



106th Annual Meeting

May 2–5, 2026
McCormick Place Lakeside Center
Chicago



INDUSTRY EVENTS

Saturday, May 2, 2026 – Thoracic Industry Showcase | 7:00AM-5:00PM



Natera Industry Showcase Table

Outside hallway to Room 353, Level 3

Sponsored by: Natera

Join Natera's Industry Showcase Tabletop to learn more about how Signatera MRD testing helps identify high-risk patients after surgery and detects recurrence early.

Track: Thoracic

Saturday, May 2, 2026 – Lunch Symposia | 12:00PM-1:00PM



Select Treatment Options for Certain Patients With Resectable Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer

Room E451B, Level 4

Sponsored by: Merck & Co., Inc.

Learning Objectives:

- Review and understand the disease state and the role of the multidisciplinary team.
- Understand how patient characteristics may influence your treatment plan.
- Review approved indications and clinical data supporting select treatment options for patients with resectable NSCLC.

Speakers: Jacques-Pierre Fontaine, McGill University

Track: Thoracic



Expanding the Aortic Surgeon's Toolkit from the Valve to Arch

Room E351, Level 3

Sponsored by: Artivion

This expert-led program explores innovative strategies transforming aortic care—from advanced valve replacement in younger patients to evolving management of acute Type A dissection and the expanding role of endovascular treatment of the aortic arch. Attendees will gain practical insights into integrating next-generation surgical and endovascular solutions for diseases of the aortic valve and aortic arch.

Moderator: S. Christopher Malaisrie, Northwestern University

Speakers:

S. Christopher Malaisrie, Northwestern University – *The Next Frontier of AVR in Younger Patients*

John Trahanas, Vanderbilt University – *Evolving Strategies in Acute Type A Dissection: Integrating AMDS™ into Practice*

Himanshu Patel, University of Michigan – *Nexus® Endovascular Arch Solution: Design Insights and One-Year Outcomes*

Track: Cardiac



The Power of RESILIA tissue - 10 years of data

Room E350, Level 3

Sponsored by: Edwards Lifesciences

The COMMENCE trial was conducted to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of aortic valve replacement using a bioprosthesis with novel RESILIA tissue. 10-year data is now available, as well as a propensity-matched analysis comparing outcomes to a prior generation of pre-RESILIA tissue. Review RESILIA tissue technology and how it works, including the comprehensive body of evidence supporting RESILIA tissue. Engage in discussions about current trends in heart valve selection, with a focus on evolving practices, considerations for lifetime management and patient shared decision-making. Let's explore the future of heart valve therapy together.

Moderator: Richard J. Shemin, UCLA Health

Speakers:

Lars Svensson, Cleveland Clinic

Joseph E. Bavaria, Jefferson Health

John D. Puskas, Emory University

Eugene Blackstone, Cleveland Clinic

Track: Cardiac

Medtronic

Mitral Masterclass: Unlock Simplified Implantation and Patient Lifetime Management with the New Mosaic Neo™ Mitral Bioprosthesis

Room E352, Level 3

Sponsored by: Medtronic

The panel will share insights from their initial clinical experiences implanting the Mosaic™ Neo mitral valve.

Moderators: Gorav Ailawadi, University of Michigan and Marc Gillinov, Cleveland Clinic

Speakers:

Arnar Geirsson, Columbia University

Tsuyoshi Kaneko, Washington University

Evelio Rodriguez, Ascension Saint Thomas

Howard Song, OHSU

Track: Cardiac

A Three Pillar Strategy to Improve Outcomes in High Risk Cardiac Surgery Patients

Room E353B, Level 3

Sponsored by: Johnson & Johnson MedTech

As cardiac patients become increasingly complex, sternal closure remains a critical—and often overlooked—determinant of outcomes. This symposium presents a data driven, three pillar approach to optimizing results in high risk patients. Dr. Marc Pelletier will share real world experience with rigid sternal fixation and its impact on stability and recovery, while Dr. Ziyad Gunga will address evidence based strategies for hemostasis and layered wound closure. Together, these perspectives highlight how a bundled, evidence based approach to sternal closure can meaningfully improve patient outcomes.

Learning Objectives

- Increase awareness of the clinical evidence supporting optimized sternal closure strategies in high risk patients
- Understand how incremental, evidence based improvements—across fixation, hemostasis, and wound closure—can drive meaningful gains in outcomes
- Explore proven techniques and innovative technologies that support a comprehensive, data driven sternal closure bundle.

Speakers:

Mark Pelletier, Yale School of Medicine

Ziyad Gunga, Chef de Clinique at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)

Track: Cardiac



Durability Leads to Longevity: Procedural Optimization for Improving Long-Term Outcomes in Surgical Ablation

Room E451A, Level 4

Supported by: AtriCure

[Sign-up Link](#)

The complimentary, CME-accredited lunch symposium features leading experts discussing procedural optimization to improve long-term outcomes in surgical ablation. The faculty will examine the current state of atrial fibrillation and share insights on how to address it through updated quality metrics; present a series of cases demonstrating evidence-based decision-making strategies for selecting treatments based on patient characteristics; and explore how to incorporate pain management into daily practice to enhance patient outcomes. The closing panel discussion offers ample opportunities for attendees to engage with faculty.

Speakers:

James Cox, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Eric Hoenicke, St. David's South Austin Medical Center

Armin Kiankhooy, Smidt Heart Institute, Cedars-Sinai Cardiac Surgery at Huntington Health

Richard Whitelock, McMaster University

Track: Cardiac

Saturday, May 2, 2026 – Surgical Suite | 5:15PM



AtriCure Surgical Suite

Saturday, May 2 – 5:15PM-7:15PM

Sunday, May 3 – 9:00AM-4:30PM

Monday, May 4 - 9:00AM-4:30PM

Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by: AtriCure

AtriCure's Clinical Education team will be available for hands-on training and demonstrations using the CADet simulation models. Physicians will be able to use current technology and performing procedures on these models. No appointment needed.

Track: Multi-Specialty



Magvation Surgical Suite

Saturday, May 2 – 5:15PM-7:15PM

Sunday, May 3 – 9:00AM-4:30PM

Monday, May 4 – 9:00AM-4:30PM

Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by: Magvation

Visit Magvation's private consultation suite for a hands-on demonstration of the HayStack Surgical Safety System — the first AI-enabled collaborative robotic platform for suture needle control. In 30 minutes with our clinical design and leadership team, you'll see a brief overview of the system, test it yourself, and share candid feedback on UI/UX, ergonomics, and adoption — insights that directly shape our final design and early clinical partnerships. Experience firsthand how HayStack Controls The Count™ before, during, and after surgery — delivering 100% count specificity, every surgery, every time. Appointment required. Contact MatthewF@Magvation.com to set up an appointment.

Track: Multi-Specialty



Scanlan Toast to 100 years!

Saturday, May 2 – 5:15PM

Booth 700, Exhibit Hall

Join us at 5:15PM at the Scanlan booth for a celebratory toast as we mark 100 years of partnership between Scanlan and the AATS, and the impact we've made together advancing the future of cardiothoracic surgery.

Track: Multi-Specialty

Saturday, May 2, 2026 – Dinner Symposia | 6:45-8:45PM

Johnson & Johnson
MedTech

Harnessing Precision with Multi-Nodule NSCLC Treatment: Evidence, Cases, and Experience

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Plaza Ballroom A, Lobby Level

Sponsored by: Johnson & Johnson MedTech

[Sign-Up Link](#)

The dinner symposium sponsored by JNJ China focus on early-stage lung cancer treatment evidence and surgical skills to connect and share amongst thoracic surgeons. The most updated evidence and cases with new technology will be shared.

Moderators:

Haiquan Chen, Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Hospital

Raphael Bueno, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Mara Antonoff, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Speakers:

Faiz Bhora, Hackensack Meridian Health Network

Michael Hsin, The University of Hong Kong

Weibing Wu, The First Affiliated Hospital with Nanjing Medical University

Yong Yuan, West China Hospital

Louqian Zhang, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital

Junjie Xi, Fudan University, Zhongshan Hospital

Track: Thoracic

Johnson & Johnson
MedTech

Mitral Repair: Learn from the Masters

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Plaza Ballroom B, Lobby Level

Sponsored by: Johnson & Johnson MedTech

[Sign-Up Link](#)

The dinner symposium, "Mitral Repair: Learn from the Masters," will bring together internationally renowned cardiac surgeons to discuss contemporary best practices in mitral valve repair. The program opens with remarks from Johnson & Johnson MedTech leadership, followed by expert lectures addressing surgical timing and indications for mitral regurgitation correction, strategies to prevent recurrent MR, and approaches for complex infective endocarditis cases. A panel discussion will allow faculty to exchange perspectives on nuanced clinical decision making and advanced repair techniques. The event aims to provide both Chinese and global attendees with high value educational insights aligned with the latest global standards in mitral surgery.

Moderators: Song Wan, Tongji Hospital and Clifford Barlow, Wessex Cardiac Centre

Speakers:

Hartzell V. Schaff, Mayo Clinic

Tirone David, Toronto General Hospital

Gebrine El Khoury, Saint Luc Hospital

Track: Cardiac

Sunday, May 3, 2026 – Dinner Symposia | 6:15-7:15PM

medela 

Advances in Air Leak Management and Drainage Systems in Pulmonary, Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Plaza Ballroom, Lobby Level

Sponsored by: Medela

[Sign Up Link](#)

This symposium highlights evolving innovations in pulmonary and cardiothoracic surgical care, with a focus on digital drainage and air leak management. Expert speakers will review clinical applications of endobronchial valves and digital air leak measurement, strategies for managing prolonged air leaks—including outpatient pathways—and emerging trends in drainage and monitoring technologies. The session concludes with a cardiac surgery-focused analysis comparing the cost effectiveness of analog versus digital drainage systems.

Chair: Mara Antonoff, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Speakers:

Kai E. Swenson, Beth Israel Deaconess Center – *Clinical Applications of Endobronchial Valves and Digital Air Leak Measurement in Pulmonary Care*

Sebastien Gilbert, University of Ottawa – *Emerging Trends and Clinical Outlook in Drainage and Air Leak Monitoring*

Johannes Petersen, UKE Hamburg, Germany – *Cost-effectiveness of analog v. digital drainage systems in Cardiac Surgery*

Track: Multi-Specialty



The Immunotherapy Playbook for Resectable NSCLC: Real-World Challenges and Practical Strategies

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Regency Ballroom A, Ballroom Level, West Tower

Supported by: AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Merck & Co., Inc.

CME provided by: PVI, PeerView Institute for Medical Education

Immunotherapy has become an essential component of the treatment arsenal for resectable NSCLC, reshaping best practices and causing a growing need for multidisciplinary collaboration among thoracic surgeons, oncologists, and other specialists. This symposium brings together leading experts to examine the latest evidence on neoadjuvant, adjuvant, and perioperative immunotherapy, explore cases and practicalities, and address real-world challenges related to integration and use. Join our interactive Town Hall educational session to learn how to tailor immune-based and local therapy approaches, strengthen team-based care for better patient outcomes, and get answers to all your burning questions.

Moderator: Brendon M. Stiles, Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Speakers:

Jonathan D. Spicer, McGill University

Gavit Woodard, Yale School of Medicine

Track: Thoracic

Monday, May 4, 2026 – Lunch Symposia | 12:00-1:00PM



Impella 5.5 in Contemporary Surgical Practice: From Early Adoption to Guidelines and Beyond

Room E451A, Level 4

Sponsored by: Johnson & Johnson MedTech, Heart Recovery

Topics:

- EACTS/ STS/ AATS Guidelines and impact on surgical practice for AMI-CS escalation/ PCCS
- Impella 5.5 as an off-ramp to VA-ECMO
- +/- Heart Recovery: INTeGRATE trial design and rationale

Co-Moderators:

Sanjeev Aggarwal, Vice President, Medical Office Surgery, Johnson & Johnson MedTech

Andy Shaw, Vice President, Medical Office Critical Care, Johnson & Johnson MedTech

Speakers:

Kunal Kotkar, Barnes Jewish Hospital

Courtney Maxey-Jones, SUNY Upstate University Hospital

Scott Silvestry, Banner Health Tucson

Track: Cardiac



pCR in Clinical Trials vs the Real World: Implications for the Thoracic Surgeon

Room E353B, Level 3

Sponsored by: AstraZeneca

[Sign-up Link](#)

This symposium will examine how pathologic complete response (pCR) is defined, assessed, and operationalized in clinical trials for resectable NSCLC. Perspectives on using pCR and other prognostic biomarkers to guide adjuvant treatment decisions will be discussed. Faculty will share best practices on surgeon–pathologist collaboration, with a focus on standardized protocols, specimen handling, and communication strategies to ensure accurate and reproducible assessment of outcomes across institutions.

Presentation titles:

- The Evolving Role of pCR in Clinical Trials
- MRD and ctDNA in the Context of pCR
- Impact of Prognostic Biomarkers on Caring for the Patient: Escalate or De-Escalate?
- Panel Discussion: Multidisciplinary Roles of the Pathologist and Surgeon on Optimizing Patient Outcomes
Moderator: Gavitt Woodard, Yale School of Medicine
Speakers:
Erin Gillaspie, Creighton University School of Medicine
Ignacio Wistuba, Moffitt Cancer Center

Track: Thoracic



Signatera™ Ultra-sensitive MRD Testing for Post-surgical NSCLC Patient Management

Room E451B, Level 4

Sponsored by: Natera

[Sign-Up Link](#)

Join leading thoracic oncology experts as they review the latest clinical data supporting the use of ctDNA for molecular residual disease (MRD) assessment in resectable NSCLC. Learn how MRD helps identify NSCLC patients who remain at high recurrence risk after surgery and detects recurrence before radiographic imaging. The symposium will conclude with a review of real-world case studies, practical considerations for implementing MRD testing in routine practice, and future directions for research.

Speaker: Mike Krainock, MD, PhD, Medical Director, Oncology, Natera

Track: Thoracic

Medtronic

Precision Segmentectomy: Using Innovation, Data & AI to Change Surgical Decisions

Room E352, Level 3

Sponsored by: Medtronic

This session will explore how innovation, real-world data, and artificial intelligence are reshaping surgical decision-making and technique adoption. Through expert-led discussion and interactive dialogue, attendees will gain practical insights into how advanced technologies can enhance intraoperative confidence, reduce variability, and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

Speakers:

Abbas E. Abbas, Catholic Health

Lana Schumacher, Tufts Medical Center

Inderpal S. Sarkaria, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Harmik J. Soukiasian, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Track: Thoracic