



## ***WPASTS Inaugural Meeting***

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

**6:00—9:00pm**

***Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse  
455 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219***

### ***Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons***

#### ***About Us:***

The Western Pennsylvania Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing adult and congenital cardiac surgeons in Western Pennsylvania and the surrounding region.

#### ***Mission:***

The mission of the Western Pennsylvania Society of Thoracic Surgeons (WPASTS) is to ensure that patients in communities of Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas have access to excellent cardiac surgical care defined by optimal clinical outcomes. This is achieved by providing educational opportunities and a forum for WPASTS members to participate in the exchange of clinical best practices and solutions to shared challenges, scholarly and research pursuits, meaningful mentorship, and community engagement for the betterment of the regional patient population and the field of cardiac surgery.

WPASTS aims to provide a supplemental platform for academic, private practice, and community cardiac surgeons to continue to further implement the mission of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons at the local and regional level: Advance cardiothoracic surgeons' delivery of the highest quality patient care through collaboration, education, research, and advocacy.

***WPASTS Vision and Values are aligned with the national  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons***

## ***WPASTS Goals:***

WPASTS aims to achieve similar collective goals regionally as the STS works towards at the national level. Importantly, these goals will be tailored to address opportunities and challenges specific to the Western Pennsylvania CT surgery patient population.

- 1. Patients in the Western PA and surrounding areas receive the highest quality of CT surgical care**
  - a. Multi-institutional collaboration and sharing of best practices for challenges specific to the Western Pennsylvania population and stemming from regional cultural and historical circumstances. Examples include the growth of the challenging endocarditis patient population due to the surging opioid epidemic, environmental factors impacting cardiovascular health stemming from the region's industrial past, COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy in rural and minority communities, and inequitable access to care in rural areas outside of Western Pennsylvania urban population hubs.
  - b. Collaborative problem-solving addressing shared systems process issues in Western Pennsylvania. Examples include impact of staffing shortages and travel agencies on regional nursing and technician workforce.
- 2. Promote peer to peer education and educational opportunities among CT surgeons in the Western PA region**
  - a. Improve the quality and accessibility of cardiac surgery educational opportunities for all members of the cardiac surgery team by utilizing this forum to implement expanded and improved educational offerings regionally.
  - b. Increase availability of surgeon development resources to instill a culture of lifelong learning
  - c. Promote the importance of mentorship of senior surgeon mentors to early career surgeons, trainees, and medical students in the region with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion
- 3. Promote open exchange of best clinical practices and pathways for patients with cardiovascular disease**
  - a. Collaboration with other Western Pennsylvania organizations that play integral parts in overall healthcare delivery in the region. Organizations include healthcare insurers; physician organizations, advanced practice provider, nursing, perfusion, and technical educational institutions; healthcare worker labor organizations; philanthropic organizations; ancillary healthcare entities such as the local organ procurement organization (CORE); and the increasingly thriving technology development and innovation sector within the regional economy.

***Tuesday, March 28, 2023***

### ***Agenda:***

- I. Surgeon Networking (6:00—6:45pm) *No CME credit awarded***
- II. Introduction to WPASTS Mission, Goals, and 2022-2023 Leadership (6:45—7:00pm)**

**Ibrahim Sultan, MD**

Secretary, WPASTS 2023-2024

Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Director, Center for Thoracic Aortic Disease  
Surgical Director, Center for Heart Valve Disease  
UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute

**III. Keynote Address: Aortic Valve Disease: State of the Art (7:00—7:30pm)**

**Joseph E. Bavaria, MD**

Brooke Roberts – William Maul Measey Professor in Surgery  
Vice Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery  
Former President, Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Founder/Co-Director, Penn Aorta Center  
University of Pennsylvania

**IV. The Global Impact of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (7:30 – 7:45pm)**

**Wilson Y. Szeto, MD**

Julian Johnson II Professor of Surgery  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
Chief, Cardiovascular Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center  
Vice Chief of Clinical Operations and Quality  
Division of Cardiovascular Surgery  
Secretary, Society of Thoracic Surgeons

**V. Current Challenges and Opportunities Facing WPASTS Members (7:45—8:15pm)**

**Andy Kiser, MD, MBA**

President, WPASTS 2023-2024  
Physician-in-Chief, Cardiovascular Services  
Executive Medical Director, Perioperative Services  
St. Clair Health System  
Clinical Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**VI. Review of Fall Meeting Content Requests; Potential Dates; and WPASTS Engagement Opportunities (8:15—8:45pm)**

**Steve Bailey, MD**

Vice President, WPASTS 2023-2024  
Magovern Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine  
Chair, Allegheny Health Network Cardiovascular Institute  
System Chair, AHN Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery  
Allegheny Health Network

**VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment (8:45-9:00pm)**

**Ibrahim Sultan, MD**

Secretary, WPASTS 2023-2024  
Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Director, Center for Thoracic Aortic Disease  
Surgical Director, Center for Heart Valve Disease  
UPMC Heart and Vascular Institut

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## ***Accreditation and Credit Designation:***

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by the University of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania Society of Thoracic Surgeons (WPASTS). The University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

### **Physician (CME)**

The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of 2.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### **Nursing (CNE)**

The maximum number of hours awarded for this Continuing Nursing Education activity is 2.25 contact hours.

### **Physician Assistant (AAPA)**

The University of Pittsburgh has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 2.25 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

### ***Faculty Disclosure:***

All individuals in a position to control the content of this education activity have disclosed all financial relationships with any companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. All of the relevant financial relationships for the individuals listed below have been mitigated:

Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Abbott: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Edwards Life Sciences: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Atricure: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Philips: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Spectranetics: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Foldax: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Neptune Medical: Consultant  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Edwards Life Sciences: Speakers' Bureau  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Atricure: Speakers' Bureau  
Andy Kiser, MD, MBA: Spectranetics: Speakers' Bureau  
Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Abbott: Grant/Research Support  
Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Atricure: Grant/Research Support

Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Artivion: Grant/Research Support  
Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Boston Scientific: Grant/Research Support  
Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Edwards Life Sciences: Grant/Research Support  
Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Medtronic: Grant/Research Support  
Ibrahim Sultan, MD: Z MEDICA: Grant/Research Support  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Edwards Life Sciences: Grant/Research Support  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Medtronic: Grant/Research Support  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Terumo Aortic: Grant/Research Support  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Artivion: Grant/Research Support  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Microinterventional Device: Consultant  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Aquedeon: Consultant  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Edwards Life Sciences: Speakers' Bureau  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Medtronic: Speakers' Bureau  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Terumo Aortic: Speakers' Bureau  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Artivion: Speakers' Bureau  
Wilson Y. Szeto, MD: Abbott: Speakers' Bureau

No other members of the planning committee, speakers, presenters, authors, content reviewers and/or anyone else in a position to control the content of this education activity have relevant financial relationships with any companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

### ***Inaugural WPASTS Leadership for 2023-2024:***

***President:***

**Andy Kiser, MD**  
St. Clair Health System

***Vice President:***

**Steven Bailey, MD**  
Allegheny Health Network

***Member At Large:***

**Hiroyui Tsukui, MD, PhD**  
Excelsa Health

***Secretary:***

**Ibrahim Sultan, MD**  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

### ***WPASTS Executive Director:***

**Angela E. Kinnunen, MPA**  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

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***WPASTS Board of Directors:***

**Michael Culig, MD**

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**George Davliakos, MD**

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**Dave Kaczorowski, MD**

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**Candice Lee, MD**

Allegheny Health Network

**Walter McGregor, MD**

Allegheny Health Network

**Pyongsoo Yoon, MD**

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

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***WPASTS Membership:***

Membership will be open to all cardiac surgeons, either active, retired or in training, who are, will or have practiced cardiothoracic surgery in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas. Membership is also available to physician members of the Heart Team of hospitals of which at least one cardiac surgeon is a member.

There are no dues associated with membership in WPASTS; however, volunteer donations will be appreciated. Participation in WPASTS is free of charge and has no associated ancillary costs beyond transportation to events and any potential lodging expenses, which are the responsibility of the member.

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***Disclaimer Statement:***

The information presented at this program represents the views and opinions of the individual presenters, and does not constitute the opinion or endorsement of, or promotion by, the UPMC Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, UPMC / University of Pittsburgh Medical Center or Affiliates and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Reasonable efforts have been taken intending for educational subject matter to be presented in a balanced, unbiased fashion and in compliance with regulatory requirements. However, each program attendee must always use his/her own personal and professional judgment when considering further application of this information, particularly as it may relate to patient diagnostic or treatment decisions including, without limitation, FDA-approved uses and any off-label uses.