

Transplant Centers of Excellence

Best Practices in Unique Organ Procurement, Transplantation, Rejuvenation and Regeneration for Hospitals and Health Networks

March 2-3, 2017 • San Francisco, CA

KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- How to plan and develop comprehensive transplant services and programs from the ground up to deliver effective, high quality care
- Reimbursement issues and return on investment
- Improving quality of care, staff efficiency and cooperation, while reducing LOS and indirect costs
- The role of rehab and post-hospitalization programs
- Staffing models – recruiting
- Emerging trends and strategic opportunities in organ procurement and transplantation
- Improved outcomes resulting from a focus of Certification
- Integrative medicine and nutrition for the solid transplant patient
- Strategies to alleviate pressures from acute organ shortage
- Improve working knowledge of CMS guidelines for transplant and their impact on continuity of care
- Structuring transplant centers for success – program affiliations, accreditations, experiences and staff
- Immune suppression regimens to dampen acute rejection, and necessitating regimens to counteract side-effects
- Streamlining services from eligibility to post-transplant rehabilitation and maintenance
- Expanding transplant services beyond the standard – intestine, face and hand transplantation
- Transplant QAPI programs - defining, implementing and evaluating performance improvement
- FACT distinction, accreditation, and recertification
- The future of organ procurement and transplantation – tissue engineering and regenerative medicine

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CONTENT AND THEME

ACI is excited to announce our upcoming Transplant Centers of Excellence conference taking place March 2-3, 2017. A dedicated forum to learn and network with representatives from organizations nationwide that are interested in the advancement and expansion of transplant programs and services.

Our event will be an exploration of techniques to better equip hospitals and health centers with the latest strategies and advancements in organ procurement and transplantation through real case studies, research findings, and organizational models from renowned Transplant Centers and programs. The top transplant hospitals and service lines in the country will showcase their successes and share strategies in achieving excellence in patient care as well as the business of a dedicated transplant program.

This year's conference will highlight and discuss a myriad of topics that are relevant to unique organ procurement and transplantation. Topics of interest that will be introduced and discussed are solutions and resources for the planning and development of comprehensive transplant services, effective treatment of immune problems, leveraging a multidisciplinary approach for the best results and patient satisfaction, and integrative medicine and nutrition. We will also explore the benefits and impact of the newest recommendations by national organizations, various accreditations, and updates to billing and reimbursement policies.

This two-day, case-study-based industry event will focus on advancing and expanding comprehensive transplant programs and services to maximize competitive advantage, meet increased demand and exceed patient satisfaction. The goal of this event is to bring industry leaders together, highlight the best practice achievements, and discuss the current issues and developments in the transplant industry.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

Glenn Matsuki

Process Improvement Project Manager

DONOR NETWORK WEST

Melissa Roberts

Divisional Director, Transplant Center and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program

TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Barry Friedman

Senior Administrative Director

FLORIDA HOSPITAL TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE

Mohamed Akoad

Chair, Department of Transplantation & Hepatobiliary Diseases

LAHEY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

Daniel Borja-Cacho

Surgical Director for the Liver Transplant Program, Director of the Transplant Service Line

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Risë Stribling

Medical Director, Liver Transplantation

BAYLOR ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER

Lee Ann Baxter-Lowe, Clinical Professor and Director, HLA Laboratory

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CA AND CHLA

Harvey Mysel

President and Founder

Living Kidney Donors Network

Marc Schecter

Medical Director, Pediatric Lung Transplant Program

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

David Reich, Professor and Chief, Division of Multiorgan Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery; Vice Chair, Department of Surgery

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

George Chaux

Medical Director, Lung Transplant Program

CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

Patricia Kemerley

Director of Solid Organ

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOSPITAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

John Roberts

Professor of Surgery

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Prakash Rao

VP/COO, Diagnostics and Research Operations & Director, Transplant Laboratory

NJ SHARING NETWORK

WHO WILL ATTEND:

- CEOs, COOs, and CTOs
- VPs of Transplant Services
- Administrative Directors of Transplant Services
- Medical Directors of Transplant Services
- Transplant Coordinators
- Quality Specialists, Transplantation
- QAPI Directors/Managers
- Transplant Nurse Managers
- Pharmacists

CONFERENCE DAY ONE • MARCH 2, 2017:

8:00 AM

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 AM

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME & OPENING ADDRESS

9:00 AM

THE ROAD TO ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE IN ORGAN DONATION

A little over 21 years ago, Glenn underwent a life-saving heart transplant. His transplant journey will become the road map for the presentation. He will examine the disparity between the need and availability then discuss best practices to narrow the gap.

Communication between healthcare and the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) team is crucial to donation excellence. Strategies for improving communication and partnership and how it affects outcomes will be discussed.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Explaining current need for deceased donor organs in the U.S.
- Articulate current organ donation best practices
- Partner with organ procurement organizations

Glenn Matsuki, Process Improvement Project Manager

DONOR NETWORK WEST

9:45 AM

QUALITY IN ACTION: STREAMLINING THE PRE-TRANSPLANT PROCESS TO MEET PATIENT NEEDS

The busy Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Program at Tampa General Hospital sees more than 2,000 new patient referrals every year. Through the use of the PDCA cycle and a tenacious process engineer, they were able to increase the throughput by 335% and decrease the time to first appointment by 80%. The result has been a much more patient-friendly, efficient process, which satisfies the patients, the referring providers, and their team.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Identifying potential barriers to an efficient evaluation process in a large volume transplant program
- Developing a "plan of attack" and prioritizing tasks in a large-scale process improvement project
- Identifying the resources for approximating needed resources for sustaining volume and increasing growth within a transplant program

Melissa Roberts, Divisional Director, Transplant Center and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program

TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL

10:30 AM

MORNING REFRESHMENT BREAK

Sponsored by Nationwide Organ Recovery Transport Alliance



11:00 AM

TRANSPLANT INSTITUTES: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY!

As healthcare systems strive to create centers of excellence, the development of transplant institutes are now in vogue. This panel can discuss the good, the bad, and the ugly of what it means to be a transplant institute.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Why a transplant institute is needed at a health care system
- The positive aspects of a transplant institute
- The downsides of a transplant institute
- How to develop a transplant institute and the financial impact

Barry Friedman, Senior Administrative Director

FLORIDA HOSPITAL TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE

11:45 AM

THE ROAD TO A LARGE VOLUME LIVER TRANSPLANT CENTER: MAXIMIZING ORGAN DONOR POOL

The presentation will focus on how to increase the volume of liver transplants by maximizing the organ donor pool. We will discuss the current status of the organ donor pool. I will also discuss the outcome of grafts rejected by other centers.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Current status of organ donor pool
- How to increase transplant volume with imported grafts
- Outcome of imported grafts
- Living donor liver transplant

Mohamed Akoad, Chair, Department of Transplantation & Hepatobiliary Diseases

LAHEY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

12:30 PM

LUNCHEON FOR DELEGATES & SPEAKERS

1:30 PM

OVERCOMING LIMITATIONS TO TRANSITION FROM A SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZE LIVER PROGRAM

This presentation will discuss steps necessary to increase the volumes in liver transplantation without affecting the short and long term outcomes. It will also recognize the importance of establishing and developing a strong transplant QAPI program.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Understanding available resources for adequate staffing
- Establishing a multidisciplinary team
- Constantly improving the outcomes of patients using the QAPI program

Daniel Borja-Cacho, Surgical Director for the Liver Transplant Program, Director of the Transplant Service Line
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

2:15 PM

LIVER TRANSPLANT: IMPROVING ACCESS TO TRANSPLANTATION IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES USING NOVEL TEACHING METHODS AND VIDEOCONFERENCING

This presentation will describe the efforts to build partnerships with community physicians to co-manage patients with organ failure using interactive multipoint video-conferencing. Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) provides disease-specific live video consultation to instruct and educate community providers in the management of complex diseases. Our goal is to create sophisticated providers with specialized knowledge who serve as experts and specialists in their own communities. This presentation will deal with the establishment of remote medical review boards (MRB's) to manage complex organ failure, including advanced cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Understand the economic burden facing patients and families who have end stage liver failure or liver cancer who are being referred for a liver transplant
- Review the liver transplant evaluation process required to determine suitability for listing.
- Highlight the wait times for patients once listed for liver transplant.
- Review a novel approach for pre-screening patients prior to the full evaluation for transplant.
- Develop educational tools through case based studies in order to enhance the knowledge of the local/community physicians for co-management while the patient is waiting on the list for transplant
- Review strategies for the use of Project ECHO, Telehealth Program

Risë Stribling, Medical Director, Liver Transplantation
BAYLOR ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER

3:00 PM

AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:30 PM

THE CHANGING FACE OF HISTOCOMPATIBILITY TESTING: PREPARING TRANSPLANT PROGRAMS FOR TOMORROW

This presentation will describe recent technological developments that have revolutionized histocompatibility testing before and after solid organ transplants. This presentation will show how these improved tests can be utilized to improve transplant outcomes. The impact on patient management, national organ allocation policies, and transplant outcomes will be discussed.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Describe new technology for histocompatibility testing
- Use new and improved laboratory tests to achieve better transplant outcomes
- Understand how changes in laboratory practice have affected organ allocation in the US

Lee Ann Baxter-Lowe, Clinical Professor and Director, HLA Laboratory
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CA AND CHLA

4:15 PM

LEARNING THE KEY STRATEGIES THAT PATIENTS USE TO FIND A LIVING KIDNEY DONOR

Learn how kidney transplant recipients become successful at finding their living donor. This presentation will include the important steps that needs to be taken by patients and how they can be provided with this information. Helping patients find a living kidney donor and educating the public about the need for living kidney donors will reverse the current trend of fewer living kidney transplants.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Hear how kidney transplant recipients found their living donor
- Learn how to educate doctors, nurses, social workers and coordinators so they can reinforce living kidney donation to their patients
- How you can educate your local community about the need for living kidney donors

Harvey Mysel, President and Founder
LIVING KIDNEY DONORS NETWORK

5:00 PM

CHAIRPERSON CLOSING / NETWORK RECEPTION
Sponsored by Charity Air Ambulance



7:00 PM

END DAY ONE

CONFERENCE DAY TWO • MARCH 3, 2017:

8:00 AM

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 AM

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME & OPENING ADDRESS

9:00 AM

TRANSPLANT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: CREATING AND SUSTAINING A PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

On average only 50 lung transplants in children are performed in the United States every year. Pediatric lung transplantation is performed at only a handful of pediatric hospitals and most of these programs perform less than 5 transplants per year. This presentation focuses on the successful development of a new pediatric lung transplant program at a well-established children's hospital with extensive transplant services.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Overview of pediatric lung transplantation
- Regulatory aspects and requirements for new programs
- Building the dream team – skills and expertise required to jump start program development
- Foundational process design and implementation (clinical and operational)
- Challenges and tactics to overcome introducing a new program into a well established system – key tactics to build expertise within units and divisions
- Utilization of an external review to assess program readiness
- Achieving regulatory accreditation
- Commitment to continuous improvement – case debriefs, care conferences, programmatic growth, execution of follow ups

Marc Schecter, Medical Director, Pediatric Lung Transplant Program
CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

9:45 AM

ARTIFICIAL LIVER SUPPORT – ON THE CUSP OF THERAPEUTIC DEVICES, PERFUSATES AND CELLS

Severe liver disease is widespread, resource demanding, and often lethal without hepatic repair or transplantation. Artificial liver support devices are available for clinical use and trials in critically ill patients. Machine perfusion of organ donor livers is rapidly evolving as an effective strategy to increase availability of transplantable livers. Various devices, perfusates, additives, and cellular techniques are being developed at this exciting time in the field of liver resuscitation.

Key issues to be covered include:

- The current state of bio/artificial liver support for critically ill patients
- The emerging role of machine perfusion to expand the organ donor pool
- The relevant opportunities for clinical service line expansion and biomedical device development and adoption

David Reich, Professor and Chief, Division of Multiorgan Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery; Vice Chair, Department of Surgery
DREXEL UNIVERSITY

10:30 AM

MORNING REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:00 AM

MANAGEMENT OF LUNG TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS, WHAT IMPROVES OUTCOMES?

This presentation will focus on current results with lung transplantation. It will also discuss factors that affect outcomes and future directions.

Key issues to be covered include:

- History of lung transplantation
- Current results
- Factors affecting outcomes
- Future directions

George Chaux, Medical Director, Lung Transplant Program
CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

11:45 AM

TBD

12:30 PM

LUNCHEON FOR DELEGATES & SPEAKERS

1:30 PM

SIA AND BEYOND

Key issues to be covered include:

- Survive systems improvement agreement
- Independent peer review visits
- QAPI
- Post follow up

Patricia Kemerley, Director of Solid Organ
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOSPITAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

2:15 PM

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVED DONOR AND RECIPIENT ENGAGEMENT

This presentation will review the efforts done by UCSF's transplant center to improve communication with donors and recipients as well as how to optimize center efficiency by using novel approaches.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Increase donor candidate pool via active donor engagement
- Novel strategies to increase transplant volume
- Improve patient access, convenience, and satisfaction, including underserved populations
- Streamline work flow and improve staff productivity, center efficiency, and center economics
- Facilitate UNOS compliance for living donors

John Roberts, Professor of Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

3:00 PM

AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:30 PM

PERSONALIZED TRANSPLANT MEDICINE: ROADMAP TO SOLVE THE TRANSPLANT CRISIS

NJ Sharing Network has taken a personalized transplant medicine approach to address critical issues in clinical transplantation. By implementing programs specifically designed to reduce discard rates of donor organs, and to help improve post-transplant outcomes, we believe that we will be making a substantial contribution to reducing the wait time for transplants.

Key issues to be covered include:

- Understanding how innovative diagnostic platforms can enable safe transplants in highly-sensitized individuals and significantly reduce the discard rates of donor organs
- Understanding the organ procurement organization (OPO) position as an unbiased facilitator of an altruistic donor-initiated paired kidney exchange program
- Understanding how the laboratory can help streamline recipient immunosuppression requirements
- Understanding regenerative medicine techniques for organ repair and transplantation

Prakash Rao, VP/COO, Diagnostics and Research Operations & Director, Transplant Laboratory
NJ SHARING NETWORK

4:15 PM

TBD

5:00 PM

CHAIRPERSON CLOSING/CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES:

Mohamed Akoad, Chair, Department of Transplantation & Hepatobiliary Diseases
LAHEY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

Dr. Mohamed Akoad is the Chair of the Department of Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Diseases at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, MA. He is also the Assistant Professor of Surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, MA. Dr. Akoad is an established multi-organ transplant surgeon with additional training in Live Donor Liver and Kidney Transplantation. Dr. Akoad has been named one of "America's Top Surgeons" every year since 2007. He is also a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgeons. Dr. Akoad is also instrumental in weekly resident education and has written and published many abstracts on Living Donor and Deceased Donor Liver Transplantation. Dr. Akoad has a particular interest in Live Donor Liver Transplantation and has performed over 150 Living Donor Hepatectomies making Lahey the number one Live Liver Donor Program in the country.

Lee Ann Baxter-Lowe, Clinical Professor and Director, HLA Laboratory
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CA AND CHLA

Dr. Baxter-Lowe is currently Clinical Professor at the University of Southern California and Director of the HLA Laboratory at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Baxter-Lowe's research involves characterizing HLA polymorphism and determining its relevance in transplantation and human disease. Her research has been reported in more than 150 scientific publications. She has had a long-standing commitment to policy development and recently served as Chair of the Histocompatibility Committee of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and participated in a National Consensus Conference on Kidney Paired Donation (KPD). She has served as a member or chair of numerous national and international committees. Her laboratories have supported single and multicenter clinical trials in transplantation and the NIH Immune Tolerance Network. She has been a speaker at numerous national and international meetings and has recently served as the program chair for a meeting on the use of Next Generation Sequencing for laboratories supporting transplant programs.

Daniel Borja-Cacho, Surgical Director for the Liver Transplant Program, Director of the Transplant service line

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

After completing the general surgery residency, Dr. Borja-Cacho did two fellowships at the University of Minnesota, the first one in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery and the second in Abdominal Solid Organ Transplantation. Has been assistant professor in Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery for 4 years. Current Surgical Director and Transplant Service Line Director at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Completed the ASTS Leadership development program.

George Chaux, Medical Director, Lung Transplant Program

CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

George Chaux is a pulmonologist and intensivist working in lung transplantation for about 19 years. He graduated from Boston University School of Medicine and completed his training at UCSD Medical Center. He has been medical director of the lung transplant program at Cedars-Sinai since April 2004.

Barry Friedman, Senior Administrative Director

FLORIDA HOSPITAL TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE

Barry Friedman joined Florida Hospital Transplant Institute in October of 2016 as the Senior Administrative Director, responsible for providing administrative, regulatory and fiscal oversight of all chronic and end stage organ failure, solid organ transplant and mechanical circulatory support programs. He most recently served as the Chief of Clinical Global Services for Minnesota International Medicine, assisting MIM in becoming one of the most active international offices in the nation. Mr. Friedman began his career in 1984 as an ICU Staff Nurse in St. Louis, Missouri, which included caring for post-operative heart transplant patients. He continued his dedication to the field of transplantation serving in various procurement, clinical and administrative roles throughout his career, including Administrative Director of Solid Organ Transplantation at Children's Medical Center in Dallas in 2004 and then Senior Administrative Director of Solid Organ Transplantation at the University of Minnesota Medical Center and University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital Fairview from 2006 until 2012. Mr. Friedman is an active member of the American Society of Transplantation, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, UNOS and NATCO. Under his leadership at NATCO, where he served as President, he was able to develop staff competencies for both organ procurement and clinical coordinators, and those competencies are still the current standards of clinical practice. Mr. Friedman has also been an active member of the United States Air Force Reserves and has served most recently from February 2003 through August 2003 in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom as Director of Operations for Aeromedical Services. He was decorated with an Air Combat Medal in January 2004 and retired from the United States Air Force Reserves in July of 2006 after 30 years of service as a Major.



Patricia Kemerley, Director of Solid Organ

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOSPITAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

Patricia Kemerley has been the administrative director of Transplant Services for the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System since 2012. Her involvement in transplant spans over 25 years and includes experience with CMS/UNOS regulatory compliance and redesign of QAPI programs. She graduated from Loyola University with a MSN in nursing. She has both clinical and leadership experience specifically related to solid organ transplantation.

Glenn Matsuki, Process Improvement Project Manager

DONOR NETWORK WEST

Glenn Matsuki is currently the Process Improvement Project Manager for Donor Network West in Northern California. He entered into the Transplant and Donation community after recovering from a heart transplant twenty-one years ago. His journey has taken him from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Liver and Kidney Transplant program as Transplant Administration Coordinator to Donation Development Coordinator at OneLegacy. Three years ago, he joined Donor Network West.

Harvey Mysel, President and Founder

Living Kidney Donors Network

Harvey moderates workshops, webinars and conference calls for those in need of a kidney transplant. The LKDN Facebook page has over 12,000 followers and a very active website. Harvey has been asked to speak about living kidney donation at national conventions by the AAKP, (American Association of Kidney Patients,) PKD Foundation and other organizations. Harvey has facilitated workshops and webinars for National Kidney Foundation Chapters and other organizations.

Prakash Rao, VP/COO, Diagnostics and Research Operations & Director, Transplant Laboratory

NJ SHARING NETWORK

Prakash trained under the mentorship of the "father of modern transplantation", Dr. Thomas E. Starzl at the University of Pittsburgh. He has over 20 years of experience in clinical service, translational research, and transplant biology, particularly in the area of preservation injury, graft function, and graft and patient survival. He also has extensive experience in immunogenetic testing of solid organ and hematopoietic transplant recipients and donors. Recently Prakash has expanded his research to include the use of stem cells in regenerative medicine and immunomodulation.

David Reich, Professor and Chief, Division of Multiorgan Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery; Vice Chair, Department of Surgery

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

David J. Reich, MD, FACS, is Professor and Chief of the Division of Multiorgan Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery, and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine and Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. He is an internationally recognized leader in solid organ transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery. He has published extensively and lectured internationally regarding various research initiatives and clinical aspects of liver surgery, including pioneering work with donation after cardiac death organ transplantation. Dr. Reich has significant expertise in bioartificial liver support and is investigating cellular therapy to augment resuscitative effects of machine perfusion of organ donor livers. He is an authority on quality improvement and practice standards in the fields of transplantation and surgery, and has served in numerous national leadership positions. Currently, he is a Member of the Board of Directors Executive Committee of the United Network for Organ Sharing, Chairman of the Quality and Pay Reform MACRA Task Force of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and Immediate Past Chairman of the Liver Surgery and Transplantation Committee of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. Dr. Reich received his B.A. from Columbia College of Columbia University and his M.D. from McGill University School of Medicine. He performed his surgical residency at Beth Israel Medical Center and completed his American Society of Transplant Surgeons approved Multiorgan Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery Fellowship at the Mount Sinai Hospital Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute in New York City. Dr. Reich has practiced transplant and hepatobiliary surgery in Philadelphia for the past 20 years.

John Roberts, Professor of Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Dr. John Roberts is chief of the UCSF Transplant Service, one of the largest and most highly regarded programs of its kind in the country, encompassing kidney, liver and pancreas transplants. Roberts joined UCSF Medical Center in 1988. He has produced over 300 papers on topics including allograft rejection, immunogenicity, immunosuppression and others. Roberts, who speaks nationally on transplant issues, is past president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) as well as a member of many professional and honorary organizations.

Melissa Roberts, Divisional Director, Transplant Center and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program

TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Melissa Roberts, MSN, RN, CPTC, began her career in donation and transplant in the late 1990s as an OPO Coordinator in the Northwest. After several years on the donation side, Melissa moved to the transplant side, working as the Islet Cell Transplant Program Coordinator for the University of Chicago. She became U of C's first Quality and Compliance Manager in 2007, and subsequently received her Masters' in Nursing, in Healthcare Administration, as well as a post-graduate certificate in outcomes and performance management. She went on to become the Executive Director of the U of C Transplant Program before being recruited in 2014 to Tampa General Hospital, and currently serves as the Divisional Director over the Transplant Center and the busy Mechanical Circulatory Support Program. Melissa is also currently serving an extended term on the UNOS Transplant Administrator's Committee and has served as a consultant to several transplant centers across the country.

Marc Schecter, Medical Director, Pediatric Lung Transplant Program

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Marc Schecter, MD earned his bachelor degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He received his MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. He completed his residency in Pediatrics and fellowship in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston. He became an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) in Houston, Texas. While at TCH, Dr. Schecter was the medical director of the lung transplant program. In 2013, Dr. Schecter went to Cincinnati Children's Hospital to start and develop the pediatric lung transplant program. The program opened in January 2014 and to date have performed 8 successful pediatric lung transplants.

Risë Stribling, Medical Director, Liver Transplantation

BAYLOR ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER

Risë Stribling, M.D., is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and serves as the Medical Director for Liver Transplant and the Medical Director of the Abdominal Organ Transplant and Hepatology Clinic at CHI/St Luke's Health/Baylor College of Medicine Medical Center. She is ABIM certified in internal medicine, gastroenterology and transplant hepatology. Clinical interests include all acute and chronic liver diseases, liver cancer and liver failure with a special interest in transplantation.

ACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL:

Active Communications International, Inc. (ACI) is a leader in conference planning and production. With offices in Chicago, London, Pune, Portland, Poznań and Milwaukee, we produce world-class events focusing on areas of most relevance to our served industry sectors. We are dedicated to deliver high-quality, informative and value added strategic business conferences where audience members, speakers, and sponsors can transform their business, develop key industry contacts and walk away with new resources.



Mission Statement:

ACI's mission is to unite key industry influencers and leaders to build strong relationships and enable our clients to achieve operational efficiencies, maintain competitive advantage in the marketplace, and increase their profitability.

Quality:

ACI invites senior-level executives and key industry leaders to share their insights and real-life working experiences with our audience. Our unique conference format offers an intimate and time-efficient educational development platform where our attendees can meet one-on-one with the people that can assist them in achieving their goals.

Research:

ACI offers cutting-edge conferences that are developed through extensive research and development with industry experts to bring you the latest trends, forecasts, and best practices.

Experience:

Our team of experienced conference producers and managers know you and your business demands. ACI has the resources, knowledge, and experience to create the events you need to remain on the forefront of your industry.