Joint Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery Society Statement on *Mycobacterium Chimaera* Infections Related to Heater-Cooler Devices Used in Cardiac Surgery

The worldwide cardiothoracic surgery community is aware of the public health issue with recent heater-cooler infection findings traced to a manufacturing facility and has actively engaged in understanding the cause and developing measures to lower the risk and occurrences of these infections. To date, *Mycobacterium chimaera* infections related to heater-cooler devices have been reported in Europe and North America (i.e., Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada).

Cardiac and thoracic surgery societies throughout the world are united in efforts to share information, including practices, protocols, and mitigation strategies that have been deployed and utilized by our members, their institutions, and other health care experts, especially infectious disease experts. Cardiothoracic surgeons around the world remain committed to offering a safe environment for patients. [Society leaders: If you have strategies that you would like for us to include in a master document, please send the information or a link to the information. STS will compile a comprehensive web page.]

In issuing this statement, our goals are to 1) communicate with the global cardiothoracic surgery community and its patients regarding protocols that have been developed, and 2) offer information from credible sources. In the United States, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Advisory and a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Safety Communication provide detailed approaches for health care providers, hospitals, health departments, and patients. [Society leaders: If your society has information from government sources, add the links here.]

The following society websites offer heater-cooler infection information, including:

- www.sts.org
  [Society leaders: If your society has information from government sources, add the links here.]

You also may review expanded information from the CDC and FDA at:

- CDC Contaminated Heater-Cooler Devices
- FDA Heater-Cooler Devices

At the upcoming STS Annual Meeting in Houston (January 21-25, 2017), a special symposium will be offered on the heater-cooler situation. This symposium will include presentation of data, reflect policy from various constituents, and offer a panel discussion of clinical implications featuring cardiothoracic surgeons and infectious disease experts. More details will be available as they develop.

Sincerely,

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