

STSA 70th Annual Meeting Abstract Submission Guidelines

You are invited to submit abstracts and surgical videos for the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association's (STSA) 70th Annual Meeting to be held November 2-5, 2023, at the [Loews Sapphire Falls Resort](#) at Universal Orlando™, in Orlando, Florida.

Abstract, poster, and video submissions will be accepted until **Monday, April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time**. Accepted submissions will be presented at the STSA 70th Annual Meeting as oral presentations, surgical videos, or scientific posters.

STSA was founded more than 60 years ago with the purpose of disseminating knowledge and information and to encourage and stimulate progress in the fields of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. A secondary objective is to promote fellowship among thoracic surgeons. These objectives are accomplished each year through the STSA Annual Meeting.

The STSA Annual Meeting is a premier forum to disseminate information to the cardiothoracic surgery community. Accepted oral presentations are required to be submitted for publication consideration to *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, which has a circulation of more than 8,000 subscribers.

Please follow these instructions to submit an oral presentation, surgical video, or poster abstract for the STSA 70th Annual Meeting:

- **All abstract authors must complete their commercial relationship disclosure form prior to the abstract submission deadline of April 3, 2023.**
- You **do not** have to be an STSA member to submit an abstract or video.
- **Abstract Limit:** There are no restrictions on the number of abstracts or videos you may submit.
- **Be sure to save your username and password for future use.** You will need to enter this information each time you want to access the submission site.
- E-mail is the sole means of communication from STSA regarding your abstract(s). Should any e-mail addresses for authors change prior to the STSA Annual Meeting, please provide the updates to stsa@stsa.org or login and make the change directly to your account.
- **Once you begin entering an abstract or video submission, you have until April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time to submit your abstract/video for review. Prior to submission, you may save your abstract/video as a draft and complete the submission at a later date. Drafts that have not been formally submitted will not be reviewed.**
- Once you have completed the submission process and submitted your abstract or video for review, you will receive an e-mail confirmation. Please save this confirmation information for your reference and use the abstract/video abstract number in any correspondence you have with STSA regarding your abstract or video.

Abstract Character Limits:

- **Character Limit: There is a limit of 400 words, for the text of your abstract submission.** Titles, authors, institutions, tables, and images will not be counted toward this limit. You may copy and paste your abstract body into the appropriate abstract sections. Each section's field has a word limit, but they have been expanded to accommodate abstracts that have higher word counts in certain sections and shorter word counts in others. This will allow the fields to flex to the content of your abstract. **Please adhere to the 400-word guideline to the best of your ability. All abstract section fields (Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusion) should add up to 400 words or less.**

- **History Abstract Character Limit:** History abstracts are limited to 4000 characters or 600 words.
- **Special Characters and Formatting:** If you copy and paste the title and/or body from an electronic document, please ensure special characters transfer accordingly.

Content Rules:

- **There should be no reference to institutions or company/product names in the title or body of the text, including references to institutional funding sources. Abstracts containing institution names or company/product names in the title or body will not be considered for the program.**
- **Abstracts cannot contain product names; generic terms must be used when describing a specific product.** For example, rather than using the product name of a specific valve, use terms like “mechanical prosthetic valve” or “bovine pericardial bioprosthetic valve.”
- Abstracts must not describe work, including data analysis, performed by industry.
- Information for all authors involved in the submission must be entered via the online submission process. **Full names of all authors and their disclosures must be provided by the abstract submission deadline of April 3, 2023.**
- The presenting author’s institution name and location, telephone number, and e-mail address should be provided; please omit titles and appointments.

Abstract Format:

All abstracts must be structured using the following format:

- **Title:** Capitalize the first letter of each word in the title; please do not enter information in all upper case or in quotation marks.
- **Objectives** – Describe the objectives of the study in the context of the current state of research in the field. When appropriate, include the hypothesis being tested. **Describe the quality gap (limitation or problem) in the practice of cardiothoracic surgery that the research aims to address.**
- **Methods** – Describe the study design, patient population, experimental approach, and analytic methods.
- **Results** – Provide a summary of the study results, including sufficient details to support the conclusions. When percentages are used, the absolute numbers of derivation must be stated. Data may be presented in a brief table and/or a figure, which can be uploaded separately.
- **Conclusions** – Describe the significance of the findings and the implications for the field and further research. All conclusions should be supported by the data in the Results section. **Describe how the results of the project supplement or inform our clinical or research knowledge or strategies.**
- **History abstract** authors must submit an abstract title and body. Tables should not be used in History abstracts.

Surgical Video Abstract Specifications:

- An abstract must be submitted along with each surgical video submission.
- Videos must not include text, images, or narration that discloses the identity of the authors, institutions (including hospital names) or that contains company or product names. **Videos containing author names, institution names, or company/product names will not be considered for the program. For specific products, generic terms must be used.** For

example, rather than using the product name of a specific ventricular assist device, use terms like “axial-flow left ventricular assist device.”

- **The video may not exceed seven (7) minutes in length or 500 MB.**
- The file type must be either **.mov and .mp4.**
- Files should be uploaded using a **high-speed internet connection.**
- **Please wait until your file has completely loaded** before moving to the next step.
- **For the purposes of review, narration must be included.**
- **Any patient identifying information must be excluded or obscured from the video images and narration.**
- **If the video is selected for presentation, live narration by the presenting author is required for participation in the program; the audio portion of the video will be muted during presentation.**

Abstract and Surgical Video Categories:

For each submission, you will be required to select on category (in bold below) and one corresponding subcategory.

- 1. Adult Cardiac**
 - a. Aortic
 - b. Basic Science Research
 - c. Cardiac Transplantation/ VAD/ ECMO
 - d. Ischemic Heart Disease
 - e. Miscellaneous (Arrhythmias, Tumors, etc.)
 - f. Valvular
- 2. Congenital**
 - a. Adult Congenital Heart Disease
 - b. Basic Science Research
 - c. Neonates, Infants, and Children
 - d. Cardiac Transplantation/ VAD/ ECMO
- 3. General Thoracic**
 - a. Basic Science Research
 - b. Esophageal Disease
 - c. Lung Cancer
 - d. Lung Transplantation/ ECMO
 - e. Miscellaneous
- 4. History**
- 5. Surgical Education**
- 6. Simulation and Team-Based Learning**
- 7. Patient Safety**
- 8. Lessons Learned from Intraoperative Problems, Misadventures, and Disasters**

Hawley H. Seiler Residents Competition Award:

- This award is presented for an outstanding paper by a cardiothoracic or general surgery resident. It is bestowed upon a resident for achieving excellence in the quality of abstract as well as the manuscript and oral presentation. The award is named after STSA Past President and founding member Hawley H. Seiler, MD.
- To be considered for the Hawley H. Seiler Residents Competition Award, please select the checkbox in the Awards section.
- Only abstracts submitted and presented by residents who have indicated their willingness to participate in the Resident Competition will be considered for this award.
- Authors of abstracts accepted for the Hawley H. Seiler Residents Competition must submit a manuscript for their presentation to STSA headquarters office no later than October 20, 2023.

- The awardee is selected by a panel of cardiothoracic surgeons from the STSA Executive Council and the Program Committee. The award winner will be announced at the Dinner Gala held on November 4, 2023. They will receive a monetary award and plaque immediately following the meeting.

STSA Abstract Submission and Presentation Guidelines and Policies:

- **Only original, unpublished/unpresented work is allowed.** Abstracts and surgical videos must summarize an original contribution and must not have been presented, published, or accepted for presentation or publication elsewhere. Similarly, the abstract must not be under consideration for another meeting at the time of submission to STSA and throughout the STSA review process. The presenting author attests that the material will not be presented elsewhere if accepted for the STSA scientific program or published elsewhere if accepted for publication in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. **If there is any conceivable question regarding similarity to earlier work or possible duplication or redundancy, it is the responsibility of the presenting author of the paper to consult directly with the Program Committee Chairs, Vinay Badhwar, MD, and Jim St. Louis, MD, and CME Director, Scott LeMaire, MD. If there is a potential conflict with an abstract or surgical video already presented or published, please notify STSA by e-mail (stsa@stsa.org) of the conflict at the time of submission.** Include the title and Abstract ID number in any correspondence regarding an abstract or video.
- Abstracts and surgical videos chosen for presentation are selected at the discretion of the Program Committee to ensure a fair and balanced program.
- Only electronic abstracts submitted via the online system will be considered.
- Only authors may complete submissions; authors will be responsible for the information provided.
- All abstracts and surgical videos must be submitted in English.
- Authors who deliver an oral presentation of an abstract at the Annual Meeting must submit a manuscript to *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* before or at the time of the Annual Meeting. Manuscripts must comply with all the requirements of *The Annals* as outlined in the Instructions for Authors section of the submission website, including the protection of human subjects and animals, as appropriate. All manuscripts must be submitted via *The Annals* online manuscript submission system at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/annals/default1.aspx>.
 - Manuscripts must be submitted by 12:00 p.m., noon, Eastern Time on November 5, 2023. Publication of papers in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* is not assured. If a manuscript is not submitted to *The Annals* prior to or at the time of the STSA Annual Meeting, a two-year period of ineligibility for participation in the STSA Annual Meeting will be imposed upon all manuscript authors; if unusual circumstances preclude meeting the deadline, the Editor of *The Annals*—at his or her sole discretion—may provide the author(s) with an extension. The same two-year sanction rule applies to each manuscript returned to authors for revision that is not resubmitted to *The Annals* within one calendar year of the request for revisions.
 - Authors may request a waiver from submitting their manuscript to *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. Please note that the waiver request must be made at the time of abstract submission and must include an explanation of the rationale for the waiver. The explanation needs to include the name of the journal(s) where the manuscript will be submitted in lieu of *The Annals* and the reasons for targeting the alternate journal. Waiver requests will be reviewed during the STSA Program Committee Meeting in May. Subsequent requests will not be considered. Importantly, if the manuscript is not accepted by the alternate journal(s), STSA requests that authors submit the manuscript to *The Annals*.
- Authors of abstracts accepted for electronic posters are encouraged to submit a related manuscript to *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, but are not required to do so.
- Information entered in the online abstract submission site cannot be changed after the submission website has closed at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, April 3, 2023.
- STSA reserves the right to withdraw an abstract and/or video at any time.
- The presenting author for each abstract and/or video must be prepared to attend the meeting. **If a change of presenting author is needed, STSA must be notified in writing by the primary author no later than three weeks prior to the date of presentation.** The replacement presenter must be a co-author of the abstract.
- Once an abstract and/or surgical video has been accepted, additional authors may not be added.
- No abstract will be considered with deferred outcome data. Data and conclusions presented during the Annual Meeting must be consistent with what is reported in the original submitted abstract. If there are any

questions regarding substantive changes in data or conclusions after the abstract has been submitted, it is the responsibility of the presenting author to notify STSA by e-mail at stsa@stsa.org.

- Commercial companies, such as those involved in the production or sales of pharmaceutical products or medical devices, are not allowed to participate in data analysis or the development of abstracts, surgical videos, slide presentations, or scientific posters.
- All content in abstracts, surgical videos, and presentations must be based upon the best available evidence and should not promote any healthcare device or service. Only those agreeing to this policy are permitted to present at the STSA Annual Meeting. Presenters found not to have attempted to utilize the best available evidence or found to have provided content that is biased or promotional in nature will not be allowed to take part in the planning or provision of any other STSA educational program or product for a minimum of two years.
- If a presenter or moderator has any relationship posing a conflict or potential conflict relevant to his or her session, he or she may not make any recommendations regarding relevant products or services as part of that session. Any presenter or moderator found to have made a recommendation about relevant products or services in the presence of a relationship that poses an actual or potential conflict of interest will not be allowed to take part in the planning or provision of any other STSA educational program or product for at least two years.
- After each abstract presentation at the Annual Meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the work. The STSA encourages a healthy spirit of constructive critical review and rebuttal via comments pertinent to the content of the presentation. Discussions taking the form of "secondary papers" will not be accepted.
- Each presenter of an oral presentation during the scientific sessions will be provided with a time limit for presentation and must comply with this limit.
- Failure to comply with any of the foregoing policies may subject the author or authors to STSA disciplinary action.

Presenter and Moderator Responsibilities During the Annual Meeting:

- Each presenter is required to check in at the speaker ready room at least two hours prior to his or her presentation time to load and test the presentation slides and/or other material.
- Authors giving an oral presentation during the scientific sessions will be provided with a time limit for their presentation and must comply with this limit. Presenters who exceed their allotted time will potentially not be allowed to present future work at the STSA Annual Meeting.
- Presenters and moderators are responsible for ensuring that the content being presented at the educational activity is consistent with and does not violate STSA's publication guidelines and conditions.
- Presenters/moderators are responsible for ensuring accurate spelling, punctuation, and grammar prior to submission.

Slide Presentation and Electronic Poster Requirements:

- All presentations must be in English.
- Oral presenters must include a slide at the beginning of their presentation listing all disclosures for each author. If there are no disclosures, presenters must include a slide that states, "Nothing to Disclose." Posters must include a statement below the list of authors and institutions listing all disclosures for each author. If there are no disclosures, the poster must include the statement, "The authors have no relationships to disclose."
- The names of commercial products cannot be used in presentations unless the failure to do so would present a patient safety issue.
- Corporate logos, clinical trial logos, and logos of other meetings cannot be used.
- Slides, posters, handouts, and other materials utilized as part of an educational activity cannot contain any advertising, trade name, or product group message.
- No patient identification information can be visible within presentation materials (e.g., names in echo scans, CT scans, or photos of patients) or disclosed during the oral presentation or related discussion.
- Posters must adhere to the size and formatting specifications provided in the acceptance notification.

Disclosure Information and Policy:

- A Conflict of Interest and FDA disclosure is required by all authors at the time of abstract and/or surgical video submission through the abstract submission system. If a potential conflict of interest exists, authors must disclose the name of the organization/company and the nature of the potential conflict.
- **For the submitted abstract or video, each co-author must complete his or her disclosure information in the system. The abstract or surgical video will not be reviewed or considered for acceptance unless all authors have completed their disclosures.**
- It is the responsibility of the submitting author to identify each co-author on the abstract. Upon submission of the abstract, an e-mail will be sent to each co-author, who will then be responsible for logging into the abstract system to complete her/his individual disclosure.
- All disclosures for each author must be stated orally at the beginning of the presentation, must be written on the first slide of the presentation (or, for posters, in a statement under the list of authors and institutions), and will be noted in all related publications. Speakers are required to disclose that they have nothing to disclose if that is the case.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons 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 financial relationships with any ineligible companies. This is to ensure that all decisions related to the planning, faculty selection, delivery, and evaluation of accredited education are made without any influence or involvement from the owners and employees of an ineligible company. The ACCME defines ineligible companies as those whose "primary business is producing, marketing, selling, reselling, or distributing health care products used by or on patients." The question of whether a disclosed conflict situation could represent undue influence on the educational activity by an ineligible company or whether the disclosed information is sufficient to consider an abstract, presentation, or other educational enduring material to represent potentially biased information must be mitigated prior to an individual's involvement in STS educational programming.

Required disclosures must include all financial relationships with ineligible companies in the prior 24 months. Examples of financial relationships include employee, researcher, consultant, advisor, speaker, independent contractor (including contracted research), royalties or patent beneficiary, executive role, and ownership interest. Individual stocks and stock options should be disclosed; diversified mutual funds do not need to be disclosed. Research funding from ineligible companies should be disclosed by the principal or named investigator even if that individual's institution receives the research grant and manages the funds.

Individuals who are owners or employees of ineligible companies are excluded from controlling content or participating as planners or faculty in STS educational activities. There are three exceptions to this exclusion—employees of ineligible companies can participate as planners or faculty in these specific situations:

1. When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
2. When the content of the accredited activity is limited to basic science research, such as preclinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.
3. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

Disclosure is mandatory for any person involved in the planning, management, presentation, and/or evaluation of STS educational activities. Failure to disclose all relationships with ineligible companies 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 planner, presenter, or author. It is merely to identify such relationships through full disclosure, and to allow STS to assess and

mitigate potential influences on the educational activity prior to the planning and implementation of an educational activity. Speakers are required to disclose that they have nothing to disclose if this is the case.

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, or (c) a new or evolving topic advocating for, or promoting, practices that are not, or not yet, adequately based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning must also be disclosed. This requirement has been adopted in response to FDA policy and 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.

All relevant financial information will be disclosed to learners before they engage with or access STS educational content and activities. 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. Disclosure to learners will include each of the following:

1. The names of the individuals with relevant financial relationships.
2. The names of the ineligible companies with which they have relationships.
3. The nature of the relationships.
4. A statement that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

Disclosure to learners must not include ineligible companies' corporate or product logos, trade names, or product group messages. If applicable, the absence of relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies will also be disclosed to learners.

In order to ensure that STS educational activities are free of marketing or sales of products and services, faculty must not actively promote or sell products or services that serve their professional or financial interests during accredited education. Slides, handouts, and other materials utilized as part of an educational activity cannot contain any advertising, trade names or a product group message.

Amended by the STS Executive Committee: June 9, 2021

Withdrawal of an Abstract or Surgical Video:

- To withdraw an abstract or surgical video, the presenter must notify the STSA in writing. E-mail stsa@stsa.org and include the title of the abstract or surgical video and the abstract ID number.
- Persons submitting an abstract or surgical video do so with the understanding of the above policies and must abide by the conditions, deadlines, and decisions of the Program Committee.

Abstract and Surgical Video Peer Review Process:

- To ensure fairness, all abstracts and videos are reviewed and graded in a blinded fashion with no references to authors or institutions. Abstracts and videos are scored by peer reviewers based on scientific merit, originality, and impact in addressing practice gaps.
- The Program Committee is composed of STSA members selected by the President. All decisions by the Program Committee are final.

Final Decision Notification:

- At the time of submission, please ensure that e-mail addresses are accurate for all authors, as this is the only way that authors can be contacted regarding the status of the submitted abstract or surgical video.
- After May 26, 2023, STSA will send results of the Program Committee decision to each abstract's presenting author via e-mail only. Only the presenting/primary author will be notified. We kindly ask that the presenting

author communicate this information to all co-authors. Presenters will receive e-mail notification regardless of the final decision (accept or reject).

- If you move to another location or change your e-mail address, please contact STSA at stsa@stsa.org or call 312-202-5892 to update your contact information.

Questions related to the abstract submission process may be directed to STSA Headquarters by e-mailing stsa@stsa.org or calling 312-202-5892.