

Accreditation Statement

This activity will be planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and The Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

* Education Disclosure

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons will seek thorough financial and commercial disclosure information, according to ACCME requirements and recommendations, from all presenters and moderators participating in an STSA Annual Meeting. Failure or refusal to provide disclosure information automatically disqualifies participation. All disclosure information will be communicated to the learners through appropriate means, including but not limited to the Annual Meeting Program Book.

STSA leadership, planning committee members, and staff will also provide disclosure information to be kept on file and communicated to meeting attendees through the STSA Annual Meeting Program Book.

All abstracts and disclosure statements will be reviewed approximately three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting by staff for unidentified conflicts of interest. Any such potential conflicts will be brought to the attention of the STSA President, Chairman, and CME Committee Chair for review and resolution. Any potential conflicts of interest must be resolved before presentation. If a conflict is deemed unresolvable, the paper cannot be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The STS Disclosure Policy (as outlined below) will be communicated to the learner via the Annual Meeting Program Book.

EDUCATION DISCLOSURE POLICY: As a sponsor of continuing medical education accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Society of Thoracic Surgeons requires that any individual who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity must disclose all relationships with commercial interests (including known relationships of his or her immediate family, department, and partners). The ACCME defines a commercial interest as “any entity producing, marketing, reselling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests.” The question of whether a disclosed conflict situation could represent undue influence on the educational activity by a commercial interest, or whether the disclosed information is sufficient to consider an abstract, presentation, or other educational enduring material to represent potentially biased information must be resolved prior to an individual's involvement in STS educational programming.

Required disclosures include (1) financial interest of any amount (e.g., through ownership of stock, stock options, or bonds) (2) the receipt of any amount of cash, goods or services within the current 12-month period (e.g., through research grants, employment, consulting fees, royalties, travel, or gifts) or (3) a non-remunerative position of influence (e.g., as officer, director, trustee or public spokesperson). EXCLUDED from this disclosure requirement are blind trusts or other passive investments such as mutual funds. In the case of a financial or other relationship disclosure, the company, product/service, and

specific nature of the relationship must be noted. Disclosure is mandatory for any person involved in the planning, management, presentation, and/or evaluation of STS educational activities.

Failure to disclose all financial relationships with commercial interests disqualifies the individual from being a planning committee member, a teacher, or an author of educational materials, and this individual cannot have any responsibility for the development, management, presentation, or evaluation of STS educational activities. This requirement is intended neither to imply any impropriety of such relationships nor to prejudice any individual presenter or author. It is merely to identify such relationships through full disclosure, and to allow the STS to assess and resolve potential influences on the educational activity prior to the planning and implementation of an educational activity. All abstracts and presentations are reviewed for potential conflicts of interest. All conflicts of interest must be resolved prior to presentation. Any abstract / paper with a conflict that is deemed unresolvable will not be presented at the Annual Meeting. If no relationships with commercial interests exist, the individual must indicate this on the disclosure form.

Additionally, the fact that the presentation, paper, or other educational product describes (a) the use of a device, product, or drug that is not FDA approved or (b) an off-label use of an approved device, product, or drug must also be disclosed. This requirement has been adopted in response to FDA policy and recent case law involving medical societies, and is not intended to prohibit or inhibit independent presentation or discussion regarding the uses of devices, products, and drugs as described in (a) or (b) above.

For live presentations, all disclosures must be stated orally and on a slide at the beginning of the presentation and will be noted in published material related to the activity. Slides, handouts, and other materials utilized as part of an educational activity cannot contain any advertising, trade names or a product group message. Speakers are required to disclose that they have nothing to disclose if this is the case.

I have read and understand the STS Policy Regarding Disclosure.

Agree

Disagree

*** Financial Disclosure**

If you do not have any relationships to disclose, mark the radio button below.

If you do have relationships to disclose, mark the appropriate radio button below, indicate the entity the relationship is with and describe the relationship in the table below.

I DO have a financial relationship that creates, or may be perceived as creating, a conflict related to this educational activity (please describe below).

I have no financial relationships to disclose.

If you marked that you DO have a relationship to disclose please indicate the type of relationship for each disclosure (e.g. employment, research grant, other research support, speaker’s bureau/honoraria, ownership interest, and/or consultant/advisory board)

* Type of Relationship _____

*Entity the Relationship Is With _____

*Brief detail of Relationship based upon “Type” (e.g. principal investigator)

* Content Agreement

I agree that the content of my presentation will be based upon the best available evidence and will not promote any health care device or service. I further agree that if I have disclosed any conflicts relevant to this presentation, I agree to not make any recommendations regarding relevant products or services as part of my presentation. (NOTE: only those checking this box will be allowed to present at or develop educational products for STSA. Presenters found a) to have not attempted to utilize the best available evidence, b) to have presented content that is biased or promotional in nature, or c) in the presence of a conflict of interest, to have made a recommendation based upon relevant products or services will not be allowed to take part in the planning or provision of any other STSA educational program or product for 2 years.)

I agree

Name

Date