sheraton Boston
Boston, MA, USA



Aortic Symposium Workshop Boston

May 13-14, 2022
Sheraton Boston
Boston, MA, USA

For the first time, AATS is combining three of the biggest meetings of the year into one location. Join us in-person for AATS 2022 taking place May 13-17, in Boston, MA.

Aortic Symposium Workshop Boston

Friday, May 13-Saturday, May 14, 2022

Sheraton Boston

This Workshop focuses on the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of aortic aneurysms and dissections. The faculty consists of world leaders in the field who have been invited to share their experience regarding difficult problems and solutions in aortic disease.

Program Directors

Joseph S. Coselli and Steven L. Lansman



Mitral Conclave Workshop Boston

May 13-14, 2022
Sheraton Boston
Boston, MA, USA

Mitral Conclave Workshop Boston

Friday, May 13-Saturday, May 14, 2022

Sheraton Boston

The world's leading figures in mitral valve disease will gather to share the latest information regarding management guidelines, imaging, pathology, minimally invasive approaches, percutaneous approaches, surgical techniques, devices, and long-term results in patient care.

Program Directors

David H. Adams and Anelechi C. Anyanwu




102nd Annual Meeting

May 14-17, 2022
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, MA, USA

102nd Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 14-Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Hynes Convention Center

The 102nd Annual Meeting will reunite surgeons in-person to have discussions, ask hard questions, hear new perspectives, and build on each other's work.

President

Shaf Keshavjee

Call for Late Breaking Clinical Trial Abstracts

Submission deadline: Monday February 7, 2022 at 11:59PM ET

Visit aats.org for more information.



AATS Foundation



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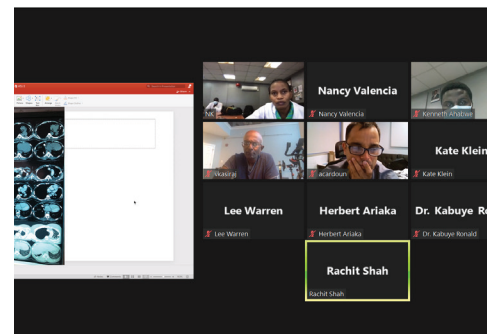
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Supporting Thoracic and Cardiovascular
Surgeons in Research and Education

Building Collaborations and Staying Connected through the James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery

While the challenges of COVID-19 have impacted us all, difficult times can help the world connect in new and meaningful ways. Dr. Naomi Kebba of the Uganda Heart Institute (UHI) was delayed in the start of her training at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System to be hosted by Dr. Vigneshwar Kasirajan as a recipient of a James L. Cox Fellowship in 2020. Despite needing to postpone her fellowship, a meaningful collaboration was established between the two centers. The teams at UHI and VCU began to meet virtually to discuss various topics on cardiac surgery. This partnership continues to grow and the AATS Foundation is proud to highlight the important work being done by AATS Members and AATS Foundation Awardees. ▼



“This partnership has contributed immensely to our practice as surgeons and has boosted our confidence to attempt more complex cases. We have learned better alternative techniques of carrying out surgeries which has led to better outcomes for our patients. We use these discussions as a benchmark for future growth. We have fellows in training who have benefitted from learning from the different experts both local and international which has helped them broaden their perspective in patient care.”

Naomi Kebba, MD

“It has been a pleasure working with Dr. Tom Mwambu, Dr. Naomi Kebba, and team. We meet by Zoom every two weeks, review cases and discuss solutions. It is humbling to see how much work there is to be done. We are currently working on solutions for distant proctoring. Hopefully we will be able to host Dr. Kebba here in person and visit Uganda.

We would like to thank the AATS Foundation and Atricare for this opportunity through the James L. Cox Fellowship.”

Vigneshwar Kasirajan, MD

AATS Foundation Congratulates the Following Awardees

Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship

Markus G. Mach, MD
Medical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Michael Robich, MD
Tufts University Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA

Kelly M. Wanamaker, MD
Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA, USA

Sir Magdi Yacoub International Mentored Career Development Award

Ján Gofus, MD, PhD
University Hospital, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic

Aldo R. Castañeda Fellowship

Juan Martín Antelo, MD
Hospital de Clínicas, Montevideo, Uruguay

AATS Foundation Equity Award

Loretta Erhunmwunsee, MD
City of Hope Hospital, Duarte, CA, USA

Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship

Jiang Long, MD, PhD
*The First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou
Medical University, Guangzhou, China*

Syed Rehman, MD
Hammersmith Hospital, London, United Kingdom

AATS Foundation/WTS Mid-Career Investigator Award

Andrea S. Wolf, MD
*The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai,
New York, NY, USA*

Maral Ouzounian, MD
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

AstraZeneca Surgical Investigator Award

Matthew Bott, MD
*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
New York, NY, USA*

David Odell, MD
*Northwestern University Feinberg School of
Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA*

To learn more about the various AATS Foundation
programs, visit aatsfoundation.org. ▼

2021 Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors Program

On September 21, the AATS Foundation and Cleveland Clinic partnered to bring together an impressive group of more than 20 Chief Residents from cardiothoracic residency programs across North America to participate in a full-day leadership course at the Cleveland Clinic. ▼



2021-2022 Thoracic Surgical Robotics Fellowship

This fall, the AATS Foundation held multiple training courses at Intuitive Surgical facilities in Atlanta, GA and Houston, TX that provided senior residents and fellows with exposure to the da Vinci robotics system with support from their attending surgeons and AATS Faculty. ▼



AATS Foundation



Make your gift before December 31

**AATS Foundation programs are made
possible by the generous contributions of
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For questions or to support the critical work
of the AATS Foundation, contact Katie Federico, at
kfederico@aats.org or 978-252-2200 Ext. 544.

Visit aatsfoundation.org to donate today.

Fund A Program



**Create and fund an Honoring
Our Mentors Program**

"It was an incredible experience to join this world renowned group of surgeons and participate in the most complex Cardiac and Aortic Surgery cases. Although it was fascinating to witness the spectacular team approach, I was also equally impressed by the history and legendary stories behind the walls of Texas Heart Institute, the place most people consider the birthplace of Modern Cardiac Surgery"

Michael Magarakis, MD
Denton A. Cooley Fellowship Recipient



**Create and fund a named
Surgical Investigator Award**



JOURNAL ALERTS



Review the Featured in Press Papers in Your Subspecialty Each Month

Sign up for monthly AATS Journal Alerts in adult, congenital, and thoracic specialties at aats.org.



JTCVS TECHNIQUES

JTCVS Techniques is now indexed in PubMed Central

A Message From Richard D. Weisel, MD



At the end of this year, my tenure as Editor-in-Chief concludes. I would like to thank the editors, Editorial Board members, and reviewers who contributed to the success of the AATS journals over the last seven years. Their participation and dedication have been amazing. To select the best contributions for publication requires excellent reviews from knowledgeable experts. Over the last seven years, we have recruited exceptional editors and reviewers who have dedicated their time and effort to selecting and modifying the best material for publication. The extensive reviews improved the quality and increased the interest of the published papers, but we were able to reduce the time required for the reviews. The Managing Editor and his staff have enabled these changes. The success of our journals is the result of the outstanding efforts of our team.

The mission of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (JTCVS) is to advance excellence and impact on the specialty. Our goal was to provide the highest-quality papers to the readers, when they want it and in the format they will appreciate. Scientific communication has changed, and cardiothoracic surgeons now have many more opportunities to view important innovations in their subspecialty each day. The JTCVS and the other AATS journals have changed with the communications revolution. Each paper has a central picture, a central message, and a perspective -- and most papers have a graphical abstract and a video. These changes allow readers to rapidly understand the message and the commentaries place the concepts in the context of their field.

Dr. Alec Patterson, the new Editor of the AATS journals, will continue the transformation and will be able to capitalize on the new platforms which have been created. I look forward to watching for more changes in the years to come. ▼

Search All AATS Journals Now at AATS.org

Richard D. Weisel, MD, JTCVS Editor-In-Chief, announced in October that all of the recently published articles from every AATS journal can be searched directly at aats.org/journalsearch. The new search tool provides dynamic, full-text search functionality to more than 5,000 articles from the six AATS journals: *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (JTCVS), *JTCVS Open*, *JTCVS Techniques*, *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, *Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, and the *Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Annual*.

From the 2016 volume year to the current issues, all of the articles have been tagged using the common AATS journal taxonomy. You can define your keyword search by specialty, subspecialty, and article type. For example, a keyword search for "aortic valve" can be refined to show only articles published in the congenital specialty and further refined to include only AATS Meeting Papers. Readers can search for "lung cancer" and limit their results to recent Invited Expert Opinions, Invited Expert Technical Reviews, or Video Atlas Articles. Search results are displayed on AATS Online with direct links to the full-text articles on the journal websites, e.g., www.jtcvs.org.

The Association has worked to bring you all of these added search functions on our website to provide better access to the expanded family of AATS journals. We hope that AATS members and our other readers will find the new search tool to be the best way to discover specific content from our extensive library of articles.

Please visit aats.org/journalsearch and try the new search function and discover content that may have eluded you previously. ▼



AATS

BOSTON

SAVE THE DATE

102nd Annual Meeting

May 14-17, 2022
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, MA, USA

President
Shaf Keshavjee

Join us back in person. For more information, visit aats.org/annualmeeting