



2024 **Annual Report**

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Dear Friends of TSF,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the Thoracic Surgery Foundation's 2024 Annual Report—a reflection of a transformative year marked by innovation, growth, and renewed purpose.

This year, TSF embraced a bold new look, unveiling a refreshed logo and visual identity that better reflects our mission and the dynamic future of cardiothoracic surgery. These changes are more than cosmetic—they symbolize our commitment to clarity, accessibility, and excellence in everything we do.

Our impact in 2024 was historic. We achieved the highest level of industry partnership support in our history—nearly \$1.1 million—and awarded over \$1.7 million in grants, setting a record for TSF grantmaking.

These milestones reflect the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our community, and they empower us to support more surgeons, researchers, and humanitarian efforts than ever before.

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the momentum we've built and the lives we continue to touch. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are shaping the future of cardiothoracic surgery by **Advancing Heart and Lung Health for All**.



Joseph A. Dearani, MD
2022–2025 TSF President

Annual Snapshot

GRANTS & AWARDS ISSUED

TOTAL **\$1,748,984**



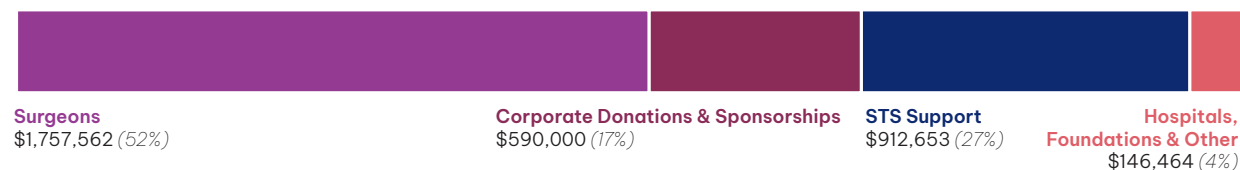
TSF NET ASSETS

TOTAL **\$9,026,722**



CONTRIBUTIONS TO TSF

TOTAL **\$3,406,679**



2024 Engagement at a Glance

147

individual **awards and scholarships** granted

124

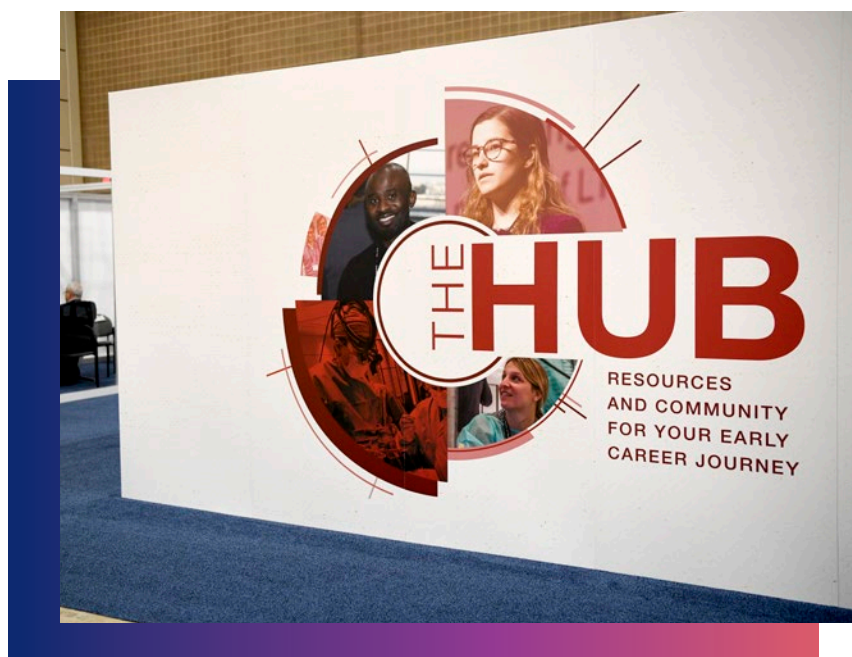
surgeon volunteers supported award reviews and selections

up 9% from 2023!
39%

of STS US Surgeon **Members** made a **gift** to TSF in 2024



2024 Highlights



Celebrating Innovation: Highlights from the First Annual Winning Research Presentations

TSF's essential support for research in the cardiothoracic surgery specialty was showcased during the 2024 STS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. An inaugural Winning Research Presentations session was featured during the meeting, which highlighted groundbreaking work from TSF research award recipients.

Moderated by TSF Research Committee Chair Dr. Farhood Farjah, the session featured seven compelling presentations ranging from genomic insights into pulmonary vein stenosis to novel mRNA-based immunotherapy strategies for lung cancer. Each speaker introduced research that not only contained strong scientific potential but also held real promise for patient care. The session concluded with a lively Q&A and closing remarks underscoring the importance of early-career research in shaping the future of the specialty.

“The recognition and research validation of this society grant is important in my work to obtain long-term research funding from sources like the NIH or Department of Defense.”



Gavitt Woodard, MD, FACS
Lung Cancer Research Award



TSF Advances Academic Excellence Through Global Aortic Surgery Summit

In November 2024, TSF supported the participation of 15 outstanding cardiothoracic surgery trainees (from institutions across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, India, and Taiwan) in the inaugural STS-ASCVTS Aortic Summit – a landmark collaboration between STS and the Asian Society for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery.

This premier international conference, held in Tokyo, Japan, spotlighted cutting-edge advances in the diagnosis and treatment of thoracic aortic disease, including open and endovascular approaches. The provision of travel scholarships to the conference reflected TSF's commitment to fostering academic excellence and international collaboration in aortic surgery.

New Scholarship Will Help Empower Women in the Specialty

In October 2024, TSF received a major donation from Drs. Betsy and Ryan Colwell to fund a new TSF scholarship launching in 2025: the Betsy and Ryan Colwell Mentorship Scholarship for Women in Thoracic Surgery. The scholarship will fund the attendance of early career women surgeons at the annual Women in Thoracic Surgery Conference.

Driven by a desire to combat the isolation and attrition often faced by women in the field, Dr. Betsy Colwell has emphasized her intention “to stop hearing stories of women giving up.” The scholarship is designed to build a strong, supportive network that nurtures the professional growth and longevity of women in the specialty. By facilitating this mentorship opportunity, TSF is not only championing the advance of women in the specialty, but also strengthening the cohort of future cardiothoracic surgery leaders.



BREATHE. EASY.

Mobile Lung Screening
(423) 495-LUNG (5864)



Buz Standefer Lung Center



Rees Skillern Cancer Institute



“

“Through this fellowship, I gained in-depth knowledge about the structure, logistics, and business aspects behind a successful mobile program. However, the most significant lesson I learned from Dr. Headrick was the passion, resilience, and commitment required to lead such an initiative effectively.”



Jordan M. Dozier, MD

Levi Watkins Innovation and Leadership Development Scholarship

Fellowship to: CHI Memorial Hospital
Mentor: Robert Headrick, MD

2024 TSF Awardees

161 awards and scholarships
granted across research,
education, innovation, &
humanitarian outreach

\$1.7 MILLION +
in award payments

RESEARCH



Rachel Vanderlaan, MD, PhD
Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

“Pulmonary Vein Stenosis: Mechanistic Insights Through Genomic Studies”

STS Research Award



Jarrod Predina, MD
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

“Developing Intratumoral mRNA-Based Immunotherapy Strategies to Eliminate Recurrences After Lung Cancer Surgery”

TSF Research Award



SunYoung Kim, MD
University of Nebraska Medical Center

“Alcohol and Notch Pathway Mutations Synergistically Induce Atrioventricular Canal Defects: Potential Rescue by Folic Acid”

Nina Starr Braunwald Research Fellowship Award



Zachary Kiernan, MD
 Virginia Commonwealth University Health System
"Investigation of the Biochemical Basis For Gender-Related Outcomes Following Heart Transplantation"
TSF Resident Research Fellowship Award



Chi Chi Do-Nguyen, DO
 University of Michigan
"The Impact of Metabolome Class in Specialized Pro-Resolving Mediators and Its Role in Attenuation of Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Growth"
Southern Thoracic Surgical Association (STSA) Resident Research Award



Gavitt Woodard, MD, FACS
 Yale School of Medicine
"Immune Cell Infiltration and Function after Neoadjuvant Chemo-Immunotherapy in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer"
Lung Cancer Research Award



Raheem Bell, MD
 Northwestern University/McGaw Medical Center
"Reducing Disparities in Lung Cancer Screening: A QR-Based Approach to Improve Self-Reporting Among Black Patients"
Reversing Health Disparities in Lung Cancer Research Award



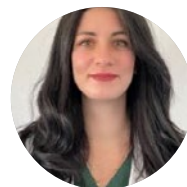
Isao Anzai, MD
 Columbia University
"Statistical Modeling and Clinical Outcomes Research Training via STS Database and Analytics Team"
STS Database Clinical Research Fellowship Award



Marvin D. Atkins Jr., MD
 Houston Methodist Hospital
Fellowship to: *Ospedale San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*
Mentor: *Roberta Chiesa, MD*
TSF/Francis Fontan Fund International Traveling Fellowship



Andres Felipe Jimenez Ordonez, MD
 Fundación Cardioinfantil, Bogotá, Colombia
Fellowship to: *Peter Munk Cardiac Centre, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada*
Mentor: *Tirone E. David, MD*
TSF/Francis Fontan Fund International Traveling Fellowship in Partnership with LACES



Debora Brascia, MD
 University Hospital of Bari, Bitonto, Italy
Fellowship to: *Massachusetts General Hospital*
Mentor: *Yolanda L. Colson, MD, PhD*
TSF/Francis Fontan Fund International Traveling Fellowship - Funded by EACTS



Carolina Sosa Vota, MD
 Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay
Fellowship to: *Hospital Universitario de Navarra, Pamplona Spain*
Mentor: *J. Rafael Sádaba, MD PhD*
TSF/Francis Fontan Fund International Traveling Fellowship in Partnership with LACES - Funded by EACTS



Jess K. Joymon, MD
 St. Joseph Hospital/SCL Health Heart and Vascular Institute
Advanced Robotic Cardiac Surgery Fellowship Award



Laura A. Scrimgeour, MD
 University of California, San Francisco
Fellowship to: *Brigham & Women's Hospital*
Mentor: *Ashraf Sabe, MD*
Michael J. Davidson Structural Heart Fellowship Award

EDUCATION



Lauren K.M. Barron, MD
Baylor and The Texas Heart Institute

Fellowship to: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Mentor: Ismail El-Hamamsy, MD

Nicholas Kouchoukos Award



Constantine D. Mavroudis, MD, MSc, MTR
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Fellowship to: Boston Children's Hospital
Mentor: Christopher Baird, MD

Robert L. Replogle Traveling Fellowship Award



Jonathan R. Zurcher, MD
Emory University Hospital

Fellowship to: The Mount Sinai Hospital
Mentor: Ismail El-Hamamsy, MD

Nicholas Kouchoukos Award



Juan A. Munoz-Largacha, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Fellowship to: Beth Israel Lahey Health
Mentor: Elliot Servais, MD

Underrepresented Robotic General Thoracic Surgeon Development Award



Sahar Saddoughi, MD, PhD
Mayo Clinic

Fellowship to: Kyoto University, Japan
Mentor: Hiroshi Date, MD

Douglas Mathisen Traveling Fellowship in General Thoracic Surgery Award



Aitua Charles Salami, MD, MPH
University of Minnesota

Fellowship to: Temple University
Mentor: Cherie Erkmen, MD

Underrepresented Robotic General Thoracic Surgeon Development Award



Mahim Malik, MD, FACS
Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology

Fellowship to: Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital
Mentor: Emile Bacha, MD

Carolyn E. Reed Traveling Fellowship Award



Jordan M. Dozier, MD
Ochsner Clinic

Fellowship to: CHI Memorial Hospital
Mentor: Robert Headrick, MD

Levi Watkins Innovation and Leadership Development Scholarship



“This award has meant so much to my career in that the structural heart experience has taught me many technical skills.”

Laura A. Scrimgeour, MD

Michael J. Davidson Structural Heart Fellowship Award





Adanna C. Akujuo, MD
Tower Health
Underserved Region: Nigeria
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Andrew B. Goldstone, MD, PhD
NYP/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital at Columbia
University Irving Medical Center
Underserved Region: Nigeria
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



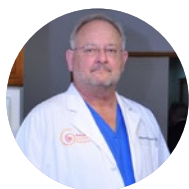
Wilhelm S.A. Lichtenberg, MD
Netcare N1 City Hospital
Underserved Region: South Africa
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Jeffrey D. McNeil, MD
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon
Underserved Region: Nigeria
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Robert C. Neely, MD
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons, Austin
Underserved Region: Eldoret, Kenya
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



William M. Novick, MD, MS
UTHSC Memphis
Underserved Region: Rwanda
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Jay D. Pal, MD, PhD
University of Washington
Underserved Region: Nepal
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Aldo Elmer Rafael, MD
Baylor University Medical Center
Underserved Region: Lima, Peru
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



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Long Beach Memorial Hospital/
Miller Children's Hospital
Underserved Region: Fiji
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Pranava Sinha, MD
University of Minnesota
Underserved Region: Uganda
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Thomas Theologou, MD
Institute Cardiocentro Ticino
Underserved Region: Vietnam
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Joseph W. Turek, MD, PhD, MBA
Duke University
Underserved Region: Guyana
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Adam R. Williams, MD
Duke University

Underserved Region: Honduras
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Allen Zheng, MD, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Underserved Region: Mozambique, Rwanda
Every Heartbeat Matters Award



Max Adcox, MD
University of Washington

Joined Dr. Jay D. Pal in Nepal
International Medical Volunteer Scholarship



Adnaldo da Silveira Maia, MD
Instituto Dante Pazzanese de Cardiologia

Joined Dr. Adanna C. Akujuo in Nigeria
International Medical Volunteer Scholarship



Meghan Kelly, MD
Washington University

Joined Dr. William M. Novick in Rwanda
International Medical Volunteer Scholarship



Jibril Khalil, MD
University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital

Joined Dr. Joseph W. Turek in Guyana
International Medical Volunteer Scholarship



Melina Moroz Barg, MD
Instituto Dante Pazzanese de Cardiologia

Joined Dr. Robert C. Neely in Eldoret, Kenya
International Medical Volunteer Scholarship



Benjamin Smood, MD
University of Pennsylvania Health System

Joined Dr. Andrew B. Goldstone in Nigeria
International Medical Volunteer Scholarship

“Our goal is to develop and evaluate a QR-code based lung cancer screening tool aimed at reducing disparities in screening uptake. What makes this work especially meaningful to me is the opportunity to focus on health equity.”

Raheem Bell, MD

Reversing Health Disparities in Lung Cancer Research Award



5 Saha Scholars

attended the 2024 STS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX

4 resident scholarships

given to attend the STS Coronary Conference in Miami, FL



3 scholarships

given to attend the STS Mastering Valve Workshop in Chicago, IL



3 scholarships

given to attend the STS Perioperative & Critical Care Conference in Philadelphia, PA



15 scholarships given

to attend the STS-ASCVTS Aortic Summit Conference Scholarship in Tokyo, Japan

87 scholarships given

to attend the EACTS/STS/LACES Latin America Cardiovascular Surgery Conference Scholarship in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Lifetime Honor Roll of Major Gift Donors

TSF gratefully acknowledges these generous donors who have contributed a total of **\$10,000 or more since 1988**. TSF thrives due to the generosity of these individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations.



Dr. Andrew Goldstone and team perform surgery during their humanitarian outreach trip to Nigeria.

Platinum \$5,000,000+

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Gold \$4,000,000+

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*These generous donors have
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2024 Honor Roll of Annual Donors

TSF recognizes gifts at all levels made from January 1 – December 31, 2024 by generous surgeons, foundations, societies, individuals, corporations, and grateful patients. Their contributions support our mission and the future of the cardiothoracic surgery specialty.



Compassion in action: Team members perform a routine check-up on an elderly patient during Dr. Jay D. Pal's humanitarian outreach visit.

\$1,000,000+

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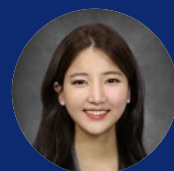
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“The Nina Starr Braunwald Research Fellowship Award has been instrumental in solidifying my aspiration to become a pediatric cardiac surgeon. The fellowship has deepened my passion for scientific discovery and affirmed my commitment to improving outcomes in children with congenital heart disease.



SunYoung Kim, MD
 University of Nebraska Medical Center

“Alcohol and Notch Pathway Mutations Synergistically Induce Atrioventricular Canal Defects: Potential Rescue by Folic Acid”

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Dr. Thomas Theologou captured a powerful moment of teamwork in action on his humanitarian outreach trip to Vietnam.



Reed awardee Dr. Mahim Malik (second from left) with Emile Bache and his surgical team.

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“This grant has given me the unique opportunity to manage a project as the primary investigator which is rare for surgical residents. As an aspiring academic surgeon with an intense interest in research, this project has been incredibly helpful in giving me early exposure to applying for and managing a grant-funded project and I am immensely grateful for this.”

Zachary Kiernan, MD

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“ One of the most profound realizations during my time there was the importance of patience and precision. In surgery, speed is often celebrated, but Dr. David’s approach taught me that being smart, efficient, and detail-oriented yields far superior results.



Andres Felipe Jimenez Ordonez, MD

Fellowship to: Peter Munk Cardiac Centre, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Mentor: Tirone E. David, MD



“ My primary goal was to understand how to build a Ross program at my home institution. I learned far more than that. I learned lessons that will fundamentally guide the rest of my career and for that I am deeply grateful to Dr. Kouchoukos and The Thoracic Surgery Foundation for this award.



Lauren K.M. Barron, MD

Nicholas Kouchoukos Award

Fellowship to: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Mentor: Ismail El-Hamamsy, MD





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