

# AATS GRAHAM FOUNDATION



# PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AROUND THE GLOBE



www.aatsgrahamfoundation.org

## MISSION

Driving leadership, learning and innovation in the pursuit of excellence.

# VISION

We envision a dynamic and innovative future of continued excellence for cardiothoracic surgery.

# **VALUES**

# **Academic Exchange**

It is our past and our future.

# Innovation and Collaboration

Working together to advance and achieve our mission.

# **Advancing Patient Care**

Our cornerstone as physicians.

# Fostering Leadership

Maintaining excellence for future generations.

# **Trusted Stewardship**

Honoring our history and safeguarding our future.

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# A YEAR OF LEADERSHIP, LEARNING AND INNOVATION

In 2014, the AATS Graham Foundation continued to fulfill its mission of **leadership, learning and innovation** through an impressive roster of 15 programs. Our fellowship and scholarship opportunities make a difference at every level of a cardiothoracic (CT) surgeon's development — expanding the knowledge and skills of medical students, residents, fellows, recent graduates and practicing surgeons.

During the year, we were also looking toward the future, partnering with industry members — AtriCure, the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, Ethicon China, Ethicon, Intuitive, Medtronic and Olympus America — to develop exciting new curricula for 2015.

It was a year of **leadership**. We reached young CT surgeons through the Research Scholarship, Resident Poster Competition and the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education (JCTSE) Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident "Top Gun" Competition. We also focused on leadership within the surgical team via the Allied Health Professionals Poster Competition and scholarships to the FACTS-Care Cardiovascular-Thoracic (CVT) Critical Care Conference.

It was a year of **learning**, providing training opportunities in a wide-range of areas including CT ethics, heart valve disease, minimally invasive surgery (MIS), robotic surgery and more. Additionally, the Foundation has provided educational opportunities for residents and medical students through the Member for a Day program and the Summer Intern Scholarship.

And it was a year of **innovation**, funding clinical and translational research for surgical investigators, as well as planning new international endeavors — which will bring Chinese surgeons to the U.S. for advanced education and provide state-of-the-art heart valve disease information at a Brazil conference to surgeons dealing with underserved populations.

We could not continue to reinforce our mission and offer such a vast array of opportunities without the support of our donors, including AATS members - 75 percent of whom have sustained our work though their generosity, including donation of their honoraria.

Every day, CT surgeons change the lives of their patients. And every day, young men and women around the world are selecting CT surgery as a career. We are committed to ensuring that these patients get the highest level of care possible from surgeons who have had the opportunity to continually hone and update their knowledge and skills.

Please be a part of this important work by making a donation to the Foundation or renewing your support. Together, we can safeguard our specialty for the next generation of surgeons and patients, alike.

David J. Sugarbaker, MD

President

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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Craig R. Smith, MD NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center

Lars G. Svensson, MD Cleveland Clinic

James S. Tweddell, MD Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

# MARC R. DE LEVAL, MD, FRCS

The Harley Street Clinic/Congenital Heart Centre

London, England

A native of Belgium, Marc de Leval was fascinated with the developing field of cardiothoracic surgery. He decided to become a heart surgeon, but there was no program in his home country. He applied for a Graham Fellowship hoping to study management of complex congenital malformations at the Mayo Clinic.

The...fellowship was the single most significant event of my professional career.

de Leval was exposed to surgery during the day and the intensive care unit at night. It was the early days of the Fontan operation — one of de Leval's future research interests. He studied with Gordon Danielson, Dwight McGoon and Robert Wallace. Dr. McGoon inspired de Leval's research on the role of human factors on surgery outcomes.

...Dr. McGoon had the greatest impact, and I often likened him as a second father.

de Leval's Graham Fellowship was the start of his 40-year affiliation with AATS.

All of this would not have happened without the Evarts Graham Fellowship.

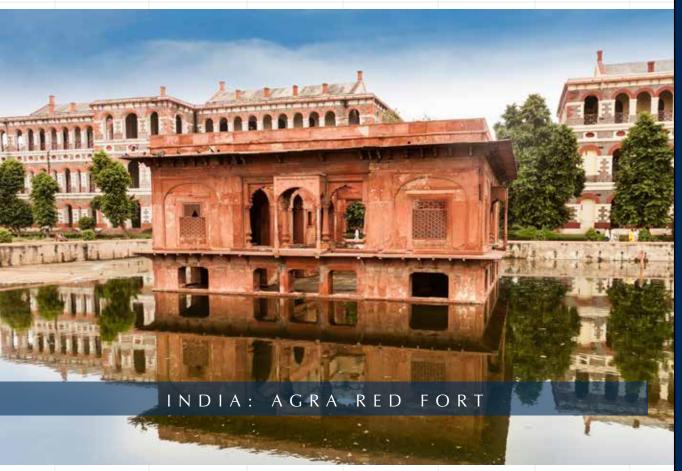


# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 1973-1974



# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 2008-2009





# SACHIN TALWAR, MS, MCH, FIACS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

New Delhi, India

During his residency, it became clear to
Sachin Talwar that congenital heart disease was
prevalent in India, but that there were few specialists
in the field or centers for them to operate in.
He knew he wanted to become a pediatric cardiac
surgeon and needed to study at a center with strict
protocols spanning from diagnosis to discharge.

...I have learned that...congenital cardiac surgery requires a multi-pronged approach with learning of proper established protocols.

His primary host institution was Children's National Medical Center (Washington, D.C.). Its Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery — Richard Jonas — is a pediatric cardiac surgery pioneer. Talwar was exposed to a wide range of experiences — patient care, cardiac ICU, cardiac catheterization, cardiac MRI, fetal heart program, telecardiology, family care. At the end of his fellowship, Talwar built a perfusion guideline, which he believed would work in India. Today, he is a pediatric cardiac surgeon at AIIMS.

I hope that I will be able to develop many protocols and take part in multi-institutional studies to enhance my own skills and contribute to the specialty.

# PROMOTING EXCELLENCE: OUR PROGRAMS

#### **Allied Health Poster Competition**

Provides CT allied health professionals with an opportunity to present a poster on research or innovative approaches to patient management at the AATS Annual Meeting. The winner receives a \$1,000 stipend to offset their travel/accommodation expenses.

#### **Cardiothoracic Ethics Forum Scholarship**

Fosters future leaders in CT ethics by offering scholarships in amounts up to \$10,000, allowing surgeons to receive biomedical ethics education and training at leading North American bioethics centers.

#### **Cardiothoracic Surgical Investigator Program**

Provides up to \$50,000 annually per recipient to support innovative clinical or translational research by young CT surgeons for up to three years.

#### **Critical Care Scholarship**

Exposes CT surgery residents to cardiovascular critical care by providing complimentary registration and funding for travel to attend the annual FACTS-Care CVT Critical Care Conference.

#### Edwards Lifesciences Advanced Treatments of Valve Disease Fellowship

Offers an award of \$25,000 to defray travel and living expenses for a minimum of three months training at a host institution in valve repair, transcatheter repair or replacement of valves.

#### Evarts A. Graham Traveling Fellowship

Enhances the training of international academic CT surgeons and increases their international contacts by underwriting one-year of study at North American institutions. Includes a \$75,000 stipend and round-trip airfare. Since 1951, fellows have included 63 individuals from 32 countries.

#### F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship

Supports surgeons who have finished their residencies to advance their clinical techniques at a North American host institute. Each fellow receives \$3,500 to defray living expenses during four to six weeks of training. This is the first "Honoring Our Mentors Fellowship," a program acknowledging the leadership and dedication of surgeons in the field.

#### **Intuitive Surgical Robotics Fellowship**

Familiarizes North American general thoracic fellows and their attending surgeons with the Da Vinci robotics system during two days of onsite, advanced training. Includes a \$2,500 grant to defray airfare to and accommodations at the training center.

# **Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education** Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident "Top Gun" Competition

Gives five CT residents the opportunity to present live demonstrations of their skills at the AATS Annual Meeting.

#### **Journal Subscriptions**

Provides North American residents and trainees complimentary one-year online and print subscriptions to The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (JTCVS), Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

#### C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum

Enables eight residents to present and compete for a \$5,000 award at the AATS Annual Meeting by funding their registration, travel and expenses.

#### Member for a Day Program

Gives North American medical students, general surgery residents and integrated CT residents (first to third years) the opportunity to accompany an AATS Member Mentor during segments of the AATS Annual Meeting. Awardees receive \$750 in stipends to offset travel and meal costs.

## Research Scholarship

Supports North American surgeons with a two-year \$160,000 grant to pursue research, training and clinical experience. Scholarships are named after past presidents of the Association. To date, 34 awardees have received over \$4 million in grants.

#### **Resident Poster Competition**

Enables senior CT surgery residents and/or congenital heart surgery fellows from around the world to present a poster of their clinical or laboratory research at the AATS Annual Meeting. Recipients each receive a \$500 grant to offset travel/accommodations and complimentary registration to the conference. Three recipients will be selected to represent each subspecialty for a total of nine recipients.

#### Summer Intern Scholarship

Provides first- and second-year medical students with an eight-week summer internship in an AATS member's CT surgery department. Includes a \$2,500 grant for living expenses. To date, 250 North American students from 75 medical schools have received almost one million dollars in scholarships.

June 1917 1927-1928 February 1917 1931-1957

Evarts Ambrose Graham, MD served as the tenth AATS President. Dr. Graham was Founding Editor of the Journal of Thoracic Surgery (now the Journal of Thoracic and

Cardiovascular Surgery).

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# YEAR AT A GLANCE

Since its inception, AATS Graham Foundation has been making an impact through leadership, learning and innovation.

Our education, research and collaborative programs help ensure a vital future for CT surgery by supporting and mentoring the next generation.

Foundation accomplishments in the time period from May 2014 to April 2015 include:

Introduced the first Cardiothoracic Surgical Investigator Program class — Drs. Felix Fernandez (Emory University), Danielle Gottlieb (Columbia University), Mark Onaitis (Duke University), Brendon Stiles (Weill Cornell Medical College) and Bo Yang (University of Michigan).

Initiated the Intuitive Surgical Robotics Fellowship with eight recipients and their attending surgeons participating in two days of didactic and hands-on learning at Intuitive.

Named Dr. Yaxing Shen of Shanghai, China as the 2015 63rd Evarts A. Graham Traveling Fellowship recipient. Dr. Thomas D'Amico at Duke University will serve as Dr. Shen's primary sponsor.

Announced awardees of the two-year \$160,000 Third Alton Ochsner Research Scholarship (2015-2017) — Drs. Prashanth Vallabhajosyula (University of Pennsylvania) and Jonathan Spicer (McGill University).

Received a grant from the Edwards Lifesciences
Foundation to underwrite the Every Heartbeat Matters
Fellowship and a fall 2015 Cardiovascular Valve
Symposium in São Paulo, Brazil.

Selected 17 Critical Care Scholarship recipients, who attended the 2014 FACTS-Care CVT Critical Care Conference in Washington, DC.

Chose Drs. Jennifer Ellis, John W. Entwistle and Kathleen N. Fenton for the Cardiothoracic Ethics Forum Scholarship.

Funded Dr. Olugbenga T. Okusanya as the 2014 winner of the C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum.

Obtained funding from AtriCure for the James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation.

Offered residents and trainees journal subscriptions to *JTCVS, Seminars* and *OpTechs*.

Granted funding for the third JCTSE Resident "Top Gun" and first "Jeopardy" Competitions to be held at the 2015 AATS Annual Meeting.

Launched the second Pursuit of Excellence Annual Campaign.

Received a grant from Ethicon for the Fellowship for Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS).

Received a multi-year grant from Medtronic for an Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship launching in spring 2015.

Announced 25 presenters for the Allied Health and 58 presenters for the **Resident Poster Competitions** at the 2015 AATS Annual Meeting.

Named Dr. Victor Dayan of Hospital de Clinicas, Centro Cardiovascular-Montevideo in Uruguay as recipient of the Edwards Lifesciences Advanced Treatments of Valve Disease Fellowship.

1985

Obtained funding from Olympus America for the Fellowship for Advanced Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS) Training.

Expanded the 2015 Intuitive Surgical Robotics Fellowship to 20 Fellows and their attending surgeons, who will participate in training on the Da Vinci System at Intuitive's facilities in July and August 2015.

Announced 42 Summer Intern Scholars and 30 Member for a Day participants.

Received a grant from Ethicon China and Chinese International Medical Foundation for the Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship.

Selected Drs. James Lubawski (Central DuPage Hospital) and Pablo Sanchez (University of Maryland) as the 2015 F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship recipients.

Hosted the AATS Graham Foundation Awards reception at the AATS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA to congratulate the recent awardees.

1998

6

1951

The Evarts A. Graham Memorial
Traveling Fellowship established in

AATS Graham Foundation founded to manage the Graham Traveling Fellowship and serve as funding arm for AATS

1973

A two-year AATS research scholarship program established. Each year's scholarship honors one of the specialty's major contributor to the science of CT Surgery.

**C. Walton Lillehei Forum** initiated to provide residents with the opportunity to present original research at the AATS Annual Meeting.



# SECOND ALTON OCHSNER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP 2002-2004

YOLONDA COLSON, MD, PHD Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Yolonda Colson received her scholarship while at the Brigham and Women's Hospital to support her project entitled "Identification of Clinically Relevant Approaches to Nonablative Chimerism-Induced Transplantation Tolerance." Its success led to funding for a NIH-RO1 grant and publication of several papers in high-impact journals.

Receiving an AATS Research scholarship helped me build a foundation of scientific credibility and respect from my peers...



# CT SURGICAL **INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM** 2014-2015

BO YANG, MD University of Michigan Health System

Bo Yang's study is aimed at modeling vascular smooth muscle cell dysfunction by creating NOTCH 1 mutation in human-induced pleuripotent stem (iPS) cells. The project seeks to determine the mechanisms involved in thoracic aneurysm formation in bicuspid aortic valve patients and help develop therapeutic strategies for preventing it.

The research kick-started my career goals. I had significant preliminary data to apply for AHA Scientist Development and NIH K08 awards.

# **NEW IN 2015**

In 2015, the AATS Graham Foundation will continue to make an impact on the future of CT surgery. In addition to already-existing fellowships, scholarships and programs, we have added new initiatives that will enhance and grow leadership, learning and innovation in the field.

# **Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship**

#### **Sponsored by Medtronic**

Offers surgeons the opportunity to interactively observe valvular heart disease specialists and connect with them about treatment, technical skills, and management of perioperative patients for a minimum of one month to three months.

## Fellowship for Advanced Thoracic Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)

#### Sponsored by Ethicon

Offers North American young CT surgeons and their surgical teams the opportunity to enhance their skills in thoracic minimally invasive surgery by spending a one- or two-day period at clinical sites.

#### James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery **Sponsored by AtriCure**

Gives newly graduated CT surgeons the opportunity to spend three months improving their atrial fibrillation techniques at a host institution.

## **Every Heartbeat Matters Valve Fellowship**

## Sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences Foundation

Funds the improvement of heart valve disease knowledge and skill training for surgeons around the world who treat individuals with limited access to healthcare. Surgeons may apply for up to three months of study.

#### **Every Heartbeat Matters: 2015 AATS** Cardiovascular Valve Symposium in São Paulo, Brazil

#### Sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences Foundation

Provides state-of-the-art valve knowledge to physicians who treat underserved patients in Central and South America. The symposium will be held on November 20 and 21.

#### Fellowship for Advanced **Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS) Training**

#### Sponsored by Olympus America

Permits young North American thoracic surgeons to spend between one and six months studying clinical techniques at an EBUS-proficient institution.

## **JCTSE Cardiothoracic Surgery** Resident "Jeopardy" Competition

Gives CT resident teams of two the opportunity to display their cognitive, research and technical skills at the AATS Annual Meeting. Each winning team member receives a \$500 prize. The Foundation provides funding for the competition.

# **Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship**

## Sponsored by Ethicon China and Chinese International Medical Foundation

Offers young Chinese surgeons the opportunity to spend between one month and one year obtaining advanced thoracic surgery skills at North American institutions.

2007

2012

Critical Care Scholarship

added, supporting residents to attend this important meeting.

**Resident Poster Competition** initiated at the AATS Annual Meeting. Complimentary one-year subscriptions to JTCVS, Operative Techniques in Thoracic and

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Cardiovascular Surgery and Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery distributed to North American residents and trainees.



CT SURGICAL **INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM** 2014-2015

FELIX FERNANDEZ, MD **Emory University** 

Felix Fernandez is performing a pilot study capturing patient reported outcomes (PROs) from lung cancer resection patients and integrating them into Emory's General Thoracic Surgery Database of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). He is developing a capture mechanism, merging the information, and then using the combined data for comparative effectiveness research (CER).

Without the research infrastructure support by this award, this clinical study would not be feasible.



CT SURGICAL INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM 2014-2015

DANIELLE GOTTLIEB, MD Columbia University

Danielle Gottlieb wants to become a congenital heart surgeon. Physicians in this specialty often face situations in which implanted tissues do not grow in pediatric patients. Her research investigates gene transcription in growth of normal human fetal heart valves to identify the mechanisms of normal tissue growth.

This award has been essential for...my research...The information could potentially have broad application in congenital heart surgery.

# INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Every day, CT surgeons transform the lives of their patients.

The AATS and the AATS Graham Foundation have nurtured CT specialists over the years. Our programs make a difference by advancing patient care and ensuring excellence in the field.

Our educational and training opportunities have impacted the skills of CT surgeons from around the world and at every professional level. We have been in the forefront of supporting vital research leading to new treatments, cutting-edge technologies and improved transplant management.

As the world population ages, the incidence of cardiovascular disease will continue to grow. In 1950, 205 million people in the world were 60-years-old and older. The number of older individuals increased to almost 810 million in 2012 and is estimated to more than double to two (2) billion in 2050.1

At the same time, the demand for CT surgeons could grow by as much as 46 percent, raising concerns that the number of qualified specialists might shrink — impacting quality of care.2

That's why our work is essential.

Many of today's leaders in the field benefited from our programs early in their careers. Current and future generations of CT surgeons deserve the same opportunities.

In 2015, we will be supporting over 20 programs that enhance the education and skills of CT surgeons, residents and medical students. Programs that make an impact by driving leadership, learning and innovation.

Be part of this important work and help us ensure high quality care for CT patients. Join the individuals, corporations and organizations that are investing in present and future CT surgeons. Become an AATS Graham Foundation donor.

supported by

<sup>1.</sup> United National Population Fund, Aging in the Twenty-first Century: A Celebration and A Challenge, pg.1, http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/ resource-pdf/UNFPA-Report-Chapter1.pdf.

<sup>2.</sup> Grover et al, "Shortage of Cardiovascular Surgeons is Likely by 2020," Circulation, 2009; 120: 488-494, http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/120/6/488. full (Sources of Funding: This work was supported by the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.)



WÄEL C. HANNA, MDCM, MBA, FRCSC McMaster University, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, ON, Canada

Wäel C. Hanna was a F. G. Pearson Fellow at the University of Montreal's CHUM Endoscopic Thoracic and Oesophageal Centre (CETOC), where his mentor was the Centre's Director Moishe Liberman. CETOC is a state-of-the-art institution for advanced esophageal and tracheobronchial procedures, and a referral center for Quebec province and the rest of Canada.

I was warmly welcomed and became rapidly acquainted with the surgeons, residents, nurses, and technicians of CETOC.

## F. GRIFFITH PEARSON FELLOWSHIP 2014

During his training, Hanna was able to perfect a variety of endosonagraphic skills. In addition, he also learned the logistics and processes of a complex endosonography program.

Information gleaned during the fellowship allowed him to develop a proposal for a complex endosonography program at McMaster.

The first procedure at its newly-launched Esophageal and Thoracic Endosonography Centre (E•TEC) took place in October 2014.

...the fellowship was instrumental in creating the opportunity that led to the successful launch of E•TEC.

Webster's Falls



EMMANUEL P. BESSAY, MD, PHD Fourth Year Surgical Resident Texas A&M, College Station, TX

As I prepare for my second year of medical school, I find myself in an enviable position and at a superior advantage...after this internship. (2007)

# **SUMMER INTERN SCHOLAR 2007**

Since being a Summer Intern Scholar,
Emmanuel Bessay has graduated from
Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine and is
in his fourth year of surgical residency.
His story is especially compelling. Bessay had
always wanted to be a physician — since
the time of his infant brother's death.
But he grew up during the Liberian civil war.
Quality medical care was limited. Still,
basic medical training and time
spent volunteering at local health clinics
continued to fuel his dream.

After the war, while working as a warehouse manager in Monrovia, Bessay decided to try to pursue his medical education somewhere else.

His move to the United States was powered by a series of lucky circumstances, leading to a college scholarship. Bessay received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology, followed by a PhD from Vanderbilt University.

He plans to put his medical skills to use back in his home country.





MARK K. FERGUSON, MD University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Mark Ferguson was the first recipient of an

AATS Research Scholarship, which was named after
his mentor's mentor — Edward D. Churchill,
former Surgery Chair at Massachusetts
General Hospital. He applied
for the scholarship to underwrite his
"somewhat" esoteric research into
endothelial-smooth muscle interactions in
mediastinal lymphatics.

The award let me carry on the research without... the constant pressure to identify funding sources.

# EDWARD D. CHURCHILL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP 1986-1988

His ultimate goal was to manipulate lymph flow and clear excess lung water pharmacologically — the culmination of 10 years of work. It was exciting for him to be able to establish a goal, receive financial and other support, and bring the project to fruition.

The...scholarship gave me confidence in my ideas and the ability to conduct the research independently in a high quality manner.

According to Ferguson, few people cared about lymphatics then or now. However, the success of his project demonstrated his ability to commit and execute a long-term effort. The scholarship served as a bridge taking him from young academician to established clinical investigator.



Home of Chicago-style jazz

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ARI MENNANDER, MD, PHD Tampere University Hospital, Tampere, Finland

Ari Mennander applied for the Graham Memorial
Traveling Fellowship believing that it would provide
him with a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to
broaden his perspective through travel and education.
His host institutions were The Mayo and Cleveland
Clinics and Montreal Heart Institute. Mennander was
impressed with the "kind and friendly" attitude of the
expert surgeons he met during the program.

Real role models...made me feel warmly welcomed as an equal among others.

Mentors included Christopher McGregor,
Hartzell Schaff and Thoralf Sundt, III at Mayo, and
Michael Pellerin at Montreal Heart Institute.

My destiny is to take responsibility of patients, colleagues and...grow into a trustful teacher for the younger generation

The fellowship helped Mennander realize how his personal career, outcomes in life and attitude towards medicine were impacted by the personal connections, colleagues and patients he met while abroad and outside of his comfort zone.



GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 2006-2007

I am aware of the vast surgical community
working around the world that enhances academics and
pragmatism for the benefit of the future.



# CHRISTIAN KREUTZER, MD

Hospital Nacional Alejandro Posadas

Hospital Universitario Austral

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Christian Kreutzer was chief CT resident at the Ricardo Gutierrez Children's Hospital in Buenos Aires when he applied for a Graham fellowship. Drs. Aldo R. Castaneda and Rene G Favaloro — one of the preeminent CT surgeons of the second half of the 20th century — mentored his application. He had started attending AATS meetings in 1995 and was an active reader of and author for the *JTCVS* but wanted more research exposure.

The high point of my fellowship was research, research, research.

He studied at Boston Children's Hospital under the mentorship of Drs. Richard Jonas and Pedro del Nido. During his time in Boston, he published research on Rastelli repair for transposition of the great arteries, congenital aortic stenosis, surgery for right ventricular dysfunction and hypoplasia, pericardial valved conduits, and the tetralogy of Fallot.

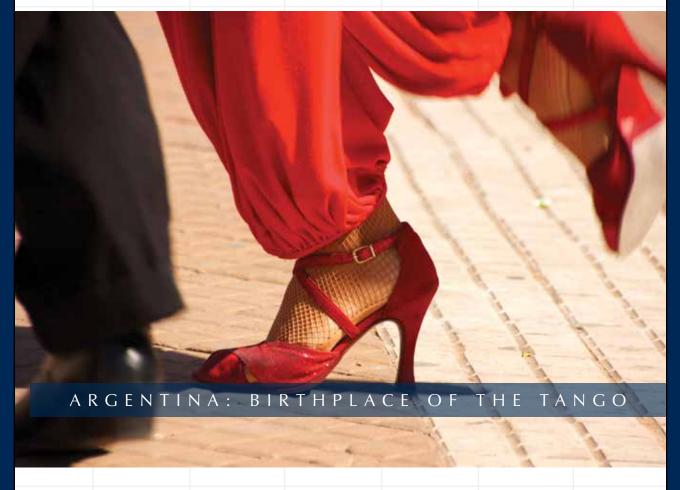
The fellowship was clearly a milestone in my career.

Today, Kreutzer is Chief of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at Hospital Nacional Alejandro Posadas and Hospital Universitario Austral in Buenos Aires.

I really do not think that I would have succeeded the way I did if not for the fellowship.



# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 1998-1999



# HAIFENG WANG, MD

Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital

Shanghai, China

Haifeng Wang, a thoracic attending surgeon at Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, wanted the opportunity to visit the top hospitals in North America to learn from their best teachers.

My experience in the U.S. was unique. I couldn't have seen so many cases of tracheal surgery and lung transplantation without the fellowship.

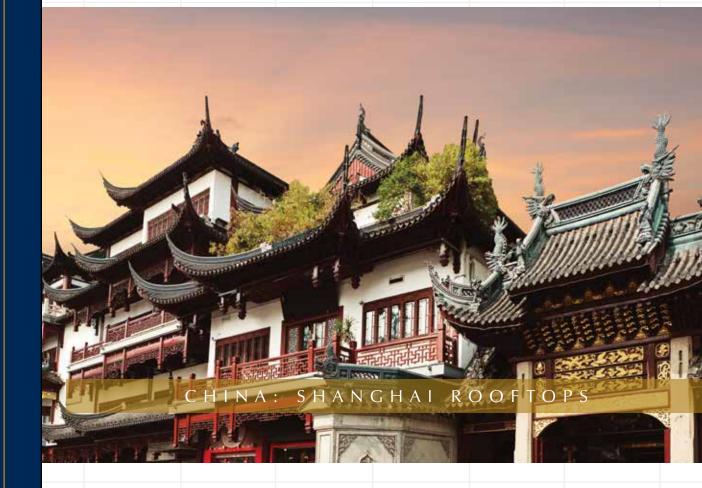
He completed 10 months at Massachusetts General
Hospital focusing on tracheal surgery under mentor
Douglas Mathisen. Wang also spent a month each at
Barnes-Jewish Hospital (St. Louis) studying lung
transplantation with G. Alexander Patterson and at
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (LA) learning thoracoscopic
surgery under Robert McKenna, Jr. In addition, he
participated in a clinical research program and presented
his findings in the United States.

AATS has a high reputation...the fellowship is proof of my academic competency and will help a lot in my career.

Since his return to Shanghai, Wang has been promoted to Vice Chief/Department of Thoracic Surgery at Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital.



# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 2013-2014



#### ESTATE PLANNING CASE STUDY

Roger E. Ecker, MD and Judith Ecker

Roger Ecker's time as a NIH research fellow was an important influence on his career. An AATS member since 1971, he has benefited from the knowledge obtained through AATS and other organizations

As my career developed, I was privileged to learn from the pioneers and legends in our specialty.

Because he knows how valuable research and education are to a CT surgeon's success, Dr. Ecker and his wife Judith are giving back by creating a planned estate disbursement to the Foundation.

Now is the time to make a small repayment, in order for the future to be as productive as the past...

Their gift will make a difference in the careers of the next generation of CT surgeons.



# INDIVIDUAL GIVING

The AATS Graham Foundation offers a variety of options for donors who want to ensure the future of CT surgery.

One hundred percent (100%) of your investment goes to AATS Graham Foundation programs, thanks to the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, which underwrites all the Foundation's operational expenses.

#### **Direct Gifts**

You can elect to donate to our *Pursuit of Excellence*Annual Campaign, which allows us to expand and grow the Foundation's many programs and activities.

Special donor opportunities include:

- Tribute/Memorial Gifts Honor or remember a loved one or friend. We will acknowledge your gift to the honoree or his/her family.
- Honoring our Mentors Fellowship Program Create and fund a fellowship in honor of a mentor of your choice.

You can also transfer stock or donate your honoraria directly to the Foundation:

- **Stock** Give a gift of appreciated securities, which can reduce your capital gains tax exposure.
- Donated Honoraria Transfer an honorarium to the Foundation in your name and the gift will be counted toward your cumulative giving total.

#### **Planned Gifts**

When planning your estate, consider a gift to the Foundation. Please let us know when you have made a decision to include the AATS Graham Foundation in your estate plan.

Options include:

- Make a Provision/Bequests Allocate a percent or a specific dollar value to the Foundation in your will.
   Donors are able to designate their bequests toward particular areas of the Foundation and can create a permanent endowment fund if the underlying assets are sufficient.
- Charitable Remainder Trust Name the Foundation as beneficiary of this individually managed trust, providing income for life. It can be funded with cash, appreciated securities or real estate. This option not only provides U.S. tax benefits, but also reduces probate and estate costs.
- Life Insurance Make the Foundation the beneficiary of an existing or new policy. Insurance can also replace assets earmarked for a charitable gift.
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Gift your IRA, subject to United States IRS regulations.

To learn more about giving options, contact Luiza Pellerin, Development Officer. lpellerin@aats.org or 1-978-927-8330

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2014

# MONICA ROBOTIN, MD

University of Sydney Medical School

Cancer Council New South Wales

Sydney, Australia

Originally from Australia, Robotin applied for the Graham Fellowship while a fellow in France. Her fellowship at Washington University (St. Louis) allowed her to broaden her interests and be exposed to premier pediatric cardiac surgery in the U.S.

My time...was very special, as I was working in Dr. Evarts Graham's institution...

Robotin enhanced her understanding of the mechanisms of re-entry cardiac arrhythmias following congenital heart surgery, as well as developed and evaluated a growing vascular graft. Her mentors included James Cox and Charles Huddleston.

They were wonderful...highlighting the importance of mentorship in planting seeds of academic inquiry for the next generation of cardiac surgeons.

Unfortunately, those seeds "fell on unfertile ground."
Robotin was unable to attain a clinical appointment
because, at that time, Australian pediatric cardiac surgery
was reserved for men. She decided that she could best
contribute by working as a public health practitioner. She
received degrees in Public Health, International Health and
Business Administration, and got a PhD.

I can still contribute towards a better, healthier world.

I suspect Dr. Graham would approve...



# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 1996-1997



# CORPORATE/ORGANIZATIONAL GIVING

The AATS Graham Foundation partners with corporations to fund select educational programs. It also accepts organizational gifts.

Help advance patient care and ensure excellence in CT surgery. Become one of our distinguished corporate/organizational supporters. Our development staff will work closely with yours to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

**Current projects supported by corporate sponsors include:** 



James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery



Edwards Lifesciences Advanced Treatments of Valve Disease Fellowship



Every Heartbeat Matters Valve Fellowship Cardiovascular Valve Symposium Brazil 2015



Fellowship for Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)



Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship



Intuitive Surgical Robotics Fellowship



Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship



Fellowship for Advanced Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS) Training

Our organizational supporters are:





#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2014	2014	2013
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
ASSETS		
ASSETS		
Cash	\$861,270	\$576,864
Investments	\$2,565,152	\$2,368,844
Accounts Receivable	\$1,350	\$300
Pledge Receivable	\$604,095	\$503,095
Prepaid Asset	\$616	\$616
Total Assets	\$4,032,483	\$3,449,719
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$12,628
Grants Payable	\$621,213	\$571,213
Total Liabilities	\$621,213	\$583,841
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$2,917,651	\$2,834,378
Temporarily Restricted	\$493,619	\$31,500
Total Net Assets	\$3,411,270	\$2,865,878
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	\$4,032,483	\$3,449,719

# THE NUMBERS IN 2014\*

Last year was a busy and productive one filled with expanded programs aimed at fulfilling our mission of leadership, learning and innovation.

As of end of our fiscal year (December 31, 2014), our revenue from grants, contributions and return on investments grew by 41 percent. This enabled us to increase our funding of programs by slightly over 30 percent.

**Contribution receipts** totaled almost \$1.6 million (\$1,545,008), reflecting an increase of 42 percent from 2013, including:

## **Individual Contributions & Industry Partner Support**

Individual contributions totaled \$218,305, which included the growing number of members donating their honoraria. Support from our industry partners increased dramatically to \$684,479, a 394% increase!

AATS funding of the Graham Fellowship and Critical Care, Research and Summer Intern Scholarships remained fairly stable — \$482,718.

**Total expenditures** amounted to almost \$1.2 million (see charts below), breaking down as follows:

**Grants and contributions:** \$950,229 (74.3 percent of expenses) — an increase of almost 55 percent from 2013.

#### **General and administrative expenses: \$181,565**

(15.2 percent of expenses). Most of these costs were offset by an AATS grant of \$159,505 to cover program administrative costs.

**Development costs:** \$33,204

Committee costs: \$17,864

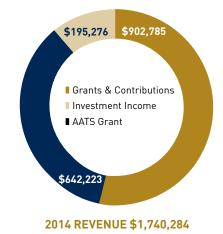
Meeting costs: \$12,031

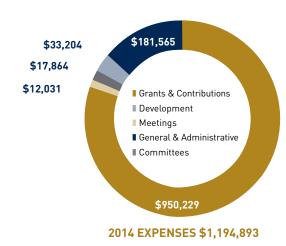
We ended the fiscal year with Unrestricted Net Assets of \$2.9 million and currently have \$493,619 in Restricted Funds on-hand to support FY 2015 programs. The combination of these funds and increased contributions will enable us to initiate and support new and exciting educational and research programs in 2015 and beyond.

Our financial position is solid for the upcoming year.

# Thomas L. Spray, MD Secretary/Treasurer







# EDUARDO OTERO-COTO, MD, PHD

Hospital Clinic of Valencia

Valencia, Spain

Eduardo Otero-Coto applied for a Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship hoping to visit North American institutions known for high quality cardiothoracic surgery and meet the "giants" in the field. His goals were realized.

He spent most of his fellowship at Children's Hospital in Boston under the tutelage of Aldo Castañeda. Otero-Coto was also able to meet many leaders in the fields — Denton Cooley, Paul Ebert, Dwight McGoon and Norman Shumway.

.... Knowing and working with Dr. Castañeda was the true highlight of my fellowship. I feel very honored to consider him a mentor and role model.

When he returned to Spain, Otero-Coto enhanced his practice with the knowledge and work ethic he gleaned in the United States. He passed this approach on to the next generation — the many trainees he has supervised. Today, four of those physicians have reached the next level: surgeon-in-chief at other hospitals.

...The experience was unique.

Not only my career, but also my life and the way I approach
every aspect...was deeply influenced by it.



# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 1978-1979



# GRAHAM MEMORIAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP 1987-1988





# BYUNG-CHUL CHANG, MD

Severance Cardiovascular Hospital, Yonsei University

Seoul, South Korea

In the 1980s, cardiac surgery in Korea was limited.

Byung-Chul Chang was especially interested in cardiac arrhythmia and seeking clinical surgical training in the field, as well as in heart transplantation. He also wanted exposure to animal research in mechanism and development, especially in atrial flutter and fibrillation.

During his fellowship, he practiced cardiac arrhythmia and heart transplantation surgery at Barnes Hospital, Washington School of Medicine (St. Louis) and Stanford University. Thanks to James Cox — creator of the Cox-Maze procedure — he was involved in animal research developing surgical management of atrial fibrillation.

...Since 1990 — after the fellowship —

Korea has had a cardiac arrhythmia surgery program

(including the Cox-Maze procedure).

Today, Byung-Chul specializes in cardiac arrhythmia and LV volume reduction surgery, heart transplantation, valvular heart disease, surgical management of heart failure, and mechanical circulatory support. He also has supported a heart surgery program in Mongolia and served as a WHO consultant.

Today, Severance Cardiovascular Hospital is one of the leading heart and lung transplantation institutes in Asia.

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