AATS Mission

To Promote Scholarship in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
Leadership – Leading through example in every aspect of a surgeon’s career is a central tenet of AATS members.

Scholarship – Creating and disseminating new knowledge worldwide to continually advance the specialty is a responsibility and goal of all members.

Mentoring – Ensuring that the specialty attracts the best and the brightest medical professionals, teaching others is an integral part of the daily lives of AATS members.

Integrity and Professionalism – The specialty maintains these values through the honesty and reliability of highly trained professionals.

Quality Patient Care – The delivery of optimum patient care is the cornerstone of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, and the primary goal of AATS members.
The Association has increased its educational opportunities for Residents and Medical Students to ensure the future of our specialty remains strong.
AATS Summer Intern Scholarship - Introduces the field of cardiothoracic surgery to first and second year medical students in a North American medical school by providing a $2,500 stipend to spend eight weeks during the summer (June thru September) working in a North American cardiothoracic surgery department.

To date 220 Medical Students from 74 unique institutions have participated.
The AATS Graham Research Foundation continues to serve the Association by assisting the Council in Promoting Scholarship in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

For the past 61 years since the first Graham Traveling Fellow was named in 1951, the Foundation has provided over 7 million dollars in funding to a number of initiatives addressing the research needs of the specialty.

With the continued economic climate minimizing the funding available to the specialty, the Foundation’s Board of Directors is continuing to explore ways to expand its efforts with the goal of ensuring a variety of valuable funding opportunities are available to cardiothoracic surgeons and trainees.
Collaboration with the TSRA – AATS works with the TSRA on providing opportunities for involvement in Association activities including:

**AATS/TSRA CT Residents Luncheon** – Held on the Monday of the AATS Annual Meeting, this luncheon provides a forum for Residents to meet with leaders in the specialty and discuss the important issues faced on a daily basis.

**AATS Committee Participation** – The TSRA provides representatives to the AATS Abstract, CT Residents, Education, Scientific Affairs and Government Relations (SAGR), and Technology Committees. Additionally two residents serve as AATS Representatives to the AAMC Organization of Resident Representatives.
C. Walton Lillihei Resident Forum - held at the Annual Meeting providing a forum for 8 resident abstract presentations. The selected winner receives a $5,000 award. All presenters receive complimentary registration, economy airfare, and accommodations at the Annual Meeting.
AATS Leadership Academy - The 2012 program was designed specifically for residents in their last year of training or those who recently completed training and had just begun an academic appointment.

The program provided an opportunities for 22 attendees to be introduced to well known thoracic surgical leaders who could serve as personal mentors while also discussing solutions to important administrative and interpersonal issues faced on a daily basis in academic surgery.

Plans are underway for this program to be offered again in the future.
Complimentary JTCVS Subscriptions - Through an educational grant provided by Edwards LifeSciences, all North American residents receive a complimentary subscription to the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (JTCVS)*.
Thoracic Surgery News - Accessible through www.aats.org or www.thoracicsurgerynews.com

This monthly publication serves to keep the specialty abreast of current cardiothoracic surgery news and events.

The “Resident’s Corner”, overseen by two resident Associate Editors, provides current news of importance to residents.

Editor- Yolonda L. Colson, MD
AATS Resident Critical Care Scholarship (New in 2012) - Broadens the educational experience for up to 75 first year cardiothoracic surgical residents (one per approved training program) by providing an opportunity to spend two and a half days at the Cardiovascular-Thoracic (CVT) Critical Care Conference.

Registration and a stipend of $500 is provided by the AATS Graham Research Foundation to the resident’s institution to help offset the cost of travel and hotel accommodations.
AATS Annual Meeting Resident Poster Session *(New in 2013)* - Provides an opportunity for CT Surgery Chief Residents to present a poster of their clinical or laboratory research during the Sunday evening Welcome Reception at the AATS Annual Meeting. Posters will be identified with the name of the residency program and available Sunday-Tuesday during the Annual Meeting exhibition.

Each accredited cardiothoracic surgical training program in the United States or Canada will be invited to participate and a stipend of $500 will be provided to the resident’s institution by the AATS Graham Research Foundation to help offset the cost of travel and hotel accommodations at the AATS Annual Meeting.

Additionally, AATS will provide complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting, one PG course, one Skills course and/or the Developing the Academic Surgeon Symposium.
Complimentary Operative Techniques

Subscriptions (New in 2012) - The AATS Graham Research Foundation provides all North American residents with a complimentary one-year electronic subscription to Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (Op-Techs).

Editor- Fred A. Crawford, Jr., MD
Residents and Medical Students received complimentary registration to the AATS Annual Meeting (including Saturday and Sunday courses) as well as discounted registration to all other AATS Meetings.