

# ASTS 2026 Winter Symposium

## January 22 – 25, 2026

### Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass | Phoenix, AZ

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[Friday, January 23](#)  
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#### Registration Hours:

Thursday 9 AM – 6 PM  
 Friday 7 AM – 6 PM  
 Saturday 7 AM - 1 PM  
 Sunday 7 AM – 10 AM

#### Speaker Ready Room:

Thursday 9 AM – 5 PM  
 Friday 7 AM – 5 PM  
 Saturday 7 AM – 2 PM  
 Sunday 7:30 – 9:30 AM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026			
Start	End	Session Title	Speakers
11:00 AM	7:15 PM	Exhibit Hall Open	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>Sponsored Symposia Lunch</b> – Insight Molecular Diagnostics (imDx)	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>Sponsored Symposia Lunch</b> – Veloxis	
12:30 PM	12:35 PM	Introduction & Welcome	Varia Kirchner, MD   Stanford University
12:40 PM	1:35 PM	<b>Advocacy</b> Moderators: Debra Sudan, MD   Duke University Medical Center Amit Mathur, MD, FACS   Mayo Clinic Arizona	
		Welcome	Amit Mathur, MD, FACS   Mayo Clinic Arizona
		Don't Stop Believin': An overview of the year from the Legislative & Regulatory Committee	Caroline Rochon, MD, FACS   Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center
		"I want in on the action!" - How Do I Get Involved in Advocacy?"	Bruce Gelb, MD   NYU Langone Health
		Congress and the Politics of Transplant	Peggy Tighe, JD   Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville
		Regulatory Developments Affecting Transplantation	Diane Millman, JD   Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville

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		Change is the Only Constant: The Present and Future of Allocation Out of Sequence	Steve Potter, MD, FACS   MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute
		Q&A	All Session Speakers
1:40 PM	2:30 PM	<b>Physical Pain and Mental Strain of the Transplant Business</b> Moderators: Sunil Geevarghese, MD, MSCI, FACS   Vanderbilt University Medical Center Kiara Tulla, MD   Tulane Abdominal Transplant Institute	
		Surgeons Get Sick and Injured Too: Health Maintenance, Prevention, Managing Life after Illness	Meredith Barrett, MD   University of Michigan
		What I wish I Knew: Preventative Strategies to Avoid Ergonomic Pitfalls	Dennis Sonnier, MD   Ochsner Medical Center
		Defining, Recognizing, Managing Microaggression in Clinical Practice	Anthony Watkins, MD   Tampa General Hospital
		Discussion Panel	All Session Speakers
2:35 PM	3:15 PM	<b>Oral Abstract Session I</b> Moderators: Linda Cendales, MD   Duke University Matthew Holzner, MD, MSCR   Mount Sinai Hospital	
		Achieving Reproducibility in Total Robotic Liver Transplantation: A U.S. Program's Stepwise Experience with Deceased and Living Donors	Juan Rocca, MD, FACS   Weill Cornell Medical Center
		Intraabdominal Versus Thoracic Cannulation Techniques for Abdominal Normothermic Regional Perfusion	Olivia Walker, BS   Baylor University Medical Center
		Continuous Multiparametric Monitoring of Donor Livers During Normothermic Perfusion	Michelle Nguyen, MD, MPH   Mayo Clinic
		Delayed Immune Tolerance via Donor Stem Cell Infusion Years after Kidney Transplantation: A Case Series	Jonathan Jou, MD   University of California Los Angeles
3:15 PM	3:35 PM	<i>Break</i>	
3:35 PM	4:05 PM	<b>Najarian Lecture</b> Speaker: Dixon Kaufman, MD, PhD   University of Wisconsin	
4:15 PM	5:45 PM	<b>Innovations in Transplantation</b> Moderators: Varia Kirchner, MD   Stanford University	

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		Elizabeth Pomfret, MD, PhD, FACS   University of Colorado School of Medicine	
		Path to Robotic Heart Transplant	Kenneth Liao, MD, PhD, FACS   Baylor College of Medicine
		Bioengineered External Liver Support with Porcine Scaffold and Human Cells	Christopher Danford, MD   Intermountain Medical Center
		Stem Cell-Derived Islets for Type I DM	Trevor Reichman, MD, PhD, FACS   University of Toronto
		First Human Bladder Transplant	Nima Nassiri, MD   University of California Los Angeles
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
5:45 PM	7:15 PM	<b>Opening Reception &amp; Poster Session A</b>	

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026			
Start	End	Session Title	Speakers
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Breakfast	
7:00 AM	7:15 PM	Exhibit Hall Open	
8:00 AM	11:10 AM	<b>Advanced Transplant Provider Session</b>	
		Moderators: Jeanette Leonard, MSN, DNP, FNP-C   NYU Langone Transplant Institute Kaitlyn Musto, MS, PA-C, MSPAS   Mayo Clinic	
		APP Committee Updates and Welcome	Katherine J. Klingenberg, PA-C   University of Colorado
		On the Steady Rise: The Evolving Landscape of Heart-Liver Transplants	Gina Jamero, MSN, ACNP-BC   Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
		Maximizing Organ Utilization: Leveraging Accelerated Placement and Open Offer Lists to Reduce Waste	Kara Ventura, PNP, FNP, DNP   Yale New Haven Hospital
		Integrative Behavioral Health in Clinical Care: Promoting Patient Self-Management of Steatotic Liver Disease	Lisa Catalli, MSN, ANP, NP-C   University of California San Francisco
		Bridging the Gap: Transition from Pediatric to Adult Transplant Care	Kate Eklund, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC   Duke University Medical Center
		<i>Break (5 minutes)</i>	
		AI for the APP: What Should I Know?	Henry Randall, MD, MBA, FACS   SSM Health Saint Louis University
		Transplant ID Pearls: National and Regional Considerations	C. Chime Karkhang, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC   Yale University
		Case Study of Meningo-Myeloencephalitis in a Liver Transplant Recipient	Dhara Patel, PA-C   University of Pennsylvania
		Liver Lesions and Malignancies- Pathway to Transplant	Danielle M. Fox, DNP, ACNP-BC   NYU Langone Health
		Exploring Non-Directed Donation and Its Impact on Liver Transplant	Jaime Cisek, BSN, RN, CCTC   UCHHealth University of Colorado Hospital

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8:00 AM	9:00 AM	<b>Session A: Expanding Indications and Advancing Outcomes in Transplant Oncology</b> Moderators: Julie Heimbach, MD   Mayo Clinic Madhukar Patel, MD, MBA   University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	
		Noadjuvant Therapies in HCC Update on Protocols and Outcomes	Chris Sonnenday, MD, MHS   University of Michigan
		Precision Transplant Oncology	Ashton Connor, MD, PhD   Houston Methodist Hospital
		CRLM in North America in the Post Transmit Trial Era	Koji Hashimoto, MD, PhD   Cleveland Clinic
		Multi-Disciplinary Clinics in Txp Oncology-- Who, What, Why?	Talia Baker, MD   University of Utah Medical Center
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	<b>Session B: Unlocking the Pancreas: A Missed Opportunity in Every Donor?</b> Moderators: David Aufhauser, MD   University of Wisconsin Rachel Forbes, MD, MBA, FACS   Vanderbilt University Medical Center	
		Expanding the Donor Pool: Strategies for Pancreas Assessment and Utilization in the Era of NRP	Talal Al-Qaoud, MD   Georgetown Transplant Institute
		Simultaneous Pancreatic Islet and Bone Marrow Transplant from Deceased Donor for Type 1 DM	Stephan Busque, MD   Stanford University School of Medicine
		Pancreas for Research or Transplant? Ethical, Logistical, and Clinical Considerations	Ron Parson, MD   University of Pennsylvania
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
9:10 AM	10:10 AM	<b>Session A: Always Learning: Training the Future</b> Moderators: Leigh Anne Dageforde, MD, MPH   Vanderbilt University Medical Center Stephanie Chartier-Plante, MD, FACS   University of British Columbia	
		What I wish I had known during residency and fellowship	Taylor Coe, MD   University of Texas Southwestern
		"You Pick Two" - Applying to And Selecting a Fellowship - What Do You Focus on?	Kelly Collins, MD   University of Wisconsin
		Applying and Starting Your First Job	Amar Gupta, MD   Baylor University Medical Center

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		Work-Life Integration	Irene Kim, MD   Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
9:10 AM	10:10 AM	<b>Session B: Evolving Candidate, Recipient, and Program Considerations in Kidney Transplant</b> Moderators: Tayyab Diwan, MD   Mayo Clinic Rochester Tamer Shaker, MD   Texas Transplant Institute Methodist Specialty	
		IOTA Rules	Kenneth Andreoni, MD   Thomas Jefferson University
		HIV Positive Donors & Recipients in Kidney Transplantation	Samy Riad, MD   Mayo Clinic Rochester
		Management of obesity in kidney & pancreas transplant candidates and recipients	Babak Orandi, MD, PhD   New York University
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
10:20 AM	11:20 AM	<b>Surgeon Scientist Session - Basic, Translational and Innovation</b> Moderators: Jim Markmann, MD, PhD   Penn Transplant Institute Aleah Brubaker, MD, PhD   University of California San Diego	
		What is the Benefit of Research to a Transplant Program and Academic Institution	Ginny Bumgardner, MD, PhD   Ohio State University
		Building Versatile Research Team in Basic Science World	Sylvester Black, MD, PhD   Ohio State University
		Building Versatile Research Team in Healthcare Outcomes World	Lisa McElroy, MD, MS   Duke University
		Creating Financial Security in Transplant Research in an Era of Federal Funding Uncertainty	Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH   Northwestern Memorial Hospital
		The Transplant Surgeon Inventor: Intellectual Property	James Guarrera, MD, FACS   Thomas Jefferson University
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>Sponsored Symposia Lunch - CareDx</b>	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>Sponsored Symposia Lunch - Transmedics</b>	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open	

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12:30 PM	1:30 PM	<b>Navigating Leadership in Extraordinary Times</b> Moderators: Tomoaki Kato, MD, MBA   Columbia University Henry Randall, MD, MBA, FACS   SSM Health Saint Louis University	
		Leading Organization Change	Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, FACS   Howard University
		Multigenerational Leadership and Team Dynamics in Transplant Surgery	Kristin Mekeel, MD   UCHealth University of Colorado
		The EQ of Transplantation (Emotional Intelligence from the Conference Room to the Operating Room)	Robert Montgomery, MD, PhD, FACS   NYU Langone Transplant Institute
		What Do You Need to Know About Transplant Finances	Rajeev Sharma, MD, FACS   West Virginia University Medical Center
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
1:35 PM	2:20 PM	<b>Research Grants Session</b> Moderators: Lisa McElroy, MD, MS   Duke University Heidi Yeh, MD   Massachusetts General Hospital	
		2022 ASTS-Veloxis Fellowship in Transplantation Grant	M. Zeeshan Akhtar, MD, PhD   Mount Sinai Medical Center
		2021 Jon Fryer Resident Scientist Scholarship	Qimeng Gao, MD   Duke University
		2024 Socio Economical & Racial Disparity Grant	Nassir Thalji, MD, PhD   Texas Transplant Institute Methodist Specialty
2:25 PM	2:45 PM	<b>Award Ceremony I</b>	
2:50 PM	3:25 PM	<b>Hume Lecture</b> Speaker: Gabriel Danovitch, MD   David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Moderator: David Serur, MD   Hackensack University Medical Center	
		<i>Break</i>	
3:45 PM	4:15 PM	<b>Oral Abstract Session II</b> Moderators: Chris Frieze, MD   University of California San Francisco Peter Liou, MD   Columbia University	
		Autologous Mitochondrial Transplantation to Mitigate Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in a Porcine DCD Auto Transplant Model	Francisco Calderon Novoa, MD   Toronto General Hospital

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		Who Gets Skipped When a Deceased-Donor Kidney is Allocated Out-of-Sequence?	David Cron, MD, MS   Massachusetts General Hospital
		The Use of Pediatric Donors in Pancreas Transplantation	Arianna Cabrales, MD   Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
4:30 PM	5:45 PM	<b>How We Train</b> Moderators: Samantha Halpern, MSN, APRN, FNP-C   Washington University at St. Louis John Magee, MD   Michigan Medicine Timothy Pruett, MD   University of Minnesota	
		How To Train a Pediatric Transplant Surgeon	George Mazariegos, MD   UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
		Training for New Procedure: Living Donor Liver, HPB, MIS	Jason Hawksworth, MD   Columbia University Medical Center
		Evolution of Training in Deceased Donor Procurement: Who Trains, Who Certifies?	Catherine Kling, MD, MPH   University of Washington
		Help Your Fellows to Transition into Faculty Role	Majella Doyle, MD, MBA   Washington University at St. Louis
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
5:45 PM	7:15 PM	<b>Poster Session B</b>	
6:45 PM	7:30 PM	<b>Transplant Trivia Night!</b>	
7:30 PM	8:30 PM	<b>APP Reception</b>	
7:00 PM	11:00 PM	<i>Night out in Chandler (Shuttles will be available)</i>	



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026			
Start	End	Session Title	Speakers
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Breakfast	
7:00 AM	12:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open	
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	<b>Pushing the Boundaries of Pumping</b> Moderators: Kris Croome, MD   Mayo Clinic Florida Arpit Amin, MD, FACS   Rutgers New Jersey Medical School	
		NRP + NMP - When to Use & What are the Challenges	Steven Kim, MD, Emory University
		NRP + HOPE + Splitting Livers	Daniel Borja-Cacho, MD   Northwestern University
		What If Pump Did Not Work: Results of Consensus Guidelines among US Liver Transplant Centers on Ischemic Cholangiopathy Management in 2026	Burcin Ekser, MD, PhD   Loyola University
		Renal NMP	Jenny Philip, MD   University of Wisconsin
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
9:20 AM	10:05 AM	<b>Allocation Out of Sequence- It saves patients and leads to decrease in organ discard</b> Moderators: Marc Melcher, MD, PhD   Stanford University Chelsey Wongjirad, DO   University Medical Center	
		Debate: Out of Sequence Allocation - Pro	Caroline Jadowiec, MD   Mayo Clinic Arizona
		Debated: Out of Sequence Allocation - Con	Michael Englesbe, MD   University of Michigan
		How Can We Find a Solution?	Zoe Stewart Lewis, MD   University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers

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10:25 AM	11:25 AM	<b>Global Impact of Transplantation</b> Moderators: Jeffrey Punch, MD   Michigan Medicine Saulat Sheikh, MD   University of Alabama at Birmingham	
		Establishing LDLT Program in Other Countries	Ashwin Rammohan, MBBS, FRCS   Rela Institute
		Global transplant surgery: The Rwandan living donor kidney transplant program experience	Jordan Pyda, MD, MPH   Largo Medical Center
		Growing role of international transplant surgery training	Jessica Lindemann, MD, PhD   Washington University at St. Louis
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>Sponsored Symposia Lunch - OrganOx</b>	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>Sponsored Symposia Lunch - Paragonix</b>	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open	
12:35 PM	1:05 PM	<b>Oral Abstract Session III</b> Moderators: Keri Lunsford, MD, PhD, FACS   Rutgers University Justin Steggerda, MD   Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	
		A Novel Comprehensive Pre Transplant Risk Calculator to Predict Post Kidney Transplant Outcomes	Andrew Hefley, BS   Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
		24h OrganBank decreases DGF compared to LifePort in porcine 30min DCD kidney auto-transplantation	Nader Abraham, MD   Duke University
		From ICU Hunches to PACU Preference: A Culture Shift in Liver Transplant Postoperative Care	Katherine J. Klingenberg, PA-C   University of Colorado
1:10 PM	1:40 PM	<b>Award Ceremony II</b>	
1:45 PM	2:55 PM	<b>Controversies in Living Donation</b> Moderators: Andrew Perry, MD   Swedish Organ Transplant and Liver Center Jacqueline Garonzik-Wang, MD, PhD, FACS   University of Alabama at Birmingham	
		Debate: PRO Living donor liver in transplant oncology	Tarunjeet Klair, MD   University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

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		Debate: CON Living donor liver in transplant oncology	Amit Mathur, MD, FACS   Mayo Clinic
		Debate: Pro Donor Paired Exchange	Clark Kensinger, MD   Piedmont Atlanta Hospital
		Debate: CON Donor Paired Exchange	Jennifer Berumen, MD   University of California San Diego
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
2:55 PM	3:30 PM	<b>President's Address</b> Jim Markmann, MD, PhD   Penn Transplant Institute	
3:30 PM	4:30 PM	<b>The US Transplant System: Progress towards Modernization</b> Speakers: Raymond Lynch, MD   US Department of Health & Human Services (HRSA) John Magee, MD   Michigan Medicine Moderator: Jim Markmann, MD, PhD   Penn Transplant Institute	
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Fellows Networking Event	
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Pipeline Networking Event	
7:00 PM	9:30 PM	Saturday Night Dinner	

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026			
Start	End	Session Title	Speakers
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Breakfast	
8:00 AM	8:40 AM	<b>Mini Oral Abstracts</b>	
		Moderators: Amy Evenson, MD   Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Matthew Levine, MD, PhD   University of Pennsylvania	
		Estrogen Receptor-alpha Signaling Modulates Sex-Specific Differences in Dendritic Cell-Mediated Alloimmune Responses	Sarah Tsou, MD   Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School
		Machine Perfusion Improves Liver Graft Utilization from Older Circulatory Death Donor Organs	Abdulghani Abou Koura, MD   University of Virginia Health System
		Variation in the Landscape of Heart Transplant Allocation	Luckmini Liyanage, MD   Massachusetts General Hospital
		Redefining Delayed Graft Function: From Binary to Dynamic Using a Trajectory-Based Model to Evaluate Renal Recovery After Kidney Transplantation	Malik Muhammad Makki, MD, FACS, FCPS, MBA   Cleveland Clinic
		Multi-national Risk-Matched Comparison of Hypothermic-Oxygenated and Normothermic Machine Perfusion in Liver Transplantation: Predicting Cost Effectiveness and Clinical Efficacy Using 1,026 Cases	Chase Wehrle, MD   Cleveland Clinic
		Staged or Simultaneous Heart-Kidney Transplantation: Effects of Delayed Renal Allograft Implantation on Recipient Outcomes	Justin Wang   NYU Grossman School of Medicine
		Hybrid Protocol for Split Liver Preparation Using Normothermic Machine Perfusion	Kimberly Feeney, MD   Mount Sinai
		Xenotransplantation of Pancreatic Islets with MMP-9-Enhanced Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells for the Treatment of Type 1 Diabetes in Mice	Aarnav Grover   Hackensack University Medical Center

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8:45 AM	9:50 AM	<b>Cases When You Need Attendier Attending</b> Moderators: Jean Emond, MD   Columbia University Ty Dunn, MD, MS   Medical College of Wisconsin	
		Hepatic Artery Pseudoaneurysm	Tamer Shaker, MD   Texas Transplant Institute Methodist Specialty
		Caval Stenosis/Complex Portal Inflow Reconstruction	Stephanie Chartier-Plante, MD, FACS   University of British Columbia
		Arteroenteric Fistula Post Pancreas Transplantation	Badi Rawashdeh, MBBS   Medical College of Wisconsin
		NRP Disaster	Steve Wisel, MD   Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
		Pediatric Transplant with Monosegment	Blayne Amir Sayed, MD, PhD   Toronto General Hospital
		Panel Discussion	All Session Speakers
9:55 AM	11:30 AM	<b>Controversies in MIS Transplantation: Let's Talk it Out</b> Moderators: C.H. David Kwon, MD, PhD   Cleveland Clinic Tracy Rice, MD   Massachusetts General Hospital	
		Robotic Auxiliary Liver Transplant in Pediatric Recipient	Ashwin Rammohan, MBBS, FRCS   Rela Institute
		Robotic Living Donor Hysterectomy for Uterus Transplant: Donor and Recipient Considerations	Liza Johannesson, MD, PhD   Baylor University Medical Center
		Robotic Assisted Kidney Transplant & Bariatric Surgery	Mario Spaggiari, MD   University of Illinois
		Discussion	Session Speakers
		Debate: Robotic vs Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy - Is It Worth the Environmental Footprint - Yes	Atsushi Yoshida, MD   Henry Ford Hospital
		Debate: Robotic vs Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy - Is It Worth the Environmental Footprint - No	Idelberto Raul Badell, MD   Emory University
		Discussion	Session Speakers
		Debate: Robotic Liver Transplant - Is There a Benefit - Yes	Adeel Khan, MD   Washington University at St. Louis



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		Debate: Robotic Liver Transplant - Is There a Benefit - No	William Chapman, MD, FACS   Washington University at St. Louis
		Discussion	Session Speakers