

Steven Fleming

Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery

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STRENGTHS

- ♥ **Transplant judgment**
During complex candidate reviews, balanced surgical risk, organ function, anatomy, and readiness before offering a clear recommendation.
- 👤 **Operative leadership**
Coordinated donor and recipient procedures with perfusion, anesthesia, critical care, and procurement teams when timing mattered most.
- 🎓 **Learner development**
Residents and fellows received graduated operative responsibility, direct feedback, and practical coaching during demanding cases.
- 🔬 **Clinical investigation**
Turned transplant questions into outcomes studies, abstracts, manuscripts, and practice discussions that informed academic care.
- 👥 **Team based care**
Complex patients benefited from shared planning with cardiology, pulmonology, infectious disease, nursing, and critical care colleagues.

SKILLS

- Heart transplantation
- Lung transplantation
- Adult cardiac surgery
- Thoracic transplantation
- Mechanical support
- Donor procurement
- Candidate evaluation Critical care
- Clinical research
- Translational research
- Surgical education

SUMMARY

Board certified **cardiothoracic surgeon** with 13 years of post training experience in **adult cardiac surgery, heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support**, and complex thoracic cardiovascular care. Current academic practice includes donor and recipient transplantation, high risk reoperations, advanced heart failure surgery, transplant candidate evaluation, and multidisciplinary perioperative management. Clinical work connects surgical judgment with coordinated care involving transplant cardiology, pulmonology, critical care, perfusion, anesthesia, infectious disease, and transplant coordination teams. Faculty leadership includes supervision of residents and fellows, transplant selection conferences, operative teaching, morbidity review, and outcomes focused clinical investigation. Scholarly contributions address transplant utilization, postoperative complications, resource use, and advanced heart failure surgery. Active California medical licensure and current specialty certification support continued clinical excellence, learner development, and academic progress in adult cardiac and thoracic transplantation.

EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Pacific Crest University Medical Center 📅 July 2022 - Present 📍 Sacramento, CA

Directs adult cardiac and transplant surgery within a tertiary academic program, pairing operative leadership with trainee **supervision**, multidisciplinary decision making, **clinical investigation**, and academic practice development.

- Directed adult cardiac care for **heart transplantation**, mechanical support, valves, revascularization, and reoperations.
- Performed donor and **recipient procedures** while coordinating graft assessment, perfusion strategy, timing, and perioperative plans.
- Chaired transplant case reviews integrating surgical risk, organ function, anatomy, readiness, and long term treatment.
- Supervised fellows and residents through operative planning, technique, postoperative decisions, and complication review.
- Led outcomes studies on transplant utilization, postoperative complications, and resource use for academic dissemination.
- Standardized referral documentation and escalation pathways for candidates requiring multidisciplinary consensus and complex surgical review

Cardiac and Transplant Surgeon

Redwood Heart and Transplant Institute 📅 July 2018 - June 2022 📍 San Jose, CA

Led a regional adult cardiac and transplant practice covering advanced heart failure, donor assessment, ventricular assist devices, complex valve care, and perioperative coordination with specialty teams.

- Managed **heart transplantation**, ventricular assist devices, valves, aortic operations, and coronary revascularization.
- Led donor organ assessment and procurement assignments, communicating quality, logistics, and recipient readiness.
- Developed perioperative plans for patients with prior sternotomy, pulmonary hypertension, renal dysfunction, or advanced heart failure.
- Taught residents and advanced practice clinicians through rounds, operative instruction, and morbidity review.
- Coauthored transplant outcomes research by contributing case identification, operative variables, interpretation, and conference presentations.
- Established postoperative case review linking surgery and transplant cardiology for complex readmissions and graft concerns

Attending Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Central Valley Cardiovascular Center 📅 July 2015 - June 2018 📍 Fresno, CA

Trainee supervision

Outcomes analysis

Academic medicine

Multidisciplinary teamwork

LANGUAGES

English Native

Spanish Intermediate

MY CAREER



● Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Pacific Crest University Medical Center (4.2 Years)

● Cardiac and Transplant Surgeon at Redwood Heart and Transplant Institute (3.9 Years)

● Attending Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Central Valley Cardiovascular Center (2.9 Years)

● Assistant Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Sierra Academic Health (1.9 Years)

● Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow at Lakeside University Hospital (2.9 Years)

Provided independent adult cardiothoracic surgery across a high volume referral environment, supporting **transplant evaluation**, advanced heart failure care, postoperative management, quality review, and resident education.

- Performed coronary, valvular, aortic, and advanced heart failure operations in a high volume referral center.
- Developed surgical plans from imaging, hemodynamics, comorbidities, prior procedures, and postoperative support needs.
- Presented transplant and mechanical support evaluations during multidisciplinary advanced heart failure team conferences.
- Managed postoperative issues with intensivists, cardiologists, perfusionists, pharmacists, rehabilitation staff, and nurses.
- Guided residents through assessment, anatomy, technical steps, postoperative management, and documented performance feedback.
- Reviewed bleeding, infection, readmission, and operative complications, identifying practical workflow and documentation improvements

Assistant Professor of Cardiac Surgery

Sierra Academic Health 📅 July 2013 - June 2015 📍 Riverside, CA

Built an academic **adult cardiac surgery** practice with growing operative independence, transplant service support, resident **teaching**, faculty research, morbidity review, and coordinated care for complex postoperative patients.

- Performed coronary bypass, valve, and thoracic aortic procedures within a faculty practice model.
- Supported transplant and advanced heart failure services through consultation, evaluation, procurement exposure, and mechanical support care.
- Presented treatment plans using imaging, catheterization findings, functional status, and comorbid risk.
- Taught residents in operating rooms and inpatient services about anatomy, bypass, decisions, and surveillance.
- Maintained clinical datasets and contributed surgical interpretation to cardiac outcomes abstracts and manuscripts.
- Led morbidity review and protocol discussions for patients with complex postoperative courses

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow

Lakeside University Hospital 📅 July 2010 - June 2013 📍 Chicago, IL

Completed advanced cardiothoracic training with concentrated exposure to adult cardiac surgery, transplantation, mechanical support, thoracic aortic disease, reoperations, intensive care, teaching, and outcomes scholarship.

- Completed advanced training in **adult cardiac surgery**, transplantation, mechanical support, and thoracic aortic disease.
- Progressed from supervised operative components to senior fellow case leadership with faculty oversight.
- Participated in donor heart procurement and **recipient procedures**, including preservation, implantation, and graft evaluation.
- Managed critically ill postoperative patients using hemodynamics, imaging, laboratory trends, and support parameters.
- Taught residents and medical **students** during rounds, conferences, and operative cases.
- Completed transplant and **cardiac surgery** outcomes projects for internal and regional professional presentations

PROJECTS

Transplant Outcomes and Utilization Study 📅 2024

Connected transplant utilization, postoperative complications, and resource use with practical academic review, supporting stronger case selection and program decisions.

Complex Referral Review Standardization 📅 2023

Created a consistent surgical assessment workflow for complex transplant referrals, improving multidisciplinary escalation and documentation across a tertiary practice.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Faculty Teaching Recognition, Pacific Crest University Medical Center, 2025
- Clinical Excellence Award, Redwood Heart and Transplant Institute, 2021
- Transplant Candidate Selection Committee leadership, Pacific Crest University Medical Center, 2022 to Present

EDUCATION

Doctor of Medicine

University of Illinois College of Medicine 🎓 GPA: 4.0 📅 2007 📍 Chicago, IL

Coursework: Cardiothoracic surgery, transplantation, cardiovascular physiology, clinical investigation

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

University of Wisconsin Madison 🎓 GPA: 4.0 📅 2003 📍 Madison, WI

Coursework: Human anatomy, physiology, biology, research methods

CERTIFICATIONS

- American Board of Thoracic Surgery, Board Certified 📅 2026
- California Physician and Surgeon License, Active 📅 2013
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support 📅 2026

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Cardiac Surgery:** Coronary revascularization, valve surgery, aortic surgery
- **Transplant Surgery:** Heart transplantation, lung transplantation, thoracic transplantation
- **Mechanical Support:** Ventricular assist devices, durable support, graft evaluation
- **Transplant Evaluation:** Candidate selection, donor assessment, recipient readiness
- **Perioperative Care:** Hemodynamic management, postoperative surveillance, critical care
- **Clinical Research:** Clinical investigation, translational research, outcomes studies
- **Academic Teaching:** Resident supervision, fellow supervision, medical student teaching
- **Multidisciplinary Care:** Transplant cardiology, pulmonology, infectious disease
- **Operative Planning:** Reoperative surgery, surgical risk review, anatomic assessment
- **Quality Review:** Morbidity review, complication analysis, workflow improvement
- **Cardiopulmonary Support:** Perfusion strategy, cardiopulmonary bypass, mechanical support parameters
- **Scholarly Communication:** Abstracts, manuscripts, specialty presentations

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Cardiothoracic Surgery Outcomes Research Group, Faculty Investigator, 2019 to Present
- Transplant Candidate Selection Committee, Pacific Crest University Medical Center, 2022 to Present

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST