Medical Student & Resident Opportunities Report to the TSDA

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The AATS appreciates the opportunity to provide a report to the TSDA. As you will see below we’ve tried to highlight a number of important Resident and Medical Student opportunities being offered by the Association which we hope you might share with colleagues at your institution. Additional details on these activities can be found on either the AATS (www.aats.org) or AATS Graham Foundation (www.AATSGrahamFoundation.org) websites.

AATS and the AATS Graham Foundation
The mission of the AATS is to Promote Scholarship, Innovation, and Leadership in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. Its leadership and its members aspire to emulate the motto: "We Model Excellence" while holding to the AATS core values of Leadership, Scholarship, Mentoring, Excellence in Patient Care, Integrity and Professionalism.

The AATS Graham Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of many AATS initiatives. The Foundation, with the support of the Association provides training awards and educational opportunities to ensure medical students, residents, and cardiothoracic surgeons are provided opportunities to enhance their professional development ensuring the long term strength of the specialty.

Cardiothoracic Residents
AATS provides a number of opportunities available to residents such as;

- **C. Walton Lillehei Forum** – Included in the Annual Meeting program since 1998, the Forum provides an opportunity for 8 residents to present their work selected by the Program Committee. All presenters receive complimentary registration, economy airfare, and accommodations at the Annual Meeting with a winner selected by the CT Residents Committee receiving a $5,000 award.

- **Complimentary Subscriptions to AATS Publications** - Through an educational grant provided by Edwards LifeSciences and support from the AATS Graham Foundation, all North American residents and summer scholars receive a complimentary subscription to the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (JTCVS), Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (Op-Techs) and Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (Seminars).

- **Critical Care Scholarship** – Having just completed its third year, this scholarship provides up to 75 residents (one per approved training program) 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 Foundation to the resident’s institution to help offset the cost of travel and hotel accommodations.

- **JCTSE Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident “Top Gun” and “Jeopardy” Competitions** – The AATS Graham Foundation supports the JCTSE’s Annual “Top Gun” Competition and is providing funding for the JCTSE’s new “Jeopardy” Competition, both of which will be held during the 2015 AATS Annual Meeting.

- **Registration to AATS Meetings** – Residents receive complimentary registration to the AATS Annual Meeting including the Saturday and Sunday courses. Additionally, they receive discounted registration to all other AATS Meetings.

- **Resident Poster Competition** – Provides an opportunity for senior CT surgery residents from across the world to represent their institution by presenting a poster of their clinical or laboratory research
during the Sunday evening Welcome Reception at the AATS Annual Meeting. Participating institutions will receive a stipend of $500 to help offset the cost of their resident’s travel and hotel accommodations.

- **Resident Involvement on AATS Committees** – For several years the AATS has worked with the TSRA and appointed Residents to serve on the Association’s Education, Scientific and Government Relations, Technology and Cardiothoracic Residents Committees. Residents have also been involved in our interaction with the AAMC, have served actively as ad hoc reviewers on the AATS Annual Meeting Abstract Committee, and have participated on the Editorial Board of the Association’s *Op Techs* and the *TSN* publications.

- **Thoracic Surgery News** - 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.

### Medical Students

The AATS and its Foundation have continued its outreach to medical students in several important ways:

- **Registrations to AATS Meetings** – Medical students receive complimentary registration to the AATS Annual Meeting including the Saturday and Sunday courses. Additionally, they receive discounted registration to all other AATS Meetings.

- **Summer Intern Scholarship** – Introduces the field of cardiothoracic surgery to first and second year medical students in a North American medical school by providing them a $2,500 stipend to spend eight weeks during the summer working in a North American AATS Member’s cardiothoracic surgery department. To date 280 Medical Students from 81 unique institutions have participated.

### Medical Students, General Surgery Residents, and Cardiothoracic Residents

- **Member for a Day Program** – Started in 2014, this program provides an opportunity for up to 30 medical students, general surgery residents and intergraded cardiothoracic residents (I-6) who are within their first three clinical years to accompany AATS and TSRA mentors during a portion of the 2015 AATS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. The program is designed to offer insights into the cardiothoracic surgery specialty and to provide an opportunity to network and build relationships within the surgical community. The AATS Graham Foundation provides successful applicants with complimentary hotel accommodations for up to four nights, a stipend of $250 to offset the cost of meals, and an additional stipend of up to $500 to help offset the cost of travel to the Annual Meeting. Accompanying the AATS Member for a Day program is a two-hour session co-chaired by Drs. Harold Burkhart and Walter Merrill, Co-Chairs of the AATS Cardiothoracic Residents Committee. The Session aims to provide medical students, general surgery residents, and I-6 residents with an understanding of the cardiothoracic surgery pathway and important issues that arise when pursuing a career in the specialty.

### Post Residency

- **F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship** – Started in 2014, this fellowship provides an educational experience for North American general thoracic surgeons who have recently completed their residency or fellowship to spend a focused period of four (4) to six (6) weeks’ time studying clinical techniques at a secondary institution in North America. The fellowship is funded and administered by the AATS Graham Foundation and provides a grant of $3,500 to three successful applicants to defray the cost of their living expenses during the four to six weeks of training. Additionally, recipients will receive complimentary registration to the AATS Annual Meeting, including a ticket for Saturday and Sunday courses.

**Application Deadline: January 31, 2015**
• **AATS Research Scholarship** – Provides an opportunity for research, training and experience for North American surgeons committed to pursuing an academic career in cardiothoracic surgery. Funded by the AATS Graham Foundation, a yearly stipend of $80,000 is paid to the host institution for support of salary, research supplies, travel and other legitimate academic expenses of the scholar. The research program must be undertaken within the first three years after completion of an approved cardiothoracic residency. Applications for the scholarship must be submitted during the candidate's first two years in an academic position. The duration of the scholarship is to be two years.

**Additional AATS Graham Foundation Awards**

In 2014, the AATS Graham Foundation, with support from society and industry partners, offered the following awards for cardiothoracic surgeons post training.

• **Fellowship for Advanced Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS) Training, Sponsored By Olympus America**
• **Ethicon Fellowship for Advanced Thoracic Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)**
• **Edwards Lifesciences Advanced Treatments of Valve Disease Fellowship**
• **Cardiothoracic Ethics Forum Scholarship, Supported by the AATS Graham Foundation and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)**