

# The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Adult Cardiac Surgery Database  
Monthly Webinar

March 5, 2025



**STS National Database**<sup>™</sup>  
Trusted. Transformed. Real-Time.

# Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

STS Updates

Signs of a Great Regional Group-Judy Smith

# STS Updates

## The following documents have been updated

- March Training Manual
- Risk Model Variable Chart
- Case Inclusion Guide

## The National Report Analyses Overview is currently being updated

- “Participants must have **2% or less** missing/unknown for mortality fields” is being updated to accurately reflect “Participants must have **less than 2%** missing/unknown for mortality fields”

## ACSD Upgrade is being discussed

- Early stages
- Will include updates to some parent/child field relationships and device implants





# MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	01
02	03	04	05 Monthly Webinar 2CT	06	07	08
09 Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11 DM Training Webinar 12CT	12	13	14	15
16	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19 QI Webinar 2CT	20 DM Training Webinar 12CT Spring!!	21	22
23	24	25 DM Training Webinar 12CT	26	27	28	29
30	31 DM Training Webinar 12CT	01 Monthly Webinar 2CT	02	03	04	05

## Data Manager Training Webinar Agenda

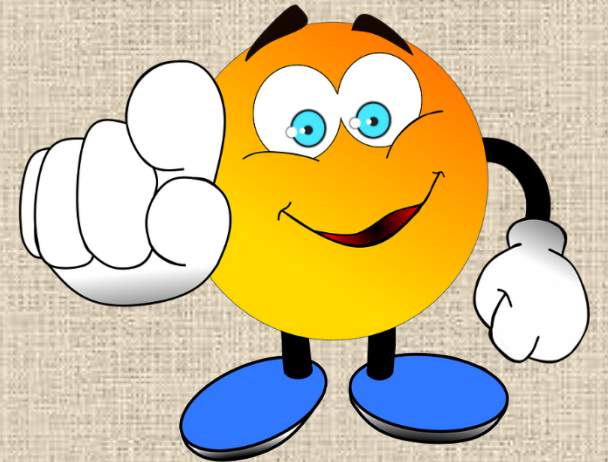
12:00 PM CT

Session 1	2/25/2025	Overview STS Website, FAQ Mailbox, Training Manual and Other Resources
Session 2	3/4/2025	Overview of Data Specifications, Software Specifications, Risk Model
Session 3	3/11/2025	Case Inclusion and Choosing the Index Procedure, PROC ID Chart
Session 4	3/20/2025	Harvesting your Data and the Data Quality Report
Session 5	3/25/2025	National Report Overview and Process / Outcome Measures
Session 6	4/1/2025	Updating Participant Forms, STS Helpdesk, and Red Cap Forms
Session 7	4/8/2025	IQVIA Reporting Overview



# QI Series

- Our next quality webinar is March 19th 2CT
- April 16th 2CT-Dr. Karen Singh University of Virginia
- We need presenters and we want to hear from YOU!





# Harvest Dates 2025

Term	Harvest Submission Window Close	Opt-Out Date	Includes Procedures Performed Through:	Report Posting	Comments
Harvest 1	2/21/2025	2/25/2025	12/31/2024	Spring 2025	Star Rating
Harvest 2	5/23/2025	5/27/2025	3/31/2025	Summer 2025	
Harvest 3	8/22/2025	8/26/2025	6/30/2025	Fall 2025	Star Rating
Harvest 4	11/21/2025	11/25/2025	9/30/2025	Winter 2025	

Analysis for each harvest is based on a 36-month window.

*Data Submission Open is continuous for all harvest terms. Submission Close occurs at 11:59 p.m. Eastern on the date listed.*



# AQO 2025

- Intermacs and Pedimacs Session: Tuesday, September 23rd VIRTUAL
- CHSD and GTSD Sessions: Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **ACSD Session: Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- Grand Hyatt San Antonio Riverwalk
- AQO Session Proposal deadline is April 18<sup>th</sup>
  - [Learn more about submitting a session proposal.](#)
- Both In Person (ACSD, CHSD, GTSD) and Virtual options (all databases) will be available
- Cost information will be shared as soon as it's available

Home > Calendar of Events > 2025 Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting

Event

## 2025 Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting

Discussions on valuable research and important clinical findings with the goal of improving data collection and patient outcomes.



**ADVANCES  
IN QUALITY  
& OUTCOMES:**  
*A Data Managers Meeting*

OCTOBER 2-3, 2025 • SAN ANTONIO, TX

 Date(s)	 Location	 Audience
Oct 2–3, 2025	San Antonio, TX	Allied Health Data Manager





# Networking Opportunities

- STS Data Managers Facebook Group
  - At last check up to 430 Members!
- STS Data Manager Collaborative
  - Formerly the Data Manager Mentorship Program, pairs data managers who are seeking advise related to data abstraction.
- STS Regional Groups
  - Offers a collaborative networking environment for peer-to-peer support and non-clinical guidance related to abstraction across specific regions.



# The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Signs of a Great Regional Group

March 5, 2025

I have no disclosures



# Regional Groups point you in the right direction!

STS National Database Staff

Carole Krohn, MPH, BSN, RN (Chicago, IL)  
Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN (Charlotte, NC)  
Emily Conrad, MS (Chicago, IL)

ckrohn@sts.org  
nhoneycutt@sts.org  
econrad@sts.org

312-202-5867

312-202-5839



I find that the case mix of patients is similar within regions. This is important when you are looking at quality initiatives that may be specific to a certain region. Also, as a data manager, I was always asked by my surgeons, "does XYZ hospital across the street/state/"border" have 3 stars and if they do, will they share what they are doing differently so that we may try it". If you belong to a regional group, this question becomes easy to answer because you are networking directly with the data manager from XYZ hospital, and that person is generally more willing to help you out. Also, regional groups are especially helpful when your state or region does not have a quality collaborative.

Nancy  
[nhoneycutt@sts.org](mailto:nhoneycutt@sts.org)  
[econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org)



# The Timing is Always Right for the Wisconsin group!!

Wisconsin

Heather Burroughs, RN (Green Bay, WI)

[hburroughs@baycare.net](mailto:hburroughs@baycare.net)



The Wisconsin group primarily contacts each other via email to get questions answered if they aren't comfortable sharing their questions with the "national" email group. I do type up summaries of our regional leader phone calls and share this information with the group as someone always has questions that I do my best to get answered on those phone calls. I have offered to hold webinars but our data managers feel that they are too busy to add one more meeting to their daily schedule. It works for us. 😊

HEATHER BURROUGHS, RN  
CARDIAC SERVICES PROJECT COORDINATOR

[Hburroughs@Baycare.net](mailto:Hburroughs@Baycare.net) (Heather)





# There is no “we” in Chocolate but there is in R<sub>w</sub>egional Groups

Central Southeast Region  
Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee

Sandra Richardson, BSN (Kingsport, TN)  
Amanda Sesti, MHA, BSN (Memphis, TN)  
Cheryl Hansen, MSN, RN (Memphis, TN)

Sandra.Richardson2@ballardhealth.org  
Amanda.sesti@bmhcc.org  
Cheryl.Hansen@bmhcc.org



It would be nice to let others know that Cheryl and I work as a team to hopefully provide our region with helpful STS information/updates and are available to assist as needed with our community needs. I was struggling to get our Newsletter together each quarter until Cheryl joined. She has been a wonderful addition to the team. I felt I was trying to do it all and found it very difficult to even put together a quarterly newsletter, so if others are struggling reach out to your group for help, you don't have to do it alone... **Sandra Richardson BSN**

I totally agree with Sandra, STS is by no means a solo project but rather a very large extended family. Working alongside Sandra allows us to put our heads together to work as a team and put together a very informative Newsletter to share in our regional group and more recently with each of you. Cheryl Hansen

[Sandra.Richardson2@ballardhealth.org](mailto:Sandra.Richardson2@ballardhealth.org)  
[Cheryl.Hansen@bmhcc.org](mailto:Cheryl.Hansen@bmhcc.org)  
[Amanda.sesti@bmhcc.org](mailto:Amanda.sesti@bmhcc.org)



# Rebuilding in Texas/Oklahoma Region

Texas (TRDMN)  
Oklahoma, Texas

Ann Guercio, CCP, LP, MBA (Houston, TX)

[ann.guercio@memorialhermann.org](mailto:ann.guercio@memorialhermann.org)

Are you from Texas or Oklahoma and interested in your regional group? Ann is looking for some help!

Please contact her at [ann.guercio@memorialhermann.org](mailto:ann.guercio@memorialhermann.org)





# The California Group is ahead of the game...

California  
www.casts.org

Nancy Satou, RN (Los Angeles, CA)

nsatou@mednet.ucla.edu

310-206-4168



"It's amazing that through collaboration and data analysis we have been able to **improve patient's lives** as well as optimize the health systems economic efficiency".

Nancy Satou, RN

Nancy Satou, RN  
Director of Informatics & Database Management  
Division of Cardiac Surgery  
Division of Thoracic Surgery  
David Geffen School of Medicine  
Ronald Reagan Medical Center, UCLA  
10833 Le Conte Avenue, 62-228 CHS  
Los Angeles, California 90095  
Tel: (310) 206-4168  
Fax: (310) 206-7431  
Email:

[nsatou@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:nsatou@mednet.ucla.edu)



# There is always someone to turn to in Florida!

Florida

Pat Hobbs, RN (Hollywood, FL)

phobbs@mhs.net



de-ks.com  
photo by Flickr user Chuck Coker

- The Florida Group has a group connection. We appreciate one another. Because we learn from each other...
- We are an email and a phone a friend to each other...
- We had **so much fun** when we met up at the last AQO conference. It was good to laugh and share stories. Everyone has a great sense of humor....
- We are **an eager-to-learn group**!! and no subject is not important. We like to listen in on other regional group meetings and that will demonstrate how much we love to learn.

[phobbs@mhs.net](mailto:phobbs@mhs.net) (Pat)

Pat Hobbs RN  
CVI Data Specialist  
Memorial Regional Hospital  
954-265-6727





# Great Communication in the Gulf States Region

Gulf States Region  
Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi

Sylvia Laudun, RN, MBA (New Orleans, LA)  
Michelle Swearingen, BSN, RN (Mobile, AL)

slaudun@ochsner.org  
Michelle.swearingen@health.southalabama.edu



Lots going on in the Gulf States for 2025 with adding to their email list serve and sharing the newsletter!

[slaudun@ochsner.org](mailto:slaudun@ochsner.org) (Sylvia)

[Michelle.Swearingen@health.southalabama.edu](mailto:Michelle.Swearingen@health.southalabama.edu) (Michelle)



# Maryland CSQI points you in the right direction!

Maryland (MCSQI)  
www.mcsqi.org

Terri Haber, MPH (Baltimore, MD)

Thaber@mcsqi.org



The MCSQI Data Manager Committee serves as the backbone of the organization. The data managers collaborate amongst each other and share vital details related to data abstraction with their internal teams, which allows for more accurate and consistent data collection.

**Terri Haber, MPH** | Executive Director  
**Maryland Cardiac Surgery Quality Initiative, Inc.**  
**443.605.4432**

[Thaber@mcsqi.org](mailto:Thaber@mcsqi.org)

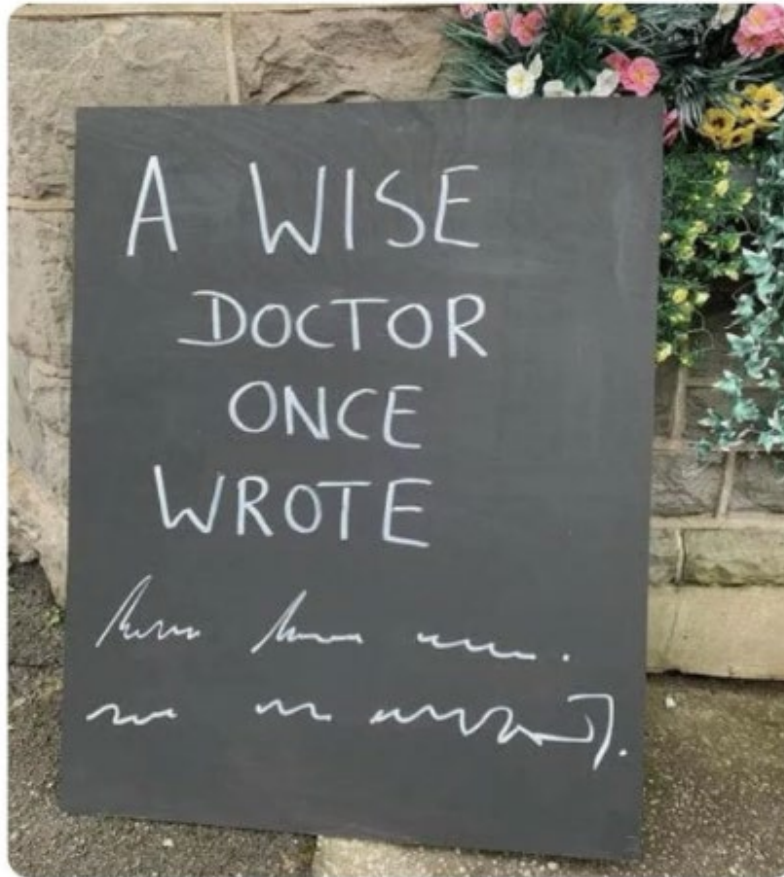


# Our Michigan Group was around before the EMR was thing!

Michigan (MSTCVS QC)  
www.mstcvs.org

Melissa Clark, RN, MSN (Ann Arbor, MI)

clarkmel@umich.edu



- The Michigan Regional Data Manager Group was formed in 2000 by Dr. Richard Prager and Jaelene Williams, RN, MS, as part of the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons (MSTCVS) Quality Collaborative (QC). The group held its **first meeting in April 2001** and continues to host quarterly educational sessions focused on STS data abstraction and quality improvement. The MSTCVS QC, also established in 2000, initially included surgeons and data managers from over half of Michigan's cardiac surgery programs and quickly expanded to encompass all non-federally funded cardiac surgery programs in the state, as well as 21 general thoracic surgery programs. The collaborative utilizes STS Adult Cardiac and General Thoracic data for quality improvement initiatives and conducts audits of site-reported STS data. **Current adult cardiac surgery statewide quality improvement efforts include patient-reported outcomes, preoperative frailty assessment, surgical ablation for atrial fibrillation, and multiple arterial grafting.** Since 2006, the collaborative has also maintained a statewide process for mortality review using the **POCMA framework**.

- [clarkmel@umich.edu](mailto:clarkmel@umich.edu)





## Regional Groups are the key to successful collaboration

Mid-Atlantic CV Quality Managers  
Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

Mary Montalvo, RN, MSN (New York, NY)  
Lisa Gengo, PA, ND (New York, NY)  
Lori Steinberg

mab9055@nyp.org  
lgengo@nyp.org  
loris@cardiacregistrysupport.com



This group had their first meeting in a while in January with so much good feedback. They are starting their own newsletter this year (thank you Mandy Clark) and **focus on data abstraction.**

Interested in joining this group?

Mary [mab9055@npy.org](mailto:mab9055@npy.org)

Lori [loris@cardiacregistrysupport.com](mailto:loris@cardiacregistrysupport.com)





## Do you want a spot on the Minnesota/ND emailing list?

Minnesota	Beth Moran, RN (Rochester, MN)	<a href="mailto:moran.beth@mayo.edu">moran.beth@mayo.edu</a>	507-255-4045
Minnesota, North Dakota	Erica Negrini, RN, BSN (Maple Grove, MN)	<a href="mailto:Erica.negrini@allina.com">Erica.negrini@allina.com</a>	612-202-7447



- Many thanks to Beth Moran as her years regional leader

This group has an **email list for questions and support!**

Please reach out to Erica if you would like to be added to this list.

[erica.negrinin@allina.com](mailto:erica.negrinin@allina.com)



Are you from Missouri or Kansas and interested in building your own regional group or want to hop on another group's call while it gets going?



Judy ([JGS9M@uvahealth.org](mailto:JGS9M@uvahealth.org))

Emily ([econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org))

Nancy ([nhoneycutt@sts.org](mailto:nhoneycutt@sts.org))



# Attention! New Group Starting for Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois! Many thanks to Heather Radin!

Nebraska/Iowa/Illinois

Heather Radin (Chicago, IL)

[hradin@q-centrix.com](mailto:hradin@q-centrix.com)



The Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska regional group (INI) is a dedicated team of data managers and health professionals committed to excellence in the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database. Through collaboration and shared expertise, we aim to enhance data quality, generate meaningful insights, and improve patient outcomes. INI is excited to hold its **first meeting in Q1 of 2025**.

[hradin@q-centrix.com](mailto:hradin@q-centrix.com) (Heather)

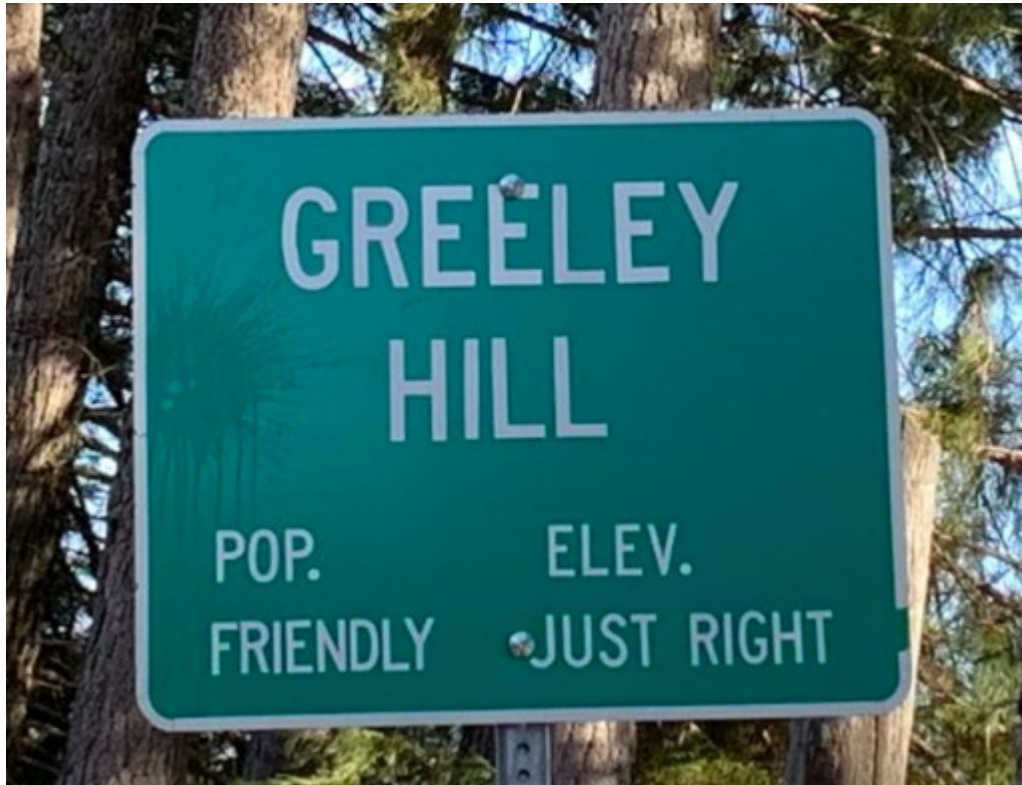


# Our Northwest Group is friendly and just right!!

**Northwest Region**  
Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Melinda Offer, RN, MSN (Couer d'Alene, ID)  
Jeannie Collins-Brandon (Seattle, WA)  
Kali Carroll, RN (Vancouver, WA)

moffer@dataspecialists.com  
jcollinsbrandon@qualityhealth.org  
KaliCarroll1@peacehealth.org



- We are an active group approximately 120 members strong, with 50+ participating in monthly calls. Our group has expanded beyond the NW region and we welcome newcomers without regional groups of their own.
- Calls are the second Wednesday of each month, 11 am-noon PST.
- Our group is co-led by clinical experts Melinda Offer, RN, DASpecialists LLC; STS Consultant, and Kali Carroll, RN, STS Data Manager, PeaceHealth Southwest. It's coordinated by Jeannie Collins-Brandon, Program Director of COAP, a regional quality improvement collaborative for cardiac care in Washington and Oregon.
- In addition to monthly calls, the group offers real time coding support through group email Q&A, harnessing the expertise of our members and providing further education and support

[jcollinsbrandon@qualityhealth.org](mailto:jcollinsbrandon@qualityhealth.org)

[KaliCarroll1@peacehealth.org](mailto:KaliCarroll1@peacehealth.org)

[moffer@dataspecialists.com](mailto:moffer@dataspecialists.com)





# Help wanted for the OHIO planning committee?? Let Kim know!

Ohio

Kim Meraglio, RN, MSN (Youngstown, OH)

[Kim\\_meraglio@mercy.com](mailto:Kim_meraglio@mercy.com)



OTCDMG: Ohio Thoracic and Cardiovascular Data Managers Group

#### STEERING COMMITTEE:

Kim Meraglio, Amy Morris, Sheila Nichols, Barb Sanders

#### ABOUT US:

A regional group of cardiovascular data management professionals in the State of Ohio and surrounding states. Our goal is to include all Ohio hospitals that participate in the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) National Database, Vascular Quality Initiative Registry (VQI) and/or the American College of Cardiology National Cardiovascular Data Registries (ACC/NCDR). Our group welcomes all data managers and quality professionals regardless of State.

Current Activities: Bi-monthly 60 minute Lunch and Learn webinars and Planning Committee meetings. We are currently seeking 2 additional data management professionals to join our planning committee.

#### OUR VISION:

To facilitate the collaboration of colleagues from healthcare facilities throughout the State of Ohio to optimize data integrity, quality, patient outcomes and clinical practice for cardiovascular and thoracic surgery patients.

#### OUR PURPOSE:

- Promote quality and standardization in thoracic and cardiovascular data management
- Provide support and mentorship through networking
- Establish an educational and networking forum for data management professionals
- Provide a collaborative voice in the utilization of patient data for national registries, state reporting and 3rd party payers
- Promote a multidisciplinary body for the sole purpose of improving patient care processes and outcomes

[Kim\\_Meraglio@mercy.com](mailto:Kim_Meraglio@mercy.com)



# They help you remember definitions and share ideas!

Rocky Mountain Region

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Amy Lantzy, MS, RN (Centennial, CO)

[amy.lantzy@commonspirit.org](mailto:amy.lantzy@commonspirit.org)



The Rocky Mountain group consists of hospitals from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. We are a fairly new group and currently meet on a quarterly basis. Our focus for 2025 is engaging new and existing members of the region. We will share updates from STS, projects we are working on and having open dialogue on issues we are experiencing. If you are not already a member, we would love to have you join our group!!

Thank You!

**Amy Lantzy MS, RN**  
Heart & Vascular RN Program Manager  
Mountain Region - CO, KS, UT

CommonSpirit Health®

720.289.4645

[amy.lantzy@commonspirit.org](mailto:amy.lantzy@commonspirit.org)





- In the meantime, Virginia is a close detour
- Please contact Eddie Fonner [cefonner@gmail.com](mailto:cefonner@gmail.com) if you are interested
- If you are interested in starting a regional group, please let Emily and me know.
- [econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org)
- [jgs9m@health.org](mailto:jgs9m@health.org)



# Regional Groups are always in working order!

Southern New England Region  
Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island

Michelle Doherty, MSN, RN (Boston, MA)

[mldohert1@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:mldohert1@bidmc.harvard.edu)



*u/JerseyHornet / Via reddit.com*

Southern NE group ( aims) to meet virtually quarterly. Restarted meeting in 2024 after a long inactive period.

At this point meetings more for asking questions and communicating.

No formal presentations or QI projects yet. Usually attended by 20+ managers and abstractors.

• Thank you to Michelle for her leadership these past years! This group is recruiting a new leader.

- [econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org)
- [jgs9m@uvahealth.org](mailto:jgs9m@uvahealth.org)



# Regional Groups Share Information

Virginia (VCSQI)  
www.vcsqi.org

Eddie Fonner, BA (Lorton, VA)  
Judy Smith, BSN (Charlottesville, VA)

cefonner@gmail.com  
JGS9M@uvahealth.org

913-909-3140  
434-760-0347



VCSQI is a non-profit consortium of cardiac surgery and cardiology practices across the Commonwealth of Virginia. With a clinical-financial database spanning multiple registries, stakeholders collaborate to **share best practices and develop protocols** with the goal of improving patient experience and providing enhanced patient care.

Eddie Fonner  
Director Extraordinaire (Judy added that!)

[cefonner@gmail.com](mailto:cefonner@gmail.com)  
[JGS9M@uvahealth.org](mailto:JGS9M@uvahealth.org)





# Is your state missing from a region and you want to be part of regional group?

- West Virginia??
- New Hampshire??
- Nevada??
- South Dakota??
- Vermont??
- Maine??



- Regional Leaders, is one of these states near you and would your group be willing to welcome new members? Let Emily and Judy know.
- Data Managers, please reach out to Emily or Judy if you are from one of these states and would like to find a regional home in the mean time!

[econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org)

[jgs9m@uvahealth.org](mailto:jgs9m@uvahealth.org)



# We Celebrate our Regional groups and How Different Each One Is!



There are **no cookie cutters** for our regional groups or what they will be; each will be different to meet the needs of that group!

Groups can range from phone a friend, to newsletters, to monthly calls to state-wide patient centered goals and case reviews.

# With Gratitude....

- None of this work is easy, and, in the words of one of my favorite surgeons, “If it were easy then anyone could do it.” Each one of you is so important to this work whether you lead a regional group, are trying to get your band back together again, or trying to find a group to join. Your work is dedicated to improving our patients’ outcomes and supporting each other. Thank you seems like small words for such a great endeavor, but **thank you!**
- On behalf of STS, I am also sending out a huge thank you to all our regional leaders, all who do this work without any extra support and on top of their other work.



# Need Help? Have Ideas?

- Judy Smith [JGS9M@uvahealth.org](mailto:JGS9M@uvahealth.org)
- Emily Conrad [econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org)
- Nancy Honeycutt [nhoneycutt@sts.org](mailto:nhoneycutt@sts.org)







# Open Discussion

Please use the  
raise-hand  
function.

Please use the  
Q&A Function.

We will answer as  
many questions as  
possible.

We encourage  
your feedback and  
want to hear from  
you!

# Contact Information

- Carole Krohn, Director, STS National Database
  - [ckrohn@sts.org](mailto:ckrohn@sts.org)
- Nancy Honeycutt, STS National Database Manager, ACSD, Intermacs/Pedimacs
  - [nhoneycutt@sts.org](mailto:nhoneycutt@sts.org)
- [STSDb@sts.org](mailto:STSDb@sts.org)
  - Database Operational Questions (Billing, Contracts, Contacts)
- [STSDb\\_Helpdesk@sts.org](mailto:STSDb_Helpdesk@sts.org)
  - IQVIA/Database Platform Questions (Uploader, DQR, Missing Variable, Dashboard, Password and Login)
- [STSDb-FAQ@sts.org](mailto:STSDb-FAQ@sts.org)
  - Clinical Questions



*Thank You  
for Joining!*

Reminder: Our next ACSD Data  
Manager Training Webinar will be  
held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
at 1pm ET/12pm CT.

