The 2013 AATS Mitral Conclave will bring the world’s leading figures in mitral valve disease together for two days to discuss the latest information regarding management guidelines, imaging, pathology, minimally invasive approaches, percutaneous approaches, surgical techniques, devices, and long-term results. Faculty presentations of the latest available data, techniques, and state-of-the-art reviews will be supplemented by abstract and video presentations selected by the program committee from submitted original work. Selected manuscripts from accepted presentations will be considered for publication in a supplement to The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

On behalf of the Program Committee, we invite you to submit your abstract and video for consideration to the 2013 AATS Mitral Conclave. Abstracts are limited to 450 words. You may use ONE image OR ONE table within your abstract, which will NOT deduct from the word count.

Accepting Abstracts and Videos in the following categories:
- Degenerative Valve Disease
- Mitral Regurgitation in Heart Failure
- Ischemic Mitral Regurgitation
- Rheumatic Mitral Valve Disease
- Mitral Valve Endocarditis
- Congenital Mitral Valve Disease
- Other Mitral Valve Disease
- Repair Techniques & Strategies
- Mitral Valve Replacement
- Long Term Outcomes
- AFib in Mitral Valve Disease
- Tricuspid Valve Disease

Video Submissions
If submitting a video, you MUST submit an abstract via the abstract submission site. All submissions must include an abstract with a maximum of 450 words. Videos may not exceed 5 minutes in length. Complete submission guidelines can be found online at www.aats.org/mitral.

Accreditation
The American Association for Thoracic Surgery is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

For more information on the 2013 AATS Mitral Conclave, or on submitting and abstract/video for consideration, please contact mitral@aats.org or visit www.aats.org/mitral.

Requirements for Maintenance of Certification

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) who plan to participate in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process must hold an unrestricted medical license in the locale of their practice and privileges in a hospital accredited by the JCAHO (or other organization recognized by the ABTS). In addition, a valid ABTS certificate is an absolute requirement for entrance into the Maintenance of Certification process. If your certificate has expired, the only pathway for renewal of a certificate is to take and pass the Part I (written) and the Part II (oral) certifying examinations. The names of individuals who have not maintained their certificate will no longer be published in the American Board of Medical Specialties Directories. Diplomates' names will be published upon successful completion of the Maintenance of Certification process.

The CME requirements are 30 Category I credits earned during each year prior to application. At least half of these CME hours need to be in the broad area of thoracic surgery. Category II credits are not allowed. Interested individuals should refer to the Booklet of Information for Maintenance of Certification for a complete description of acceptable CME credits. Diplomates will be expected to submit verification of CME earned.

Diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification process will need to provide a summary of their major cases performed during the year prior to application. The practice review should not exceed 100 cases.

Diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification process will be required to complete all sections of the SESATS self-assessment examination. It is not necessary for Diplomates to purchase SESATS individually, because it will be sent to them after their application has been approved.

Diplomates may apply for Maintenance of Certification in the year their certificate expires, or if they wish to do so, they may apply up to two years before it expires. However, the new certificate will be dated 10 years from the date of expiration of their original certificate or most recent recertification certificate. In other words, going through the Maintenance of Certification process early does not alter the 10-year validation. Diplomates certified prior to 1976 (the year that time-limited certificates were initiated) are also required to participate in MOC if they wish to maintain valid certificates.

The deadline for submission of application for the Maintenance of Certification is May 10 of each year. All ABTS diplomates will receive a letter from the Board outlining their individual timeline and MOC requirements. A brochure outlining the rules and requirements for Maintenance of Certification in thoracic surgery is available upon request from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 633 North St. Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611; telephone (312) 202-5900; fax (312) 202-5960; E-mail info@abts.org. This booklet is also published on the Web site: www.abts.org.

Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education

Turning Today’s Research Into Tomorrow’s Patient Care

Our patients don’t follow the details of our research. They don’t discuss unexpected breakthroughs or technical setbacks. They are not always aware of how changes in health care policies impact research funding and lab time. Nonetheless, the advances we make in cardiothoracic surgery touch each and every one of them. New surgical techniques and potent new drugs improve patient health and extend patient lives.

That is an outcome everyone can understand, and it’s the one that has continued to push the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE) forward since its inception in 1988.

TSFRE was established as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable foundation with the support of the four major thoracic surgery organizations: The American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association (STSA), and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association (WTSA). As it was 24 years ago, the Foundation’s mission is to support research and education in thoracic surgery.

Funding basic biomedical research to expand our understanding of thoracic surgery is vitally important. Still, it’s only half the battle. The results of such research must be successfully transferred to patient care. Recent changes in the medical environment have meant that, increasingly, control over medical decisions have been wrested away from doctors. There remains little doubt that a physician must understand health care policy to advocate on behalf of his/her patients and his/her profession.

There is a compelling need to continue to develop the skills of cardiothoracic surgeons as scientists and as health policy leaders. TSFRE is an organization that is having a steering effect on cardiothoracic surgery through the sponsorship of cardiothoracic surgical research and the education of surgeons in health care policy.

TSFRE is a pivotal force for the growth and vitality of our specialty and its role is increasing, particularly in the areas of...