



Vision. Leadership. Scholarship.

# AATS Update

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughn A. Starnes, MD

I am truly humbled and honored to be the 100th President of the AATS. This organization has had, and will continue to have, a profound impact on the practice of cardiothoracic surgery. We are very proud of our legacy of education, scholarship, and research. Our vision for the future needs to magnify this legacy to include an expanding field of cardiothoracic surgery which will encompass new approaches to structural heart disease, new immunotherapies for lung and mediastinal tumors, and genetic and stem cell therapies in congenital heart disease. With these new treatment strategies, our training paradigms will need to reflect and keep

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

David R. Jones, MD

This time of year is always busy but the past few months have seemed to be even fuller with the launch of several new projects, the implementation of organizational updates, and of course, AATS Week. Here are some highlights of what has been taking place the past few months.

### AATS Week Recap

Once again, we brought the cardiothoracic world together for AATS Week. The Mitral Conclave in New York and the AATS 99th Annual Meeting in Toronto gave cardiothoracic surgical team members exceptional knowledge, skills, and experiences.

More than 1,200 people from 66 countries were at the premier mitral valve meeting in the world, the Mitral Conclave. In addition to breakout sessions on the latest innovations in the field, two seminal talks recounted the past and future of mitral valve surgery. During the opening plenary session, Francis C. Wells presented on the history of mitral valve anatomy and the early years of cardiothoracic interventions. He noted the contributions of Leonardo Da Vinci, who died on that day 500 years earlier, as well as visionaries C. Walton Lillehei, Dwight McGoon, and Alain Carpentier. Michael J. Mack then turned the focus to what is to come during the Honored Guest Lecture on what mitral valve intervention will look like in 2030.

The Mitral Conclave served as the inspiration for the newly designed program at the AATS 99th Annual Meeting. In addition to the theme-based sessions, there were talks by some of the preeminent leaders in the field. Tirone E. David spoke about Excellence in Surgery at the inaugural David J. Sugarbaker Memorial Lecture. The Honored Guest Lecture was given by Valentin Fuster, on the Global Health Initiative to Address Undertreatment in Cardiovascular Disease. The 99th AATS President, David H. Adams, focused his address on Vision, Leadership, and Scholarship. Other leaders were recognized for their contributions to the field. Randall B. Griep was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and D. Craig Miller earned the Scientific Achievement Award.

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## AATS Studio

The AATS Studio hosted live interviews with expert discussants in the Innovation and Technology Hall of the 99th Annual Meeting in Toronto. Be sure to visit the Newsroom at [aats.org](http://aats.org) to view the following post-presentation commentary:



- ▼ [Dr. Scott J. Swanson](#) on Prospective, Multi-Center, International Phase 2 Trial Evaluating Ultrasonic Energy for Pulmonary Artery Branch Sealing in VATS Lobectomy
- ▼ [Dr. Jonathan C. Yeung](#) on Patient-Derived Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Organoids Recapitulate the Primary Tumor
- ▼ [Dr. Varun Puri](#) on A Clinical Nomogram for Predicting Node Positive Disease in Esophageal Cancer
- ▼ [Dr. Theodore J. M. Fischlein](#) on Comparison Between Minimally Invasive and Standard Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement: A Multi-Center Propensity Matched Study
- ▼ [Dr. Patrick M. McCarthy](#) and [Dr. Niv Ad](#) discussing Ten-Year Outcomes Following the Cox-Maze IV Procedure for Atrial Fibrillation
- ▼ [Dr. Patrick T. O'Gara](#) and [Dr. Niv Ad](#) discussing MitraClip Implantation in Patients with Heart Failure and Secondary Mitral Regurgitation (the COAPT trial): Impact of Effective Regurgitation Orifice Area, Left Ventricular Size and Other Variables on MitraClip Response
- ▼ [Dr. Eugene H. Blackstone](#) on Effect of Total Arterial Grafting in the Arterial Revascularization Trial. ▼

current with our changing specialty. We are currently working with the ABTS for consideration of the best way our trainees may acquire the necessary skills to practice in the 21st century.

Reflective of these changes, I believe our 99th Annual Meeting in Toronto was a huge success. Changing the format to allow more attendee participation, more breakout rooms for closer interaction with the masters in surgery, the technical and innovation presentations, and the high quality of the abstracts, made for an exciting meeting. Much of the credit goes to David Adams, our immediate Past President, who encouraged us to think outside the box in planning the 99th meeting. David and the Program Committee restructured the format to be more inclusive of the membership. This year we had more member participation than ever in the program as either a presenter or abstract reviewer. I would like to recognize all those who contributed to making Toronto a huge success. Your dedication is sincerely appreciated.

We will continue this popular format for our 2020 meeting in New York, combining the masters in surgery, cardiology, and pulmonary in breakouts to highlight the most up-to-date information and technology in our practice today.

Of course, New York will be an exciting place to gather and exchange these ideas. I look forward to broad participation both nationally and globally as we meet in this international city.

### Publications

In the spirit of spreading knowledge and improving cardiothoracic surgery across the globe, our Association has started two new open-access journals, both from the same editorial team that produces the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, and both with the same rigorous standards for peer review.

*JTCVS Open* focuses on developments in acquired cardiac surgery, congenital cardiac repair, thoracic procedures, heart and lung transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, and perioperative management, while *JTCVS Techniques* offers high-quality case reports, innovative techniques, and cardiothoracic images in video and multimedia formats. The videos in particular are vital for demonstrating techniques.

Both publications offer young surgeons and experienced veterans alike a way to stay at the forefront of our field. And, true to our overall mission, they are accessible to members and non-members alike.

### Quality Assessment Program

As always, we're working to help good surgeons get even better. To that end, we're developing an improved database system for assessing outcomes. In the past, entering data has been a cumbersome process involving hundreds of variables, making data often incomplete. Work on the AATS Quality Assessment Program (AQAP) that was presented in Toronto is ongoing. We are committed to developing a modern, collaborative quality improvement platform that will improve data collection and transformation, provide real-time data analytics, benchmark metrics for decision support processes, and collaboration capabilities. Given the importance of this project to the specialty, we will explore a collaboration with STS in a joint meeting planned later this summer. [Drs. David Adams, Eugene Blackstone, Jeffrey Rich, Julie Swain](#), and [Mr. Ken McCardle](#) have been invaluable in this process, and I want to thank them for their ingenuity and dedication to this considerable task.

### Three Years and Beyond

At our coming meeting in September, the Board and I will focus on creating a new three-year strategic plan for the organization and our vision for the future. We look forward to fostering research and scholarship and to continuing to build a membership that is rich in diverse points of view and innovative thinking.

This is an exciting time for all of us. I look forward to taking the next leaps forward in thoracic surgery together. ▼

## AATS New Members

The following members were formally inducted into AATS membership at the AATS 99th Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada:

### 2018 NEW MEMBERS



Jared Antevil, MD  
Christopher W. Baird, MD  
Vinayak N. Bapat, MD  
Yanai Ben-Gal, MD  
Michael E. Bowdish, MD  
Paulo F. G. Cardoso, MD  
Ismail El-Hamamsy, MD  
Nathaniel R. Evans, MD

Toshihiro Fukui, MD  
Ravi K. Ghanta, MD  
David Glineur, MD  
Eric L. Grogan, MD  
Victor Bautista Hernandez, MD  
Chuong D. Hoang, MD  
Osami Honjo, MD  
Tsuyoshi Kaneko, MD

Jang-Ming Lee, MD  
Stephen H. McKellar, MD  
Maurizio Merlo, MD  
Carlos M. Mery, MD  
Kenji Minakata, MD  
Nahush A. Mokadam, MD  
Kiyozo Morita, MD  
Thomas Ng, MD

Tom C. Nguyen, MD  
Minoru Ono, MD  
Takeyoshi Ota, MD  
Harald C. Ott, MD  
Patrick E. Parrino, MD  
Marc Pelletier, MD  
Christopher T. Salerno, MD  
Christopher Sciortino, MD  
Hideyuki Shimizu, MD  
Ming-Sing Si, MD  
James D. St. Louis, MD  
Sandra L. Starnes, MD  
Ram K. Subramanyam, MD  
Bradley S. Taylor, MD  
Huishan Wang, MD  
Masaaki Yamagishi, MD  
Bo Yang, MD  
Hitoshi Yokoyama, MD

### 2019 NEW MEMBERS



Petros Anagnostopoulos, MD  
Masaki Anraku, MD  
Mara Antonoff, MD  
Hirokuni Arai, MD  
Leah Backhus, MD  
Sandhya Balaram, MD  
Faiz Bhora, MD  
Percy Boateng, MD  
Derek Brinster, MD  
Taweesak Chotivatanapong, MD  
Michael Chu, MD  
Elizabeth David, MD  
Victor Dayan, MD  
Nilto De Oliveira, MD  
Daniel Drake, MD  
Carolyn Dresler, MD  
Marek Ehrlich, MD  
Afshin Ehsan, MD  
Shunsuke Endo, MD  
Farhood Farjah, MD  
Khalil Fattouch, MD  
Paula A. Ugalde Figueroa, MD

Fernando Fleischman, MD  
Stephanie Fuller, MD  
Arnar Geirsson, MD  
Mattia Glauber, MD  
Camille Hancock-Friesen, MD  
Cynthia Herrington, MD  
Charles Hoopes, MD  
Michael Hsin, MD  
S. Adil Husain, MD  
Syed T. Hussain, MD  
Mohsen Ibrahim, MD  
Norihiro Ikeda, MD  
Yosuke Ishii, MD  
Anders Jeppsson, MD  
Marc Katz, MD  
Teresa Kieser, MD  
Min Kim, MD  
Richard W. Kim, MD  
Yoan Lamarche, MD  
Shoujun Li, MD  
Gabriel Loor, MD  
Francesco Maisano, MD

Kaushik Mandal, MD  
Yoshimasa Maniwa, MD  
Linda Martin, MD  
Christopher E. Mascio, MD  
Hitoshi Matsuda, MD  
Spencer Melby, MD  
Bret Mettler, MD  
Stephanie Mick, MD  
Rita C. Milewski, MD  
Martin Misfeld, MD  
Jun Nakajima, MD  
Daniel Oh, MD  
Kenji Okada, MD  
Maral Ouzounian, MD  
Domenico Paparella, MD  
Vadim Popov, MD  
Prakash Punjabi, MD  
Danny Ramzy, MD  
Jari Räsänen, MD  
Harold G. Roberts, Jr., MD  
Matthew Romano, MD  
Mark Russo, MD

William Ryan, MD  
Peyman Sardari Nia, MD  
Inderpal Sarkaria, MD  
Toshihiko Sato, MD  
Yukitoshi Satoh, MD  
Yoshiki Sawa, MD  
Christopher Seder, MD  
Yaron Shargall, MD  
Prem Shekar, MD  
Scott Silvestry, MD  
Robert Smith, MD  
Suk-Won Song, MD  
Miguel Sousa Uva, MD  
Giuseppe Speziale, MD  
Paul Stelzer, MD  
Leonid Sternik, MD  
Koji Takeda, MD  
Hirofumi Takemura, MD  
Hiroyuki Tanaka, MD  
Gilbert H. L. Tang, MD  
Shinichi Toyooka, MD  
Masanori Tsuchida, MD  
Victor van Berkel, MD  
Robin Varghese, MD  
Jon O. Wee, MD  
Per Wierup, MD  
Andrea S. Wolf, MD  
Fan Yang, MD  
Naoki Yoshimura, MD  
Qiang Zhao, MD  
Peter Zilla, MD





## From The AATS Membership Committee

Rosemary F. Kelly, MD

On behalf of the Membership Committee, we would like to notify all members and prospective candidates that the 2020 membership application cycle is now open. As members of the preeminent cardiothoracic surgical organization, it is our responsibility to identify and usher in the next generation of leaders in our specialty. We encourage our members to serve as sponsors for these individuals by nominating their application for membership on the Association's website.

AATS members will have until August 15 to initiate a candidate's application, and candidates will have until August 31 to submit their completed applications.

The Membership Committee and AATS leadership continually seek ways to improve the process for candidates, members, and reviewers alike. Accordingly, the AATS Board has agreed to implement the following alterations to this year's application cycle:

- ▼ International candidates are strongly encouraged to have at least one North American sponsor.
- ▼ Members may serve as a primary sponsor (nominator) for five candidates per cycle. There is no limit to the number of candidates for whom a member may serve as a secondary or tertiary sponsor.
- ▼ Candidates are strongly encouraged to have at least one sponsor from their current institution.
- ▼ A self-narrative will be required as part of the candidate's application. Applicants will be asked to provide a brief assessment of their accomplishments as they relate to the AATS core values.
- ▼ Candidates will be notified of their application status in January 2020.

Members and candidates alike are encouraged to reach out to either myself, or the Association's administrative office at [membership@aats.org](mailto:membership@aats.org), with any questions regarding membership. ▼

## AATS Board of Directors

### President

Vaughn A. Starnes

*University of Southern California*

### President-Elect

Marc R. Moon

*Washington University*

### Vice President

Shaf Keshavjee

*Toronto General Hospital*

### Secretary

David R. Jones

*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

### Treasurer

Emile A. Bacha

*Columbia University*

### Directors

David H. Adams

*Mount Sinai Health System*

Thierry-Pierre Carrel

*University Hospital of Bern*

Ke-Neng Chen

*Peking University*

Leonard N. Girardi

*Weill Cornell Medical College*

Christine L. Lau

*University of Virginia*

James D. Luketich

*University of Pittsburgh*

Todd K. Rosengart

*Baylor College of Medicine*

Y. Joseph Woo

*Stanford University*

## What's New on AATS Online

It is now easier than ever to view the presentations from the 99th Annual Meeting and the Mitral Conclave. The newly launched AATS Online gives you a single place to go to see the important information shared at meetings as well as other vetted resources, including guidelines, images, surgical videos, and expert commentary. AATS Week presentations can be accessed by going to AATS Online on the newly redesigned [aats.org](http://aats.org) and searching by the individual meeting or for a specific topic. The presentations are also available by viewing the programs on the past meetings pages. ▼



## Cardiothoracic Residents Committee Spotlight

Drs. Carl L. Backer and Richard Lee, Co-Chairs

The AATS Cardiothoracic Residents Committee, comprised of Drs. Craig Baker, Leora Balsam, Michael Halkos, Ahmet Kilic, James Luketich, Shari Meyerson, Ourania Preventza, Rishindra Reddy, and Elizabeth Stephens, held a number of unique events at the AATS 99th Annual Meeting focused on the future of our specialty.

### Resident Poster Competition

The Resident Poster Competition showcased the research efforts of 42 residents representing 12 countries in a competitive setting. On behalf of the entire Committee, we would like to thank all residents who participated in this event and congratulate the following winners in each sub-specialty:

Ismail Bouhout, MD *Montreal Heart Institute (Adult Cardiac)*

Elisabeth Martin, MD *Lucille Packard Children's Hospital (Congenital)*

Uma Sachdeva, MD *Massachusetts General Hospital (General Thoracic)*

### Resident Case Report Competition

A new addition to this year's Annual Meeting was the Resident Case Report Competition, where residents from around the world presented original case studies on the issues they faced and how they resolve those issues. Of the 70 interesting cases received by the Committee, the top five were presented at the

meeting. All five were outstanding, and Dr. Ali Hage from London Health Sciences Center was named the 2019 Case Report Competition winner.

### Survival Guide: Your First Night on Call

First-year residents took part in a full hands-on course where they experienced simulated situations and problems posed by faculty members that they might experience while they are on call. The attendees troubleshoot issues in the following areas:

- ▼ ECHO Reading Cath, Dr. Jeffrey Gaca.
- ▼ Acute Chest Pain, Dr. Abe DeAnda Jr.
- ▼ Respiratory Failure, Dr. Ankit Bharat
- ▼ VAD, Dr. Leora Balsam
- ▼ Basic Perfusion Concepts, Dr. Vivek Rao
- ▼ Thoracic Station, Dr. Malcolm DeCamp
- ▼ Pacemaker, Dr. Glenn Whitman
- ▼ Low Cardiac Input, Dr. Richard Lee



Ali Hage, MD, presenting during the Case Report Competition



Malcolm DeCamp, MD, presenting during the Survival Guide Session: Your First Night on Call

### Secretary's Report continued

Popular programs, including the Innovation Summit, the Leadership Academy, Member for a Day Program, and the Grant Writing Workshop provided attendees with important knowledge that can impact their careers.

More than 2,500 people from 80 countries were at the meeting, and international attendees comprised more than 34 percent of participants. In addition to the networking that takes place outside session rooms, there were a number of opportunities for them to interact and learn from each other outside of the formal program. Multi Grammy-Winning jazz pianist and singer, Diana Krall, delighted an enthralled crowd at the President's Reception, and the Welcome Reception enabled members of the surgical teams to not only talk to each other, but also learn of new products and technology that are available from industry partners.

AATS Week will take place entirely in New York next year, so plan on being there for the Aortic

Symposium and the historic 100th Annual Meeting during AATS Week 2020 from April 23-28.

### Board of Directors

For the past year, we have focused our Board's efforts on improving the Association's governance structure to provide more impactful leadership roles in which members may actively participate. Some of the alterations include changing the name of the Association's governing body from Council to Board of Directors and adding Directors. Ke-Neng Chen of Beijing Cancer Hospital and Peking University is now the second International Director, and Y. Joseph Woo from Stanford, Todd K. Rosengart of Baylor College of Medicine, and Leonard N. Girardi from New York-Presbyterian Hospital are the new North American Directors. Vaughn A. Starnes assumes the Presidency, Marc R. Moon becomes President-Elect, Shaf Keshavjee is the Vice President, and Emile Bacha is now Treasurer.

### Projects

As Dr. Starnes wrote in his President's Message, efforts on the AATS Quality Assessment Program (AQAP) continue. You can also go to the Annual Meeting program on aats.org to watch the discussion on this project.

We have signed agreements for the publication of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, *Operative Techniques*, *Seminars*, and *Pediatric Cardiac Annual*. In addition, you can learn about the two new open-access Journals with Elsevier, *JTCVS Open* & *JTCVS Techniques*, on page 11.

Finally, I encourage you to log into aats.org to update your profile and view the many resources available on AATS Online. By indicating your interests and specialty, you will ensure that you receive relevant content through AATS Online and Association outreach. ▼



AATS/TSRA Preparing Yourself for an Academic Career Luncheon

Nearly 200 medical students, residents, and fellows participated in the joint AATS/TSRA Preparing Yourself for an Academic Career Luncheon. The attendees learned valuable information on forging their career paths during a panel discussion that included Cardiothoracic Residents Committee members, guest speaker [Dr. V. Seenu Reddy](#), and TSRA President [Dr. Monisha Sudarshan](#). Following each presentation, AATS and TSRA members were on hand to answer questions and facilitate discussions at their tables.



The AATS/TSRA Preparing Yourself for an Academic Career Luncheon

Member for a Day Program

A group of 30 medical students, general surgery residents, and integrated cardiothoracic surgery residents were able to experience the Annual Meeting through the eyes of AATS members as part of the Member for a Day Program. These awardees joined their AATS member mentors and learned about the field of cardiothoracic surgery from some of the top surgeons in the specialty.



Above: 2019 AATS Member for a Day Awardees and AATS Member Mentors



Left: AATS Member, Sitaram Emani, MD, with Gavriel Roda, third year medical student from the University of Colorado

Right: AATS Member, Shanda Blackmon, MD with Bailey Su, MD, third year general surgery resident from the University of Chicago

Thoracic Surgery Oncology Group

The AATS Thoracic Surgery Oncology Group was formed in conjunction with the Fiona and Stanly Druckenmiller Center for Lung Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in 2017 to support a network of North American thoracic surgery clinical trials relevant to physicians and their patients. The overarching goal of the group is to improve the understanding of thoracic oncologic diseases and enhance patient care through the administration of multisite trials focused on recent advances in precision medicine, immunotherapy, and intraoperative imaging. A thoracic oncology clinical trials network has been missing from the landscape since the disbanding of groups such as the Lung Cancer Study Group in 1989, and the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group in the early 2000s. During the existence of these groups, several important studies were published that established standards of care for patients with lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies.

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#### Thoracic Surgery Oncology Group continued

The Thoracic Surgery Oncology Group will actively accrue patients to relevant investigator-initiated, as well as select industry-sponsored, clinical trials involving thoracic malignancies. There are now three trials opening across the network, all of which are actively accruing. They include a trial of circulating tumor DNA analysis in patients undergoing induction therapy for resectable stage IIA-IIIb non-small cell lung cancer (TSOG 101), led by [Dr. James Isbell](#) at MSK; a registry trial for the active surveillance of patients with imaging-identified multiple ground glass opacities in the lung (TSOG 102), led by [Dr. James Huang](#) at MSK; and a trial evaluating the role of multimodality management in risk-stratified patients with lung-limited metastatic colorectal cancer (TSOG 103), led by [Dr. Mara Antonoff](#) at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The current site roster includes MSK (Coordinating Center), MD Anderson, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Duke University Hospital, Mayo Clinic, University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto, Washington University, and the University of Montreal. All sites have signed a legal contract of cooperation and agreement which is necessary to open and participate in the initiated clinical trials. Following the success of its first request for proposals, plans are underway to add sites to increase accrual and involve more thoracic surgeons. To achieve this, TSOG is issuing a request for applications in the early summer 2019 with site selections to be determined in the fall 2019.

Criteria includes centers with a high volume of thoracic oncologic procedures, evidence of site-specific financial sustainability and existing infrastructure for completion of clinical trials, and the active participation of thoracic surgeons with expertise in oncologic clinical trial involvement who have a history of robust accrual. Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of [Dr. David R. Jones](#) from MSK, [Dr. Ara Vaporciyan](#) from MD Anderson, [Dr. Raphael Bueno](#) from Brigham and Women's Hospital, and [Dr. David Harpole](#) from Duke University. Chosen programs will convene for a state-of-the-science meeting, which will include discussion of potential new trials that will be open to accrual in the second round of trials. ▼

# AATS Future Meetings

## Save The Date



### Cardiovascular Valve Symposium

September 4-6, 2019  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
[Program Directors](#)  
Vinay Badhwar  
Marc R. Moon  
Daniel O. Navia



### Mechanical Support for the Heart and Lung Symposium

September 20-21, 2019  
Marriott Marquis Houston  
Houston, TX, USA  
[Program Directors](#)  
Shaf Keshavjee  
Mark S. Slaughter



### International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit

September 27-28, 2019  
Sheraton New York Times Square  
New York, NY, USA  
[Program Director](#)  
David R. Jones



### Heart Valve Summit

October 3-5, 2019  
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel  
Chicago, IL, USA  
[Program Directors](#)  
David A. Adams  
Steven F. Bolling  
Robert O. Bonow  
Howard C. Herrmann  
Patrick T. O'Gara



### Focus on Thoracic Surgery: Lung and Esophageal Cancer

November 23-24, 2019  
Shangri-La Hotel  
Chengdu, China  
[Program Directors](#)  
Thomas A. D'Amico  
Lun-Xu Liu  
Mark Onaitis



### Aortic Symposium

April 23-24, 2020  
New York Marriott Marquis  
New York, NY, USA  
[Program Directors](#)  
Joseph S. Coselli  
Steven L. Lansman



### 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

April 25-28, 2020  
New York Hilton Midtown and  
Sheraton New York Times Square  
New York, NY, USA  
[President](#)  
Vaughn A. Starnes



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

Attend a two-day, state-of-the-art symposium that focuses on contemporary and novel mechanical circulatory support devices, techniques, and approaches to support the heart and lung—both inside and outside the body.

There will be joint plenaries as well as separate streamed sessions for heart and lung support. Learn about the latest technologies to support and treat patients with advanced heart and lung failure. 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. The program offers numerous sessions designed to create forums for clinicians, scientists, and industry partners to collaborate and network on topics important to patient care and advancement of the field.

### Program Highlights:

#### HEART

- ▼ MCS – what's new in the device pipeline
- ▼ Catheter based / percutaneous support devices
- ▼ Ex vivo heart perfusion (EVHP)
- ▼ Bridge to heart transplantation
- ▼ Machine perfusion strategies for extended heart preservation
- ▼ Controversies in normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) of DCD hearts
- ▼ Early ECMO to facilitate recovery of marginal donor hearts
- ▼ State of the art in eCPR

#### LUNG

- ▼ ECMO for ARDS, bridge to recovery, bridge to decision or lung transplant
- ▼ Latest developments in artificial lung technology
- ▼ Minimal ambulatory oxygenation support and extracorporeal CO<sub>2</sub> removal
- ▼ Latest in clinical practice of ex vivo lung perfusion (EVLP)
- ▼ Machine perfusion strategies for extended lung preservation
- ▼ In vivo lung perfusion (IVLP) for lung cancer and repair of other lung injuries
- ▼ Perfusion strategies to facilitate combined DCD heart and lung procurement
- ▼ Applications of ECMO in advanced thoracic surgery
- ▼ Use of ECMO in lung transplant

To register visit: [aats.org/mechanical](http://aats.org/mechanical)



## International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit

The AATS International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit is a can't-miss educational opportunity for everyone involved in the rapidly changing field of thoracic surgical oncology. Led by Program Director [Dr. David R. Jones](#), Professor & Chief, Thoracic Surgery Service of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the unparalleled content focuses on new diagnostic and treatment paradigms that incorporate immunotherapy, tumor genomics, and advanced technologies for cancers of the lung, esophagus, mediastinum, and pleura. Surgeons and oncologists will learn about novel approaches and how to employ them in their practices through a variety of interactive and informative presentations including peer-reviewed abstracts, dynamic debates, and "How I Do It" videos from internationally recognized experts.



Attendees can expect to leave the meeting with the ability to:

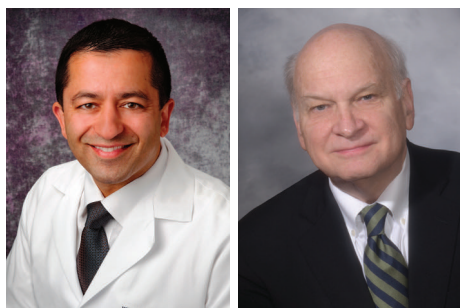
- ▼ Appreciate the potential role of surgery with immunotherapy to treat thoracic malignancies.
- ▼ Enhance the understanding of how to perform minimally-invasive surgical approaches for thoracic malignancies.
- ▼ Describe recent advances in molecular oncology, ctDNA and their emerging roles in the multidisciplinary care of the thoracic surgical oncologic patient.
- ▼ Improve the understanding of advances in the perioperative care of the thoracic surgical oncologic patient.

To register visit: [aats.org/thoracicsummit](http://aats.org/thoracicsummit)

## Update Your Profile

Check that the information in your [aats.org](http://aats.org) profile is current to ensure that 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](http://aats.org). ▼





## China and Brazil

Vinay Badhwar, MD  
Duke E. Cameron, MD

The AATS continues to partner with leading international organizations around the world to promote excellence in patient care for those with cardiovascular and thoracic disease. In April 2019, the biennial South American AATS Cardiovascular

Valve Symposium took place in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in partnership with the Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery (SBCCV). On the other side of the globe, [Duke Cameron, MD](#), led a week-long educational program at multiple hospitals in China.

Both programs were supported by a generous grant from the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation as part of their Every Heartbeat Matters Initiative. During the programs, AATS members shared clinical expertise and treated underserved patients with valvular disease at local hospitals.

[Vinay Badhwar, MD](#), who codirected the Brazilian effort with [Marc Moon, MD](#), AATS President-Elect, and [Walter Gomes, MD](#), from São Paulo, states, “It was truly our privilege to participate in this type of exchange with our many close friends in the Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery.” Other leading surgeons who participated in this program included [Rui Almeida, MD](#), current president of the Brazilian Society, along with surgeons from Switzerland ([Thierry Carrel, MD](#)), Canada ([Tirone David, MD](#)), Germany ([Volkmar Falk, MD](#)), and the United States ([Joseph Sabik III, MD](#)).

Attendees of the Cardiovascular Valve Symposium expressed their appreciation for this type of educational experience. [Fernando Atik, MD](#), notes, “Having the American Association for Thoracic Surgery in Brazil is just a great honor for us Brazilian surgeons. The leading society of our specialty in the world brings a lot of knowledge, a lot of state-of-the-art technology, and a lot of good exchange of ideas. For us Brazilians, it is a great opportunity.” Another participant, [Vinicius Nina, MD](#), says, “Thanks to the AATS and the Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery for this opportunity to bring together a high standard of outstanding faculty to discuss very important topics such as coronary artery disease, aortic and valve disease.”

During the second international program funded by Edwards Lifesciences Foundation this April, Dr. Cameron directed educational programs at Drum Tower Hospital in Nanjing, China and Anzhen, Fu Wai,

and Peking Union Medical Hospitals in Beijing, China. Over the course of the visit, attendees participated in lectures and a wet-lab pig heart operation, and shared and discussed information regarding patient cases. More than 270 clinicians throughout China were able to participate in the experience, including 38 AATS Foundation travel awardees.

Dr. Cameron reflected on the program, stating “Working with our surgical colleagues in Beijing and Nanjing, we were able to provide a collaborative, multifaceted program focused on aortic disease that was both stimulating and rewarding for all participants. We look forward to continued educational and research efforts with our Chinese counterparts.”

AATS will continue international partnerships with the upcoming AATS Cardiovascular Valve Symposium being held September 4-6, 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The symposium will bring together international leaders to discuss state-of-the-art information and outcomes on advanced surgical techniques with a focus on diagnosing and treating adult and congenital heart valve disease. Later in the year, a collaboration with our Asian partners will take place during the AATS Focus on Thoracic Surgery meeting in China and the AATS Aortic Symposium in Japan. ▼



Dr. Duke Cameron led an educational program at Drum Tower Hospital in Nanjing, China.



AATS Faculty met with leaders at Biocor Instituto during the Cardiovascular Valve Symposium.

## Programs Accepting Applications

The AATS and AATS Foundation offer a number of opportunities throughout the year and are currently accepting applications for the following programs:

- ▼ AATS Research Scholarship
- ▼ Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship
- ▼ Aldo R. Castaneda Fellowship
- ▼ Denton A. Cooley Fellowship
- ▼ Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship
- ▼ F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship
- ▼ Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors Program
- ▼ Jack A. Roth Fellowship in Thoracic Surgical Oncology
- ▼ Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
- ▼ Marc R. de Leval Fellowship
- ▼ Surgical Investigator Program
- ▼ Timothy J. Gardner Visiting Professorship
- ▼ Travel Awards to AATS Cardiovascular Valve Symposium in Argentina

To apply for these programs and learn more about other opportunities visit [aats.org](http://aats.org) or contact the office at 978-252-2200.

## Honoring Our Mentors: David J. Sugarbaker, MD

The AATS 99th Annual Meeting was an opportune time for attendees to reflect on the life of Dr. David J. Sugarbaker, past President of both the AATS and AATS Foundation.

As [Dr. David H. Adams](#), President of the AATS Foundation, stated, “Our friend and mentor, Dr. Sugarbaker was passionate about the education of the younger generation of cardiothoracic surgeons. It was his vision and leadership that enabled the AATS Foundation to expand opportunities and become the significant organization it is today. The David J. Sugarbaker Memorial Lectureship, presented as a highlight of the Annual Meeting, is an exceptional way to recognize his legacy.”

This lectureship is just a small way to show gratitude and respect for a legendary pioneer who helped define the management of patients with mesothelioma and other complex thoracic tumors, and whose legacy endures through the numerous division chiefs and professors of thoracic surgery he trained who are now in leadership positions. [Dr. Tirone E. David](#) was the inaugural speaker in Toronto sharing his thoughts on the pursuit of excellence in surgery.



There was a full room on hand to see Dr. David R. Jones introduce the inaugural David J. Sugarbaker Memorial Lectureship, given by Dr. Tirone David.

*Continued on page 11*

## AATS FOUNDATION

### *Honoring Sugarbaker continued*

Thank you to the generous supporters who have contributed to the David J. Sugarbaker Memorial Lectureship. ▼

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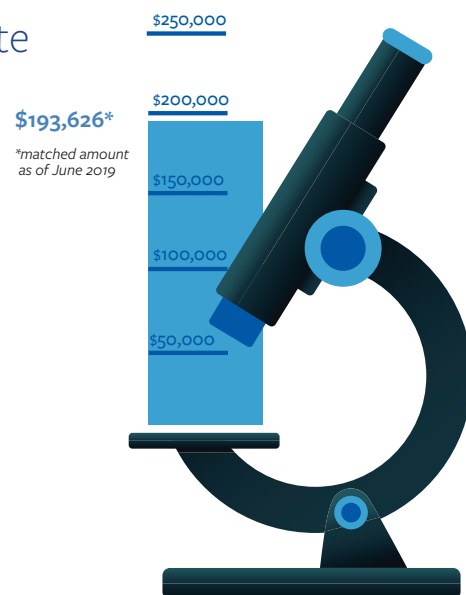
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## AATS Matching Grant Update

Thanks to the contributions of generous donors, a total of \$193,626 has been invested in the AATS Foundation through the AATS matching grant. The support of those who have taken part in the match is appreciated, and AATS leaders have extended the match up to a total of \$250,000 to encourage others to support the mission of the AATS Foundation. Every individual one-time gift of \$5,000 or more will be doubled, making each dollar you contribute twice as valuable—and you will receive recognition for the matched gift total. Make your donation today by visiting [aatsfoundation.org](http://aatsfoundation.org). ▼



Double Your Gift to the AATS Foundation



## PUBLICATIONS



## AATS Publications Spotlight

Richard D. Weisel, MD

AATS members and authors will have additional venues in which to publish their clinical and research papers with the launch of two new open access journals, *JTCVS Open* and *JTCVS Techniques*. With a steady rise in submissions to *JTCVS* (submissions of original manuscripts and meeting papers increased by 21 percent between 2017 and 2018), these additional journals will ensure that important research maintains the rigorous standards of peer review established in *JTCVS*.

*JTCVS Open* is dedicated to publishing high-quality information of exceptional interest to thoracic and cardiac surgeons. *JTCVS Open* will focus on new developments in adult cardiac surgery, congenital cardiac repair, thoracic surgical topics as well as heart and lung transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, perioperative management, basic science, education, and ethics.

*JTCVS Techniques* aims to provide timely information to cardiothoracic surgeons by publishing high-quality case reports, innovative techniques, and cardiothoracic images in video and multimedia formats. Videos are an important component to demonstrate techniques and report outcomes of surgical interventions.

These state-of-the-art open access journals are projected to garner high download and citation rates and expand an already robust AATS publication portfolio. The AATS readership will continue to grow as we produce a variety of journals featuring high-caliber papers that are extensively reviewed, attractively presented, and feature appropriate commentaries and discussions. As the publishing market changes (with declining subscriptions and advertising revenue), open access journals are becoming highly attractive to publishers and funders.

*JTCVS Open* and *JTCVS Techniques* are due to launch later this year. ▼

JTCVS is once again the ninth-ranked surgery journal in the world with an all-time high impact factor of 5.261.





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# 100th Annual Meeting



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For more information visit [aats.org/annualmeeting](https://aats.org/annualmeeting)