# STSA 70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING CME INFORMATION AND RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE INDEX

### 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 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

#### **OVERALL MEETING OBJECTIVES**

To present recent advances in research, surgical techniques, patient management, and the diagnosis and treatment of cardiothoracic disease to cardiothoracic specialists and related health care professionals; and to provide a forum for cardiothoracic surgeons and related healthcare professionals to exchange ideas through open discussion periods and question-and-answer sessions related to the practice of cardiothoracic surgery.

After attending the STSA Annual Meeting, participants should have a broader understanding of new and standard techniques and current research specifically related to adult cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, congenital heart surgery, and related transplant procedures. Attendees can utilize knowledge gained from the STSA Annual Meeting to help select appropriate surgical procedures and interventions and integrate state of the art knowledge into their own practices.

#### **ACCREDITATION & CREDIT DESIGNATION STATEMENTS**

This activity has been 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.

The STS designates this live activity for a maximum of 16.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s) $^{\text{TM}}$ . Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

#### STSA CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) MISSION STATEMENT

The continuing medical education mission of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association is to design and deliver high-quality, practical, innovative, and scientifically rigorous educational programming at its Annual Meeting in the areas of cardiovascular, thoracic, and congenital heart surgery, as well as ethics and professionalism, leadership, and practice management.

Such educational programming is meant to advance the overall competence of cardiovascular, thoracic, and congenital heart surgeons, and ultimately to help them improve their patient outcomes and promote patient safety.

Continuing medical education activities are presented in a variety of formats at an STSA Annual Meeting; these include [but are not limited to] presentations of peer-reviewed scientific abstracts, updates on relevant scientific research, didactic presentations, debates, video presentations, and sub-specialty-specific breakout sessions. All educational sessions include the opportunity for questions, answers, and discussion to further support the educational needs of the meeting attendees and the program learning objectives.

STSA educational activities are developed and provided with the intent of confirming an existing knowledge base, imparting new knowledge, enhancing competence in the content areas covered, and addressing identified professional practice gaps. The expected results include participants' reporting greater confidence in their clinical care skills and a willingness to change their behavior or adapt new strategies as appropriate.

#### **ELECTRONIC CME EVALUATION**

The STSA 70th Annual Meeting evaluation and CME credit claim process is electronic. Registrants who wish to receive CME credit for sessions they attend will be required to complete the electronic evaluation for the session and the overall meeting evaluation. This is the only way physicians can earn CME credit for their attendance. Using the electronic

evaluation system, registrants can complete the meeting evaluation, claim CME credit, and print CME certificates. Certificates of Attendance are also available for non-physician attendees.

The electronic evaluation provides attendees the opportunity to offer feedback to the STSA Council and Program Committee regarding content offered, including information about applicability of the content to current practice, quality of the material presented, and recommendations for future programming. This information is invaluable in the planning of future STSA educational programs.

In addition to being useful for program planning, program evaluation and future needs assessment are important components of the requirements that the STS must meet to maintain accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). It is by meeting the requirements set forth by the ACCME that the STS is able to award CME credit for educational programming.

The electronic evaluation can be completed by meeting registrants on the STSA mobile application or onsite at the computer kiosk located in the **lobby near the registration desk**.

Attendees can also access evaluations by visiting the online evaluation website through personal computers or handheld devices at <a href="https://www.xcdsystem.com/stsa">https://www.xcdsystem.com/stsa</a>. In order to make this process more convenient for attendees, the meeting evaluations will be available online through Friday, February 2, 2024.

This process will allow the STS and the STSA to maintain an electronic record of CME earned by physicians. Files will be maintained for a minimum of six years. Any questions regarding this process should be directed to STSA Headquarters at (312) 202-5892 or via e-mail at stsa@stsa.org.

#### STSA 70th Annual Meeting Commercial Support

The Southern Thoracic Surgical Association gratefully acknowledges the following benefactors for their support of the STSA 70th Annual Meeting:

Diamond Benefactor Atricure

Silver Benefactor AstraZeneca

The Southern Thoracic Surgical Association gratefully acknowledges the following for their educational grant support: Abbott

Edwards

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# COMMERCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF PROGRAM PLANNERS AND ABSTRACT REVIEWERS

STSA would like to thank the following STSA leaders for planning the educational content of the STSA 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Unless otherwise noted, these STSA leaders have no relevant commercial relationships to disclose. All commercial relationships have been mitigated.

#### Commercial Relationships of STSA 70th Annual Meeting Program Planners

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These individuals have relevant commercial relationships to disclose. All commercial relationships have been mitigated. All remaining faculty on the educational program have no relevant commercial relationships.

#### Commercial Relationships of STSA 70th Annual Meeting Faculty

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# COMMERCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF STSA OFFICERS, COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STSA would like to thank the following leaders for supporting the STSA 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting as a member of the STSA Council and/or other STSA Committee. Unless otherwise noted, the STSA Officers, Council and Committee Members have no relevant commercial relationships. All commercial relationships have been mitigated.

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