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History of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

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**History of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery***

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*“Personal history is based on recollections. If you don’t write it, you will forget it.”*

Floyd D. Loop, MD (78th AATS President)<sup>1</sup>

The American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) was founded in 1917 for the purpose of providing a forum for the “free exchange of view and experiences” in thoracic surgery.<sup>2</sup> Some were pessimistic, suggesting that a society dedicated to such a narrow field would not have long-term success. “In two or three years, everything will be said and the society will die for lack of interest.”<sup>3</sup> Willy Meyer, a surgeon from the German Hospital in New York (later renamed Lenox Hill), pressed on and formed the New York Society for Thoracic Surgery, whose first function was to serve as a springboard for a national society. On June 7, 1917, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery became reality. The first meeting was held in Chicago in 1918 in conjunction with the American Medical Association (AMA) Annual Convention. The meeting included a one-day program with nine papers held during the first day of the Convention (Figure 1).

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