

Learn more about the various ways to make a gift on [aatsfoundation.org](http://aatsfoundation.org).

As the Foundation ends another year of programming, there are many reasons to be thankful this holiday season, and the main reason is *you*. From the support of generous donors, to the dedication of AATS mentors and host institutions, to the enthusiasm of award recipients, on behalf of AATS Foundation leadership and staff, heartfelt appreciation is extended. Thank you for making this work possible and for your commitment to supporting the future of cardiothoracic surgery.

## Apply for a Program

The AATS Foundation provides a number of educational and research opportunities to cardiothoracic surgeons around the world each year. The following programs will be accepting applications through December 1, 2020.\*

### CONGENITAL

#### Marc R. de Leval Fellowship

For North American early-career congenital heart surgeons to train at an institution in Europe or the United Kingdom for four to six weeks.

### THORACIC

#### Thoracic Surgical Robotics Fellowship—Sponsored by Intuitive Surgical

Familiarizes North American general thoracic fellows and their attending surgeons with the da Vinci robotics system during advanced training. Awardees who complete the fellowship are eligible to participate in the Advanced Lobectomy Course.

#### Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship—Sponsored by Ethicon China

Offers young surgeons from China the opportunity to obtain advanced thoracic surgery skills at North American institutions.

### MULTI-SPECIALTY

#### AATS Foundation Cohn Lectureship

Provides a unique opportunity to bring an AATS member lecturer to a North American institution.

#### Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery Fellowship—Sponsored by Medtronic

Engages Japanese cardiothoracic surgeons in an interactive educational opportunity to observe and converse with specialists in the treatment of heart valve disease or advanced minimally invasive thoracic surgery at select host institutions in North America.

#### Summer Intern Scholarship—Supported by Scanlan

Provides first- and second-year medical students with an eight-week summer internship in an AATS member's cardiothoracic surgery department.

#### Research Scholarship

Supports North American surgeons with a two-year grant of \$80,000 each year to pursue research, training, and clinical experience.

#### Surgical Investigator Program

Provides up to \$50,000 annually to support innovative clinical or translational research by young cardiothoracic surgeons for up to two years.

**\*Please note that this year's fall award timeline may be impacted by COVID-19.**

## The Western Thoracic Surgical Association

### Save the Date



**WTSA 47th Annual Meeting**  
June 23-26, 2021

Fairmont Empress  
Victoria, BC, Canada

#### Call for Abstracts

The 2021 WTSA Annual Meeting will be held at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC, Canada, from June 23 to 26, 2021. Abstract submissions are now being accepted for presentation consideration at the 2021 WTSA Annual Meeting through Monday, January 11, 2021, at 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time. Visit the WTSA Web site at [westernthoracic.org](http://westernthoracic.org) to view author instructions and to submit abstracts.

#### WTSA Traveling Fellowship for Residents, Trainees, and Practicing Surgeons

The goal of this traveling fellowship is to promote interaction and learning between residents/trainees/

practicing surgeons and WTSA members. The traveling fellow will visit a University-affiliated or academic practice of his/her choosing, within the boundaries of the WTSA, for a period of one to two weeks, under the sponsorship of a Western member at the hosting institution. The traveling fellow does not need to be a WTSA member; the award is open to any resident/trainee/practicing surgeon. More details are available at [westernthoracic.org](http://westernthoracic.org). **Application Deadline: December 15, 2020.**

### Applications for WTSA Membership

The WTSA is now accepting Applications for Membership online for Active as well as Candidate membership status for the 2021 membership cycle. Visit the WTSA Web site at [www.westernthoracic.org](http://www.westernthoracic.org) to read the complete membership eligibility requirements and to initiate an online application.

#### Active Member

\$375 annually, plus \$50 initiation fee

Applicant must meet all membership criteria, including but not limited to:

- Reside within or have completed a cardiothoracic residency training program within the geographic limits of the Association.
- Have been engaged in the practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery for at least three years following completion of postgraduate training. If a candidate completed his/her thoracic surgical residency or a one-year clinical fellowship in an institution within the geographic limits of the Association, such completion may count toward one of the three years of practice.
- Have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in his or her respective state or province, and have a current appointment on the surgical staff of a hospital with no reportable action pending which could adversely affect such applicant's staff privileges at any hospital.

#### Candidate Member

\$100 annually

Applicant must meet all membership criteria, including but not limited to:

- Be matched or enrolled in either a cardiothoracic surgery education program accredited by the Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery under the authority of the ACGME or a program approved for cardiothoracic surgery education by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada—or their equivalency—from within the Association's geographic limits. Individuals who have completed their education in one of the above programs

but do not yet meet all of the criteria for Active membership also are eligible to apply for Candidate membership. Individuals who trained outside the Association's geographic limits who are now residing within the Association's boundaries but do not yet have three years in practice may also apply for Candidate membership.

An application must include the following uploads: a photo, a complete curriculum vitae with bibliography, and, for Active applicants, the 3 most significant articles that s/he personally wrote. The application must be completed and submitted online by March 1, 2021, and all support letter(s) (three for Active applicants, one for Candidates) uploaded by that applicant's sponsor(s) by March 31, 2021, in order for the applicant to be considered for election to membership at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

## The American Board of Thoracic Surgery

### ABTS Announcement



American Board of Thoracic Surgery

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery's Maintenance of Certification program was adopted 9 years ago. Since that time, there has been a continuous evaluation in the Board's thinking about the overall process, based upon internal discussions and input from our Diplomates.

These inputs resulted in our decision to migrate from a purely knowledge-based multiple-choice exam, using a Pearson Testing Center, to a Mastery Learning Process, using a SESATS format. Diplomates, enrolled in the 10-year MOC process, will fulfill their Part III requirement by completion of a home or office-based learning exam, following the instructions on the ABTS Web site.

There are 100 SESATS questions (primarily taken from SESATS XI), based on your specialty designation (Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Cardiothoracic, and Congenital), that you will need to work through as instructed. The exam will now be modular and tailored to your practice—for example, if your practice is 100% adult cardiac, you will only have adult cardiac and critical care questions. You will be able to take the 100-question exam anytime during the months of September and October. For those Diplomates who have used SESATS in the past, the process of working through the questions is the same. For those who are not familiar with SESATS, it might be beneficial to purchase and download SESATS and work