Welcome to the first 2023 issue of the Stanford Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery Quarterly Newsletter.

In March, we were pleased with the announcement of three new residents joining our department: Edgar Aranda-Michel, Jon Hochstein, and Gabe Weininger. We look forward to welcoming them over the summer.

Earlier this year, several of our faculty and trainees participated in the STS 59th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. Congratulations to Dr. Leah Backhus for receiving the inaugural 2023 Extraordinary Women of Cardiothoracic Surgery Award from STS and WTS.

Please also join me in congratulating Dr. William Hiesinger who was recently promoted to Associate Professor, and to Dr. Jack Boyd for his acceptance into the American Association for Thoracic Surgery membership. We thank them for their hard work and contributions to the field.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Sincerely,

Joseph Woo, MD
Norman E. Shumway Professor and Chair
Stanford Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery

In the News

Stanford is first in the western U.S. to complete transapical off-pump mitral valve repair

“The NeoChord system offers the optimal surgical repair approach of replacing the chords but without cardiopulmonary bypass,” said Jack Boyd, MD, on the first to use a minimally invasive, off-pump surgical technique to treat degenerative mitral valve regurgitation due to prolapse. Read more.

Highly specialized: Stanford leads in en-bloc heart-liver transplantations

"Patients come from all over the United States for our specialized care and expertise in transplantation, especially when they require multi-organ transplantation to address complex adult congenital heart disease," said John W. MacArthur, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon on Christopher’s transplant team. Read more.
**Video: Kapiolani’s new pediatric heart center in Hawaii**
On Feb. 14, the only full-service children’s hospital in Hawaii celebrated the opening of the new Pediatric Heart Center. Louis Capecci, MD, Kapiolani’s first full-time pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, talks about his role in cardiac care and the new center. [Watch video.](#)

**Three innovations shorten heart transplant patient’s wait time**
At Stanford Medicine Children’s Health, three innovations helped shortened wait times for pediatric heart transplant patients: creating the hepatitis C donor heart program, streamlining the donor heart matching program, and using the “heart in a box.” [Read more.](#)

**Leah Backhus, MD, MPH, receives inaugural Extraordinary Women of Cardiothoracic Surgery Award**
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Women in Thoracic Surgery awarded its inaugural 2023 Extraordinary Women of Cardiothoracic Surgery Award to Leah Backhus, MD, MPH. [Read more.](#)

**Jack Boyd, MD, accepted into American Association for Thoracic Surgery membership**
Jack Boyd, MD, was accepted into membership for the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, one of the premier associations for cardiothoracic surgeons. [Read more.](#)

**Stanford Health Care named among the Best Hospitals for Patient Experience**
The Women’s Choice Award released its 2023 hospital rankings, spotlighting thousands of hospitals nationwide for exceptional women’s healthcare and patient experience. [Read more.](#)

**Beckers Report: Stanford among list of hospitals and health systems with heart programs**
Becker's Healthcare released its list of hospitals and health systems with heart care programs to watch in 2023, including Stanford Health Care. [Read more.](#)
Ngan F. Huang, PhD, receives Veteran Affairs Research Career Scientist Award

Ngan F. Huang, PhD, associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery, was recently awarded the Research Career Scientist Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Read more.

William Hiesinger, MD, receives Stanford HAI Seed Research Grant award

William Hiesinger, MD, was awarded the Stanford Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) Seed Research Grant to develop a foundational model for artificial intelligence in surgery. Read more.

Richard E. Clark Memorial Paper for General Thoracic Surgery awarded to Lye-Yeng Wong, MD


Society of Thoracic Surgery Research Award given to Shin Yajima, MD, PhD

Shin Yajima, MD, PhD, received the Society of Thoracic Surgery Research Award, a designation given to the highest-ranking Thoracic Surgery Foundation Research Award to support research efforts and the work of early-career cardiothoracic surgeons. Read more.
Tomi Obafemi, MD, establishes Cardiothoracic Surgery Diversifying Pipeline Award
Tomi Obafemi, MD, received departmental funding to establish the Cardiothoracic Surgery Diversifying Pipeline Award program to support three Stanford Cardiovascular Institute Research Program interns. Jack Boyd, MD, was the faculty lead for the project. Read more.

Podcast: The role of the thoracic surgeon in lung cancer care starring Leah Backhus, MD, MPH
On Consultant 360, Leah Backhus, MD, MPH, talks about the role of the thoracic surgeon in lung cancer care, including how the screening environment and the advances in surgical techniques have impacted patient outcomes. Listen here.

Yihan Lin, MD, MPH, on addressing global health and surgical care disparities
Yihan Lin, MD, MPH, who joined the Department in August of 2022, has devoted much of her career to addressing global health equity and surgical disparities. Read more.

Department research and prestigious awards presented at 2023 STS Meeting
The Department presented the latest research and received awards at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons 59th Annual Meeting from Jan. 21 to 23 in San Diego, Calif. Read more.

Congrats to our incoming I6 @StanfordCTSurg residents!
We’re excited to have @EdgarArandaMic1, Jon Hochstein, and @GabeWeininger join our program - welcome to the farm! #WeAreStanford #Match2023
Follow us on Twitter.

The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery is dedicated to conducting cutting-edge research. Check out more of our faculty publications.
High-resolution spatiotemporal changes in dominant frequency and structural organization during persistent atrial fibrillation.

Risk of adenocarcinoma in patients with a suspicious ground-glass opacity: a retrospective review.