



# AATS

89th Annual Meeting



## DAILY NEWS

### PREVIEW ISSUE

HYNES CONVENTION CENTER, BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS, MAY 9-13, 2009

#### SATURDAY

##### Skills Courses and Symposium

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

New Technologies and Procedures in Congenital and Acquired Heart Surgery

Thoracic Developmental Skills

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Developing the Academic Surgeon

#### SUNDAY

##### AATS/STS Postgraduate Symposia

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Adult Cardiac Surgery

General Thoracic Surgery

Congenital Heart Disease

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum

5:00 PM Welcome Reception

#### MONDAY

7:30 AM AATS Business Session  
(Members only)

7:45 AM Plenary Scientific Session

9:05 AM Award Presentation

10:00 AM Basic Science Lecture

11:25 AM Presidential Address

##### SIMULTANEOUS SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

2:00 PM – 5:05 PM Adult Cardiac

2:00 PM – 5:15 PM General Thoracic

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Congenital Heart

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### Dr. Michio Kaku Is Honored Guest Speaker

This year's Honored Guest Speaker is Michio Kaku, M.D., of the City University of New York. He will give his lecture on Tuesday, May 12, 11:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Ballroom A-C of the Hynes Convention Center.

Dr. Kaku is a theoretical physicist and the author of "Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration of the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation." Among his best known accomplishments is his role as co-founder of string field theory.

Dr. Kaku will be introduced by AATS President Thomas L. Spray, M.D.



## New Sessions Highlight AATS Meeting

The AATS Annual Meeting remains one of the foremost educational experiences for thoracic and cardiovascular professionals in the world. The 2009 meeting in Boston will be no exception, according to AATS President Thomas L. Spray, M.D.

"Over the past several years, we have enhanced the scientific portions of the meeting with new and innovative course offerings. This year, we will introduce two new programs on Saturday: "New Technologies and Procedures in Congenital and Acquired Heart Surgery" and "Thoracic Development Skills." These programs, which will supplement the Developing the Academic

Surgeon program that has long been a popular Saturday offering, will provide a specialized learning opportunity focused on training and skill development in new technologies and techniques, said Dr. Spray.

"Education has long been a focus of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, and we remain committed to maintaining standards and to providing learning opportunities at all levels of training and development. This year, we are particularly excited about the launch of the AATS Academy," said Dr. Spray.

The Academy is an intensive and interactive program for surgeons who have shown significant promise as po-

tential division chiefs or for those who have recently assumed that role, Dr. Spray explained.

"This year, we are also excited to have the Heart Rhythm Society be a part of the AATS Annual Meeting," Dr. Spray said.

"Ablation vs. Surgery for Atrial Fibrillation: Antagonism or Synergism?" will be presented on Wednesday morning as part of the AATS program. Afterward, the faculty will travel across town to present the session at the Heart Rhythm Society's annual meeting that afternoon at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center," Dr. Spray said.

This year's Basic Science Lecturer is Jonathan A. Epstein, M.D. Dr. Epstein will present a talk on cardiovascular insights to be gleaned from developmen-

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THOMAS L. SPRAY, M.D.

## AATS Welcomes Attendees to Boston

David and Linda Sugarbaker, local arrangements co-chairs, have organized an exciting social program for the AATS 2009 Annual Meeting in Boston. Surrounded by history and current culture, Boston is a great city to visit. "The local arrangements committee has been very busy, and my wife Linda and I are very grateful to all the members of the cardiothoracic programs in Boston for their recommendations and suggestions for the social program," said Dr. Sugarbaker.

"Obviously Boston has a very rich history. For those who haven't visited before, the Freedom Trail and Faneuil Hall Marketplace should not be missed. Boston is also well-known for its world-class museums, a thriving theater district, outstanding restaurants, and great local neighborhoods like the North End, Beacon Hill and the Back Bay," continued Dr. Sugarbaker.

"We are very happy to be hosting the AATS Attendee Reception at the Institute of Contemporary Art. The ICA, noted for its architecturally distinct exterior, has one of the nation's finest collections of modern art. It's a fascinating place to visit and I urge attendees to join

us on Tuesday evening," noted Dr. Sugarbaker. (Editor's Note: Registration for the event is \$75.00 and may be made during initial registration or purchased on-site at the AATS Registration Desk.)

Never lacking in a choice for gastronomic delight, Boston has a restaurant for every taste. "In terms of dining, seafood remains the dominant cuisine and there are plenty of wonderful restaurants that specialize in the local flavors. I am sure that AATS participants will have lots of fun exploring both the large scale restaurants and the smaller bistros in Boston's varied neighborhoods," Dr. Sugarbaker added.

"Entertainment options are plentiful. There are local pubs where folks can listen to live Irish music, sophisticated nightclubs, and contemporary establishments like the new House of Blues. Boston also offers a variety of shopping opportunities. Copley Place offers upscale department stores, while Newbury Street is famous for its designer boutiques and couture collections. Boston offers it all!" said Dr. Sugarbaker.

Almost as famous as Boston's history are the city's beloved sports teams.

From the Celtics to the Patriots, Boston teams have earned a reputation for excellence. "Boston is a huge sports town," Dr. Sugarbaker added. "The Red Sox are scheduled to play the Tampa Bay Rays in Boston at Fenway Park on Saturday afternoon and Sunday night during the Annual Meeting."

Boston is a "walking" city and you can experience most of the city's highlights by putting on your comfortable shoes and hitting the pavement. For more information and links to restaurants, shopping, and suggestions on things to do in the Boston area, visit [www.bostonchamber.com](http://www.bostonchamber.com) or [www.boston.com/travel/boston](http://www.boston.com/travel/boston).

AATS has scheduled four specific tours on Saturday and Sunday, each focusing on a different facet of the Boston experience. Preregistration is required for the tours and a minimum number of participants must register or the tours may be cancelled. All tours depart from the Hynes Convention Center.

### Tour 1: Boston by Land and Sea Saturday, May 9 1:30 p.m.–5:45 p.m.

Your afternoon begins with a guided tour aboard a luxury motor coach, viewing the historical landmarks of the 17th,

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DAVID SUGARBAKER, M.D.

## Resident Forum Presents High-Quality Research

The C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum at the 2009 AATS meeting will be co-moderated by Gus J. Vlahakes, M.D. and Ara A. Vaporciyan, M.D. They noted the high quality of the papers selected for this special forum.

Dr. Lillehei was an innovator during a time of rapid change in cardiothoracic surgery. His work led to profound changes in the management of many diseases. However, his commitment to education probably had the most substantial effect on the field through the training and dissemination

of many leaders in cardiothoracic surgery both in America and internationally. This year's forum seeks to emulate both of these attributes in Dr. Lillehei, according to Dr. Vaporciyan.

"I think we should emphasize the role of embracing young surgeons in training, in part to attract them to our field and also, for those already committed, to help in their mentoring. It is also in the spirit of the late Dr. Lillehei, who, over the course of his career, launched many young surgeons on to great roles as academic surgeons and as leaders in the field," added Dr. Vlahakes.

"The CT Residents Committee has selected eight abstracts that represent a wide range of work coming from eminent laboratories throughout North America," Dr. Vaporciyan noted. They touch on a wide range of topics both in and out of the classical laboratory. The laboratory research includes projects that are mechanistic, exploring molecular changes in lung cancer, as well as projects

that are closer to translation to the clinical realm. The outcomes research touches on topics in both cardiac and general thoracic surgery and provides data that



ARA A. VAPORCIYAN, M.D.

can be immediately imported to the bedside. A paper on educational research attempts to address the use of metrics other than case volume to assess technical competency in cardiac surgery, said Dr. Vaporciyan.

"Perhaps the most important aspect of this year's forum is not simply the quality of the papers presented but the high quality of trainees that produced this

work. Clearly, these individuals are driven and gifted, but attention also needs to be shown to the laboratories and departments that provided the environment in which this work could be produced. Mentoring, even when the recipient is motivated, is a significant amount of work. The commitment of these mentors cannot be understated and is another prominent feature of this special forum at the AATS," said Dr. Vaporciyan.

The 12th Annual C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum will be held Sunday, May 10, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 311 of the Hynes Convention Center. The forum consists of 7-minute presentations of original work by North American thoracic surgery residents and/or residents in general surgical training programs who are working in a cardiothoracic surgical laboratory or clinical rotation. An 8-minute discussion follows each presentation.

The Lillehei Forum is made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from St. Jude Medical. ■

## New Session on Simulation In CT Surgical Education

Recognizing that new and creative educational techniques are essential to the future of CT education and training, the AATS has scheduled a special session on Tuesday at 11:20 a.m. as part of the Plenary Session. "The Role of Simulation in Future Cardiothoracic Surgical Education" will provide a brief snapshot into the potential of this technology in cardiothoracic education.

The use of simulation in training will allow for interdisciplinary training in all areas of thoracic surgery and will become a core element of resident education and postgraduate training.

The session will include multidisciplinary contributions by Dan Raemer, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Bioengineer in the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital and Director of Research and Development at the Center for Medical Simulation in Cambridge, Massa-

chusetts, Yolonda L. Colson, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor in Thoracic Surgery and Gregory S. Couper, M.D., Assistant Professor in Cardiac Surgery, both at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Edward Verrier, M.D., Surgical Director of Education of the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education will introduce the session. ■



### Notice of AATS Annual Business Meeting

(AATS Members Only)

**Monday, May 11**  
7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Executive Session  
**Tuesday, May 12**  
5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

## Heart Surgery Course Features New Technology

A new heart surgery course will be held Saturday, May 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Room 302-306 of the Hynes Convention Center.

"The AATS keeps its constituency current in emerging issues and technologies in many ways. One of the venues is their sponsored Skills Courses, which precede the annual meeting. This year, 'New Technologies and Procedures in Congenital and Acquired Heart Surgery' is a great example of the coming together of new technology with clinical procedures to meet the

needs of complex cardiopulmonary abnormalities. Moreover, this session highlights the increasing collaboration between industry and physicians as well as the important collaboration between surgeons and interventional cardiologists," according to Mark Galantowicz, M.D., the course director.

"The session begins with a focus on one of the most complex groups of patients: those with end-stage heart and/or lung failure requiring replacement therapy with either mechanical assist devices or transplantation. A representative from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute will share information on how new mechanical assist devices are evalu-

ated with a focus on pediatric devices. Then experts will share information on the decision matrix used in deciding how to support children and adults with heart

or lung failure. An exciting emerging area of pulmonary mechanical support will be presented as well," he added.

"The next part of the course looks at the other end of the spectrum: complex newborn heart abnormalities that are beginning to be treated with new hybrid procedures. These hybrid approaches are the result of a growing collaboration between

surgeons and interventional cardiologists, as well as the use of emerging technology," he explained.

The session will end with discussions from the perspectives of a pediatric surgeon and an adult surgeon on new imaging techniques to improve outcomes for open heart surgery.

"We are appreciative of the knowledge and experience that will be shared by our visionary experts. A lively, informative discussion is anticipated," he concluded.

A separate subscription obtained when registering for the annual meeting is required to attend this symposium. ■



MARK GALANTOWICZ, M.D.

## Meeting Highlights

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tal and stem cell biology.

The Honored Guest Speaker is Dr. Michio Kaku, a well-known theoretical physicist and author of "Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration of the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation."

"I urge you to review the entire AATS Annual Meeting program at [www.aats.org](http://www.aats.org) and to join us in Boston. The history and culture of this distinguished city will provide the perfect setting for our state-of-the-art scientific program," Dr. Spray concluded.

All AATS attendees are encouraged

to attend Dr. Spray's presidential address Monday, May 11, at 11:25 a.m. in Ballroom A-C, Hynes Convention Center.

Dr. Spray is chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the Alice Langdon Warner Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Director of the hospital's Thoracic Organ Transplantation Program and Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He serves as the Executive Director of the Cardiac Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. ■

## AATS Attendee Reception at the ICA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is noted for its architecturally distinct exterior as well as the modern art within its walls, creating the ultimate contemporary aesthetic experience for the AATS Attendee Reception.

Come and join us for a reception featuring wonderful food, cocktails and entertainment!

The AATS Attendee Reception will be held Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please purchase tickets when you register for the meeting. Or you may purchase them onsite at the AATS Registration Desk.

**Reception Ticket Price: \$75**





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## Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall

Everyone is invited to attend the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening that officially opens the Exhibit Hall.

"The Exhibit Hall is a great place for surgeons to learn the latest techniques and technology in cardiothoracic surgery," said Yvonne Grunebaum, CEM,



AATS director of industry relations.

"Many exhibitors will present the latest information on their products; there will be a number of product launches as well as in-booth presentations throughout the meeting. Please check the AATS Daily for further details," she said. ■

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## Exhibit Hall Hours

**Sunday, May 10**  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, May 11**  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 12**  
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## 'Fontan at 40' Featured At Heart Disease Session

The AATS/STS Congenital Heart Disease Symposium will be held Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Room 312, the Hynes Convention Center.

"The two things I want to emphasize about the symposium are the session on the 'Fontan/Kreutzer Procedure at 40,' which is at the end of the afternoon, and the 'Clinical Research in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: How Can We do Better?' session in the morning. These are the two major highlights of the program," according to J. William Gaynor, M.D., of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the symposium chair.

"The Fontan session will feature Francis M. Fontan, M.D. (Bordeaux, France) and Guillermo O. Kreutzer, M.D. (Ricardo Gutierrez Children's Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina), who basically developed the procedure," Dr. Gaynor commented.

"The session will also include Marc R. de Leval, M.D. (International Congenital Cardiac Centre, London), who is the person primarily responsible for the current approach taken to the Fontan procedure. All three of these pioneers will be speaking at the symposium.

"There is a saying about science about 'standing on the shoulders of giants.' Well, these are three of the giants. So this is going to be a very exciting and important session," Dr. Gaynor said.

Much of the program will focus on how to improve research. The morning session on performing clinical research will include speakers who have been among the princi-

pal investigators on some of the most important studies done in the last 15-20 years in pediatric cardiac surgery, according to Dr. Gaynor. They will talk about lessons they have learned and how to develop better research protocols for the future.

"One of the big unresolved questions in all of medicine is: why do two people who you think are the same act differently in terms of medical response? This will be addressed in the session titled 'Variability in Outcomes,'" Dr. Gaynor said.

This session will include discussions of perioperative genomics, difficulties in comparing outcomes between institutions, and the difficulties of translating clinical research to clinical practice.

Among the other highlights of the symposium, according to Dr. Gaynor, are the two pro/con debates by leaders in the field, which are scheduled for the morning.

The first, "NIRS is 'Standard of Care' for Postoperative Management," will be debated by James S. Tweddell, M.D., on the pro side, and Jennifer C. Hirsch, M.D., on the con side.

The second debate will address "Use of a Fenestration Should be Routine During the Fontan Procedure." Scott M. Bradley, M.D., will take the pro side, and Frank L. Hanley, M.D., will take the con side.

In addition, there will be two surgical techniques "How I Do It" sessions that should prove very useful and interesting, said Dr. Gaynor.

A separate subscription obtained when registering for the annual meeting is required to attend this symposium. ■



J. WILLIAM GAYNOR, M.D.

## Experts Share Insights on Future of Academic Surgery

This year's Developing the Academic Surgeon Symposium will focus on the future of academic cardiothoracic surgery.

"As innovation, economics, and competing technologies change the face of cardiothoracic surgery, practitioners must adapt," said course chairman A. Marc Gillinov, M.D., of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Irving L. Kron, M.D., of the University of Virginia Health System, will highlight the importance of academic surgery. Stephen C. Yang, M.D., of Johns Hopkins University and Matthew R. Williams, M.D., of Columbia University will discuss new training paradigms.

James L. Cox, M.D., of Washington University, will highlight opportunities in cardiothoracic surgery, and David R. Jones, M.D., of the University of Virginia Health System, and Dr. Gillinov will describe how

these opportunities influence basic and applied research.

"Outcomes have never been more important," said Dr. Gillinov. Eugene H. Blackstone, M.D., of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Timothy J. Gardner, M.D., of the Christiana Care Health System will present novel approaches to assessing therapies, including comment on the National Institutes of Health-sponsored cardiothoracic surgical trials network. Bruce Lytle, M.D., of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation will discuss an integrated approach to cardiovascular disease.

The symposium will be held on Saturday, May 9, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 302-306 of the Hynes Convention Center. A separate subscription obtained when registering for the annual meeting is required to attend this symposium. ■



A. MARC GILLINOV, M.D.

## New Skills Course Covers Wide Range of Techniques

The Thoracic Developmental Skills course will consist of lectures given by young pioneers in the field of minimally invasive surgery as well as seasoned experts who will describe various open techniques, according to Raja M. Flores, M.D., Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the course chairman. The course will be held Saturday, May 9, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Room 312, Hynes Convention Center.

The session will start with a presentation on endo-bronchial ultrasound and the role of the thoracic surgeon by Harvey Pass, M.D., a well-known pioneer in the field of thoracic surgery. Dr. Flores and Bernie Park, M.D., will describe the technical aspects of VATS and robotic lobectomy for each specific lobe. Robert McKenna, M.D., the father of minimally invasive thoracic surgery, will present the technical details of VATS LVRS and thoracoscopic sympathectomy.

Tips and pitfalls for major intratho-

racic vascular resection and reconstruction techniques will be provided by Erino Rendina, M.D., of La Sapienza, Italy. Dr. Rendina has considerable experience with these techniques. Afterward, there will be back-to-back sessions on esophageal surgery: Manjiv Bains, M.D., will describe his refined Ivor Lewis technique, after which Michael Kent, M.D., will present his experience with minimally invasive esophageal surgery. The audience can then compare the techniques, Dr. Flores noted.

Former AATS president Joel Cooper, M.D., will present tricks of the trade in managing tracheal lesions.

The session will end with Michael Weyant, M.D., who will discuss various methods of chest wall resection and reconstruction and indications for prosthetic devices based on his large study.

A separate subscription obtained when registering for the annual meeting is required to attend this symposium. ■



RAJA M. FLORES, M.D.

## Stem Cell Biology Explained In Basic Science Lecture

Jonathan A. Epstein, M.D., has been selected to present this year's Basic Science Lecture, "Insights from Developmental and Stem Cell Biology." The lecture will be given Monday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m., Ballroom A-C of the Hynes Convention Center.

Dr. Epstein is the William Wikoff Smith Professor of Medicine, and Chairman, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, at the University of Pennsylvania as well as the Scientific Director of the Penn Cardiovascular Institute and the Founding Co-Director of the Penn In-

stitute of Regenerative Medicine.

"Dr. Epstein is an expert in the molecular mechanisms of cardiovascular development and will contribute that knowledge to how we understand and treat human disease," said AATS President Thomas L. Spray, M.D.

Dr. Epstein's major accomplishments include receiving two major awards: the Sir William Osler Young Investigator Award—Interurban Club (2001) and the Outstanding Investigator Award—American Federation for Medical Research (2006). In addition, Dr. Epstein is the Associate Editor of the Journal of Clinical Investigation. ■



JONATHAN A. EPSTEIN, M.D.

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Register online with credit card payment only: [www.aats.org](http://www.aats.org)

\*Please note that you may register for the meeting and book your hotel reservation simultaneously when registering online.

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#### Call Directly

866-229-2386 or 301-694-5243 (International)

#### Deadline: April 3, 2009.

Please note that after April 3, registration fees will increase. Early registration is encouraged.

Continued from page 1

## TUESDAY

7:00 AM – 8:45 AM

Cardiac Surgery Forum

General Thoracic Surgery Forum

8:45 AM – 11:20 AM

Plenary Scientific Session

11:20 AM – 11:50 AM

Simulation Session

11:50 AM – 12:30 PM

Honored Speaker Lecture

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**SIMULTANEOUS SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS**

Adult Cardiac

General Thoracic

Congenital Heart

5:00 PM Executive Session

(Members Only)

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Attendee Reception

## WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Emerging Technologies and  
Techniques Forum

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Controversies in Cardiothoracic  
Surgery

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ablation vs. Surgery for Atrial  
Fibrillation

Pneumonectomy: A Treatment or a  
Disease?

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### The AATS Daily News

The Official Newspaper of the  
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# Touring Boston

continued from page 1

18th, and 19th centuries, as well as the 20th and 21st century skyscrapers that have so radically altered the Shawmut Peninsula. At the waterfront, it's "All Aboard" for a 45-minute cruise of Boston Harbor, where we'll view the harbor islands as well as the Port of Boston and the Charlestown Navy Yard, berth of the USS Constitution. After the cruise, we take to the streets in the quaint North End, historic Quincy Market, and Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

### Tour 2: A Visit to Salem and Marblehead and the Collections of the Peabody Essex Museum Sunday, May 10 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Our visit begins in picturesque Salem, where we'll tour the historic district to view the magnificent Georgian and Federal period mansions built for Salem's wealthiest merchants and for the sea captains



The Peabody Essex Museum atrium.

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of yore. A tour through this town affords a special view of life in the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as after the American Revolution, when Salem was a principal seaport. A highlight will be a guided tour through the Peabody Essex Museum (America's oldest continuing museum) and its outstanding collections including maritime art, American decorative arts and furniture, and Asian export art. Before returning to Boston, we'll drive along the spectacular coastline of Marblehead, one of New England's most charming towns.

### Tour 3: Private Homes of Beacon Hill Monday, May 11 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Beacon Hill is best known for its steep cobbled streets, brick townhouses, gaslights, and hidden gardens. This is a unique opportunity to visit private homes in one of the country's most venerated neighborhoods of historic homes built after the American Revolution. Knowledgeable guides, all of whom live in the area, will share the history of "The Hill" and escort us on a tour of three private homes. A large percentage of the tour fee is donated to charities dedicated to improving the lives of local women and children. Much of this tour will be on foot, and

sidewalks and streets are bricked and cobblestoned. Please dress accordingly as this tour is held rain or shine.

### Tour 4: Boston Old and New Tuesday, May 12 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Your guide will bring historic Boston alive as you tour landmarks and architectural monuments of the past, and the skyscrapers of the present. You will be able to view the palatial mansions and churches of the Victorian Back Bay, the charming Beacon Hill streetscapes, as well as the colonial highlights of the Freedom Trail before strolling through the North End.



Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

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The next stop is the Charlestown Navy Yard for a visit to the beloved USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides"), the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Your final stop on this tour will be Faneuil Hall and America's oldest marketplace, Quincy Market, in all of its revitalized splendor. Here you will meander among the various shops, the outdoor restaurants, vendor carts, and street musicians that make this neighborhood such a vibrant place. ■

## General Thoracic Surgery Symposium Features Experts

The AATS/STS General Thoracic Surgery Symposium will be held Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 302-306 in the Hynes Convention Center. The symposium chair is David H. Harpole, Jr., M.D., of Duke University.

"This year's General Thoracic Surgery Symposium will be a great course, featuring talks by some of the leading experts in their respective fields," according to Dr. Harpole.

The course will be divided into three sessions.

In the morning, Session I will focus on issues in non-small cell lung cancer staging and treatment. Expert speakers will address new lung cancer staging, chemotherapy 101, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, anti-angiogenesis and other molecular targets, radiotherapy 101, and current early-stage lung cancer trials.

Session II will focus on controversies in lung cancer, including a presentation on mediastinoscopy or EBUS/EUS, a discussion of who is medically inoperable, a presentation of ablative therapy for nodules, and the issue of "up front" or "outback" chemotherapy.

Session III will provide an overall update of general thoracic surgery issues, including presentations on STS database risk adjustment, pulmonary metastasectomy, and interventions for emphysema.

A separate subscription obtained when registering for the annual meeting is required to attend this symposium. ■

## Many Strides Made in Adult Cardiac Surgery

The AATS/STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Symposium will be held Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Ballroom 20 A-C of the Hynes Convention Center. Michael A. Acker, M.D., and Joseph E. Bavaria, M.D., both of the University of Pennsylvania, are co-chairs.

"This year will feature some of the top players in the field and will highlight treatment of thoracic aorta disease, advances in valve repair, treatment of atrial fibrillation and heart failure, and current issues in coronary artery bypass, including the use of stents and off-pump vs. on-pump procedures," Dr. Bavaria said.

Session I, on the thoracic aorta, will feature a discussion of current trends and results in TEVAR, and the role of TEVAR in the setting of type A and type B dissection. There will also be a presentation on the hybrid arch.

Session II is devoted to aortic valve repair. Transcatheter valve replacement will also be covered, including femoral and transapical approaches.

Session III is devoted to mitral valve repair.

"Additionally, the postgraduate course will attempt to shed some light on the decision-making process used by surgeons when they encounter the various combinations of two-valve disease,"

Dr. Bavaria added. This will be the primary focus of Session IV, which will also have a presentation on the surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation.

Treatments for heart failure will be discussed in Session V, which will include presentations

on functional mitral regurgitation and the use of VADs as a possible solution. Finally, Session VI will be devoted to coronary artery bypass and will feature a presentation on stenting, as well as a three-way debate on the optimal way of doing coronary revascularization, contrasting off-pump vs. on-pump and hybrid procedures.

A separate subscription that can be obtained when registering for the annual meeting is required to attend this symposium. ■



JOSEPH E. BAVARIA, M.D.



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