Welcome to beautiful Nice from Andreas Zuckerman, Program Committee Chair

Thank you all in the Program Committee for out-performing! And thank you to the members of our Society for their active participation on submitting wonderful proposals for the pre-meeting symposia - an all-time high of 130! This year’s meeting will be truly international. An international venue, an international President cooperating with an international program chair giving us an international flavor.

Amazing science will be presented. Its quantity and quality of science for this year’s meeting fills me with awe. Abstract submissions were an all-time high indicative of a premier Society where novel data on the care for those with advanced heart and lung diseases.

Let’s get ready to rumble!!

On Thursday, the opening plenary session will stage reports on the Program, registries, and a unique President’s address. Continuing on ‘off the beaten Track’ a lecture on Safety, protection and a new vision from another area of technology. Mr. Müller-Pietralla will share new paradigms of safety in the automobile industry. His lecture and the performance of the Federal Youth Ballet are sponsored by Volkswagen. The first featured abstract of the meeting will feature the results of the ENDURANCE trial, a huge MCS destination therapy trial. The Pioneer lecture will be delivered by Prof. Dr. Bruno Reichart, a true pioneer of thoracic transplantation. He will share with us his never ending exploration of xenotransplantation.

Friday’s Plenary session will start with important ethical and legal aspects of transplantation. Two globally respected speakers, Dr. Frank Delmonica and Dr. Willem Weimar, will highlight their views on Transplant Commercialism and how to guard against it. Another MCS featured abstract will share data from the ROADMAP trial. The following lecture will tackle new developments in protecting vessels from obstruction in every aspect of transplantation. Thereafter, the session will move to different areas of medicine: New developments in clinical research and patient management with the help of the Internet will be discussed by Dr. Marcus and an important issue for our daily work will be the lecture of Dr. Quittner focusing on what influences us in our judgment and decision making processes.

Saturday’s closing plenary session will start with the awards presentations. Consensus Reports on AMR in Lung transplantation and the new updates of listing criteria in heart transplantation will be presented.
The highest ranked abstract of the meeting will present the data of the GRIPHON study, on a new therapy in pulmonary hypertension. Next, the session will focus on two new developments in organ preservation: ‘supercooling’ will feature the ‘cool’ side of organ protection, whereas ‘going the distance’ will discuss the newest developments on DCD heart transplantation. Lastly, the traditional president’s debate will be battle of philosophies on quality of live vs. quantity of life. Heather Ross vs. Marshall Hertz will verbally fight it out. Everyone who knows our discussants, can be sure on a tough but entertaining contest.

As at last year’s meeting, poster sessions will be moderated by experienced leaders of the Society, so please grab a glass of wine and traipse through the session. This year promises to be an incomparable meeting. Along with President Reichenspurner, I welcome you to the 35th ISHLT Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions at the Opening Plenary in Nice!

**Answer the Palliative Survey for ISHLT Members: The Twenty Questions Survey**

On behalf of the Councils for Heart Failure and Transplant and MCS we are asking ISHLT members complete "The Twenty Questions Survey" which examines attitudes and practices with respect to the role of palliative care in thoracic organ transplantation and MCS therapies.

As a Society of health professionals and caregivers that have chosen to spend our careers dealing with patients that have end stage organ failure we often assume the role of the cardiac or pulmonary “oncologists”. The care of end of life patients often falls to our care teams.

We would like to explore the ways in which we are integrating these services/attitudes and practices into our work. It is an important discussion and we would like get responses from our broad international membership.

We thank you in advance for completing the survey. If you choose to do this on line rather than in the paper format available at the ISHLT Nice meeting, please go to: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NNKQM7W](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NNKQM7W)

Please complete only one survey.

**Pre Meeting Symposium 2: Heart Allocation Policies: The times they are A-Changin’**

**Heart Allocation Policies – Directions for the future?**

In the current climate of restricted organ availability, and the era of a growing population of patients supported by VADs, this pre meeting symposium chaired by Dr. Kobashigawa and Dr. Leprince looks to be an informative summary of experiences with the current heart allocation policies in the United States, Canada and Europe. This will illustrate the principle differences within the three regions and highlight some of the similarities for discussion. These presentations will lead on to the anticipated and controversial debates on whether patients with a ventricular assist device should be listed as a priority for heart transplantation, and whether heart allocation should be based on scoring systems rather than waiting times? We look forward to the arguments proposed by Dr. Schulz, Dr Strueber, Dr Smits and Dr Taylor during this topical session.
Pre Meeting Symposium 6: Psychological Assessment: Tools, Tips and Opportunities

To SIPAT or not to SIPAT, that is the question.
Psychosocial assessment is the frontline in determining if a patient is an acceptable candidate for MCS or transplant. There are many available tools that can be difficult to assess which one is “right”. The famous SIPAT tool creator, Dr. Jose Maldonado from Stanford University in the USA, will join this hot symposium. This session will be held today at 8:30 am in Euterpe.

Pre-Meeting Symposium 7: Moving MCS Therapy Forward

Next Steps in MCS Therapy
There have been tremendous achievements in the field of MCS over the last few years. However there is still room for improvement and so the experts in the symposium will discuss how to move MCS therapy forward. First, Dr. Mark Slaughter will address where we are now with fully implantable LVADs. Next to be discussed by Dr. Pagani are the traditional indications of bridge to recovery, bridge to transplant and destination therapy and whether or not it is now appropriate, to start moving away from these indications. Then Dr. Claudius Mahr will give a talk on how to reduce length of stay and readmissions of MCS patients, to improve resource utilization and to make the therapy more cost effective. At the end of the session there are two debates. One on whether all LVAD patients should receive heart failure medications, discussed by Dr. Birks (PRO) and Dr. Teuteberg (CON) and the second on whether LVAD patients should have a pulse, where the PRO part is covered by Dr. Schueler, while Dr. Potapov will provide the CON part.

Pre-Meeting Symposium 10: Therapeutic Strategies in Pulmonary Hypertension: Current Evidence and New Directions

Pulmonary hypertension is a significant cause of overall mortality and leads to decreased survival outcomes in patients with advanced heart and lung disease who undergo transplant. The expert panel including Drs. Mardi Gomberg-Maitland and Nazzareno Galie will discuss the benefits of combination and sequential therapy. Next, Dr. Marc Humbert will present emerging therapies followed by a discussion of pulmonary hypertension in clinical trials by Dr. J. Simon Gibbs. To conclude, Dr. David Jenkins will present evolving management for pulmonary hypertension.

Pre-Meeting Symposium 24: Clinically Relevant Thoracic Transplant Pathology

What are the cells behind rejection?
Don’t miss this primer symposium regarding rejection in heart and lung transplantation. Come to witness the specifics behind acute cellular rejection and antibody mediated rejection. How are they different? Hear insights from Denmark, the UK and USA. The session will be held today at 5:00 pm in Euterpe.
Get More Out of the Meeting with Tweeting! Use hashtag: #ISHLT2015

The modern way to stay connected at the 2015 ISHLT Annual Meeting is to follow us on Twitter - the online social network that connects you to news, stories, pictures and conversations that you'll find interesting.

Why Twitter?
Twitter allows you to use 140 characters to put down your thoughts in a message. It also lets you follow other Twitter users, and retweet interesting content. You can begin conversations with other users by typing their Twitter handle (person's user name) for example, @person. We highly encourage you to join our online conversations as we keep you up-to-date with the latest news, meeting information and events taking place at this year's meeting.

We will be Tweeting before, during and after the Annual Meeting in Nice, France using the hashtag #ISHLT2015.

If you have a Twitter account go and Follow us now! (@ISHLT or https://twitter.com/ishlt). If you want a twitter account, you can easily go to www.twitter.com and create one for free! If you don’t have an account you can still search for #ISHLT2015 on Twitter and read what is posted.

The Power of the #hashtag
In the Twitter world, a pound sign (#) is called a hashtag. It is a keyword tag for the tweet so that other followers can find it. Just by simply hashtagging #ISHLT2015 you are following the trend and enlightening other followers on content associated with the 2015 Annual meeting.

Looking to learn more about Twitter, Twitter lingo and how to use it? Below are some great links for you to look at:

http://usat.ly/1bBzXEO
http://read.bi/1d15Qpn
http://twiends.com/how-to-twitter

WARNING: Once you get the hang of it, Twitter is entertaining, informative and addicting. Have fun and tweet away! 😊

7 Super Tips That Will Make You a Tweeting Pro

1. If you reach the max 140 characters in your tweet, try abbreviating words to make more space for your message.
2. Found a tweet that you found interesting? Go ahead and retweet it (RT)! Doing so will allow you to re-share the tweet giving credit to that source or follower.
3. Keep it professional and respectful. Stay away from foul language and thoughts. Remember, Twitter is a public forum. Once you say it online it’s hard to take it back.
4. When creating a message don’t overuse hashtags. 2 or 3 are enough for your message.
5. Be sure to give credit where credit is due. Always make sure to give credit to the person you are paraphrasing from or source you are quoting.
6. There will be a ton of eyes on your content. Be sure to Tweet accurate information for them to follow.
7. Let the world know who you are by showing your personality through each tweet!

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