

NEW HIGHLIGHTS IN CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY: REPORT ON THE 48-TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS

G. Tinică^{1,2}, Diana Anghel¹

- 1- University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Gr.T.Popa" Iasi
- 2- Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Iasi



The 2012 conference of the STS was held between Jan.28-Feb.1 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It was attended by more than 2,500 cardiothoracic surgeons and allied health professionals from around the world, determined to catch on more about the up-to-date advances in research and technology in cardiac and thoracic surgery.

Like the ones before yet with a different format, this Meeting supplied an encompassing range of educational, networking and social proposals, the educational ones stretched out greatly with a program schedule intended to allow enough time during breaks.

As always, the Meeting was preceded by the 11th installation of STS/AATS Tech-Con, attended by almost 1,200 participants. The Tech-Con opened with a joint cardiac and general thoracic surgery session addressing the rational dispersion of new technology, how it is funded, disease-focus

centers, and simulation training for cardiothoracic surgeons. Separate cardiac and general thoracic surgery sessions followed and covered recent advances in LVADs, tetherless mechanical support, stem cell use in cardiac failure, and much more, with a program invigorated by incorporating panel discussions and exciting live debates. The adult cardiac surgery track focused on whether sutureless aortic valves are necessary and on the use of percutaneous mitral valve replacement and repair devices, robotic TECAB, hybrid CAB, and TEVAR for uncomplicated acute type B dissection.

For the first time, before the official opening, there were added two significant and very successful courses that clustered more than 300 attendees: STS/AATS/SVS "What's New in Peripheral Vascular Disease Management"; STS/SCA "Intraoperative Echo and Decision Making in Cardiovascular Surgery".

Correspondence to: Prof. Grigore Tinică, MD, Ph.D
Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases, 50, Carol I Boulevard, Iasi, Romania
Phone/Fax: 0232 410280
e-mail: grigoretinica@yahoo.com

On Monday, Jan.30, the Richard E.Clark Database Papers and Chamberlain Papers were delivered, followed by the STS Presidential Adress of Dr. Michael J.Mack. These will be abridged here.

This year, three papers received the Richard E.Clark Award:

- " Surgical Repair of VSD After MI " "The largest to-date study examining post-MI VSD repair was done in part to provide a surgical benchmark for future comparisons, as percutaneous closure devices emerge to treat this condition" said Dr. Arnaoutakis.

- "Effect of Sex and Race on Outcomes in Congenital Heart Surgery Patients" was presented by Dr. Daniel DiBardino. The authors studied outcomes for patients within the STS CHS Database and found a significant association between race and outcome and no effect of gender on mortality.

- "Lymph Node Evaluation by Open and VATS Approaches" presented by Dr. Daniel J. Boffa.

The General Session I was started with the Maxwell Chamberlain Memorial Papers that demonstrated the best patient outcomes in CT surgery. For Adult Cardiac Surgery: " Long-Term Outcome of Isolated Mitral Repair in Older Patients-Results From 14,604 Procedures Performed From 1991 to 2007" - presented by Dr. Badhwar. For Congenital Heart Surgery, Dr. Dean Andropoulos, well known for his work in cerebral protection for pediatric heart surgery, presented the paper entitled "Changing Expectations for Neurological Outcomes Following the Neonatal Arterial Switch Operation" in which he illustrates that mortality after arterial switch in newborns has constantly improved and transfers the attention to boosting neurological outcomes. For General Thoracic Surgery "Amiodarone Prophylaxis for Atrialin Patients Undergoing Surgery for Lung Cancer - A Controlled, Randomized, Double-Blinded Trial" presented by Dr. Lars P.Riber.

The Presidential Address of Dr. Michael J.Mack entitled " If This Were My

Last Speech, What Would I Say?" was delivered in front of more than 2,000 attendees, which were challenged to think outside the box, to become innovators: "Innovation is not an option, is mandatory". In his letter to Dr. Rich, the new president elect, he addresses the incompleted business. First, he encourages to elevate the surgical outcomes: a drop in CABG mortality rate to less than 1% over 5 years, stroke rates post CABG less than 0.5% at 5 years, AVR mortality less than 0.5% at 5 years and incidence of mitral valve repair rates to double to 80% by 2017. Dr. Mack's vision has been all about collaboration and reminded attendees that the "heart team approach" that he and Dr. David Holmes, president of the ACC, applied to TAVR is the best for the patients. He concluded with an appreciation to the enormous emotional investment made by cardiothoracic surgeons, reminding that the future is brighter than ever.

Monday continued with an abundance of options for attendees, including six concurrent breakout sessions covering all three subspecialty areas and the inaugural late-breaking Clinical Trial Abstract Presentations with cutting-edge clinical trial content and new insights into the ASCERT trial. Also, the tradition of the Surgical Motion Pictures Matinee continued this year, with 3 simultaneous sessions showing Adult Cardiac Surgery, General Thoracic Surgery, and Congenital Heart Surgery videos.

Monday evening, were narrated the presentations of selected posters, in each subspecialty section and at the Annual Business Meeting, a total of 230 new applicants for STS Active and International Membership were approved.

On Tuesday morning, the early start was attending one of 11 breakfast sessions or the Health Policy Forum, then moving on to the Annual Lillehei Lecture, which honors C. Walton Lillehei, MD, one of the great pioneers in cardiac surgery. The insightful address 2012 was delivered by STS International Director Friedrich W. Mohr, MD, of the Heart Center Leipzig, Germany.

ACC president, David R.Holmes, Jr., MD then addressed attendees about the collaborative efforts of the ACC and STS.

This year's Thomas B. Ferguson Lecture was given on Tuesday, Jan.31, by Jeffrey E.Shuren, MD, JD, Director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Dr. Shuren gave a captivating insider's facet on how government regulation and device innovation work "Medical Device Innovation: Aligning Government, Industry, and the Medical Community".

On Wednesday, Feb.1, STS University offered 11 courses, each allowing sufficient

time for hands-on education that covered latest topics such as mitral valve repair, mechanical circulatory support for cardiogenic shock, and TAVR.

Now, on its 7th year, the STS Looking to the Future Scholarship program awarded 40 scholarships to medical students and residents interested in, but not yet committed to, a career in cardiothoracic surgery. They received complimentary registration for the STS 48th Annual Meeting and STS/AATS Tech-Con 2012, as well as reimbursement for travel expenses.