Welcome to the 2014 Meeting & Scientific Sessions

From the President
Allan R Glanville, MBBS, MD

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Administrative Staff of the ISHLT, I would like to welcome you to San Diego and the 34th Annual Scientific Meeting. The Program Chair, Jason Christie MD, and his Program Committee have worked tirelessly to produce an outstanding program which will entice and educate all facets of our diverse Society.

Amanda Rowe and the outstanding administrative staff (Lisa Edwards, Susie Newton, Phyllis Glenn, and Lee Ann Mills) have once again turned concept into reality and provided an exceptional realization of the program committee’s plans. From humble beginnings as a small collegial group, the Society has grown into an international powerhouse with broad reaching influence in every aspect of heart and lung failure, pulmonary hypertension and the use of innovative therapies such as device technologies but not forgetting our core business of transplantation!

The Society response to the Call for Abstracts has been spectacular with a record 1500 submissions, as a result of which almost 1000 will be presented in the different formats of plenary abstracts highlighting a number of ground breaking trials, through orals, mini-orals and moderated poster sessions.

Once again the senior membership has responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to partner with junior faculty and critique the valuable work presented in the poster format. As most would know, the Society is committed to providing ease of e-access to meeting content and the 2014 eBook, Meeting App and 2014 Program Planner are already available www.ishlt.org/meetings/annualMeeting.asp. Once again we are meeting in beautiful San Diego with the promise of warm weather, exciting science, robust debate, good food and convivial surroundings.

There is much to explore locally and just beyond the horizon so enjoy this great Society and the opportunity to meet with colleagues and invited guests who change the face of the world!
From the Program Chair
Jason D. Christie, MD, MS

A glance at this year’s program should excite any thoracic transplant professional. I am tremendously grateful to this year’s Program Committee for such a fantastic job of creating thematic sessions with broad appeal.

The pre-meeting symposia feature a dizzying array of carefully-orchestrated content designed to fill the day on Thursday. On Friday, following the registry reports, the Opening Plenary session features inspiring lectures on the past, present, and future of medical care of those with advanced heart and lung diseases. Dr. Eric Topol will focus on the role of emerging technologies in the clinical arena, in his lecture about “How Digitizing Humans Changes the Future of Medicine.” The Lifetime Achievement Award will be awarded to Sir Terence English, who will remind us all where the Society has been and inspire us to where it can go, in his acceptance lecture, titled “Follow your Star”. Together these lectures should set the tone for what is to come.

Saturday’s Plenary session is a “tour de force” of the future of heart and lung donation. In her talk on “Trimming Heart Transplantation in the VAD Era,” Dr. Lynne Stevenson will consider the future role of MCS and transplantation in the management of patients with advanced heart failure. Three plenary abstracts will follow, reporting results of international clinical trials of heart and lung organ management prior to implantation: the PROCEED II, NOVEL, and INSPIRE trials. This is a very exciting time in our field for organ donor management, and the presentation of three major multicenter clinical trials in a single plenary session should make for excellent discussion over future management options. Dr. Tom Egan will enhance this theme with his Plenary speech on “Frontiers of DCD in Thoracic Transplantation.” Dr. Egan has indeed been on the front line of DCD lung transplantation and will discuss pragmatic and theoretical approaches to expanding the availability of donor organs for our patients. Wrapping up the session will be 2012 Nobel Laureate Al Roth, who will provide societal perspective on incentives and economics of organ donation.

The Closing Plenary on Sunday will feature updated Consensus Reports on Invasive Fungal Infections and Lung Transplant Recipient Selection, two topics with direct clinical relevance to the clinical practice of our patients. Michael Petty, Ph.D., RN will tie together the multidisciplinary approach common to our clinical teams by discussing the importance of family caregivers to the care of patients with advanced heart and lung diseases. Following Dr. Lori West’s lecture on the implications of ABO incompatible transplant, there will be a spirited President’s Pro-Con Debate focusing on whether or not we should “Stop Treating Secondary PH Now!” Given the blend of erudite scientific opinion with pure entertainment that was apparent the debates in recent years, I am particularly looking forward to the performance of this year’s discussants: Drs. Hap Farber and Fernando Torres.

Throughout the meeting, amazing science will be presented. I can honestly say that I am in awe of the quantity and quality of science presented at this year’s meeting. Abstract submissions were an all-time high, indicating how our Society has become the premier venue for presenting novel data relating to the care of those with advanced heart and lung diseases. This year, the Program Committee worked hard to keep oral, mini-oral, and poster sessions tightly-focused and thematic, to foster discourse of the multidisciplinary teams in which we are all privileged to work. I believe that this is a core strength of our Society’s scientific meeting - the interplay of multiple disciplines that share the higher purpose of improving the care of patients with advanced heart and lung diseases. 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 sessions, while overlooking the beautiful view of the harbor. This year promises to be a fantastic meeting. Along with President Glanville, I look forward to welcoming you to the 34th ISHLT Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions at the Opening Plenary in San Diego!
PREVIEW: MOVING FROM THE CHILDREN’S TABLE TO THE ADULT TABLE

As if there weren’t enough to deal with already in the pediatric transplant population, “successful outcomes” still challenges us. Also, as usual: the allograft function, the immunosuppressants, the opportunistic infections, the pediatric transplant physicians, the family members and most importantly the patients themselves must eventually make the leap from a child living with a transplanted organ to an adult living with a transplanted organ. This requires many transitions for all of the team members involved. In one of our first Pre-Meeting Symposia: “Here they come: Preparing Pediatric Patients for Transition to Adult Care” we learn some of the more nuanced factors that play a role in this major leap into adulthood. Dr. Karen Uzark will review key aspects of this transition and how best to make it part of a clinical routine, much like checking tacroilimus levels and reviewing annual echocardiograms. Nurse Sharon Beer will review some of the developmental and psychosocial challenges to this transition and provide some key insight into overcoming these obstacles. Dr. Leigh Reardon will further this discussion and focus on family factors that may limit this transition, the different roles parents may take and how we as clinicians may facilitate a smoother transition for the patient and his/her family through this difficult process. Dr. Christian Benden will then share some data on outcomes of patients that underwent this transition from transplanted child into adulthood. Wrapping up the session will be two outstanding case presentations by Dr. Eugene DePasquale and Dr. Kathleen Grady followed by panel discussions. These cases will focus on this difficult transition to adult transplant medicine, as well as provide challenge and fodder to our presenters as they offer insight from their experiences.

PREVIEW: FUN GUYS (AND FUN GALS) TALK ABOUT FUNGI

Fungal infections do not bode well for our transplanted patients and often represent a true rate-limiting step in long term survival. In this year’s Pre-Meeting Symposium 9: “Invasive Fungal Infections among Cardiothoracic Transplant Recipients: Consensus Guidelines and Recommendations from the ISHLT Fungal Expert Panel” our expert presenters will provide us with the 5 W’s of reporting. They will explain the who, what, where, when, why and maybe how if we are lucky, of fungal infections in the transplanted patient. Thus making this amateur reporters job that much easier. Dr. Denis Hadjiliadis will review the epidemiology of fungal infections in our transplanted patients, focusing on key risk factors, as well as the timing of such infections in the transplanted patients. Dr. Alessandro Pasqualotto will then provide a cutting-edge talk on galactomannan, PCR, and beta-D-glucan testing and its role in aiding diagnosis of such nefarious organisms. Dr. Daniel Chambers will review the latest data on prophylaxis use of antifungals in the transplant population while Dr. Aric Gregson will further the discussion on antifungals once the organisms have already invaded the host (our poor patient!) Dr. Elaine Billaud will provide challenge and fodder to our presenters as they offer insight from their experiences.

PREVIEW: BUSTING THE CLOT

Chronic thromboembolic disease can result from acute pulmonary embolism, is often overlooked until patients present with dyspnea and right ventricular failure due to deteriorating pulmonary hypertension. Pre-Meeting Symposium 8: Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension (CTEPH): Busting The Clot will cover the diagnostics, therapeutics, and future directions of management of these patients. Dr. Victor Tapson will review the medical approach in non-surgical CTEPH candidates, while Dr. Marc De Perrot will clarify the association between right ventricular dysfunction and left heart failure in CTEPH, as well as highlight ventricular dysfunction as the main risk factor for postoperative mortality after pulmonary endarterectomy. Mr. David Jenkins will then give a talk on how to approach patients with residual pulmonary hypertension after pulmonary endarterectomy. To finish up the session, a heated discussion is expected when Dr. William Auger and Dr. Elie Fadel debate the pros and cons of pulmonary endarterectomy in patients with exercise induced pulmonary hypertension secondary to chronic thromboembolic disease.
Fun in the Sun of San Diego

We all know that San Diego is famous for its fabulous weather and Sea World. However, there is much more than just pleasant temperatures and an aquarium with an amusement park. The second largest city in California has lots of fun little factoids you can use to impress your friends.

- San Diego is the birthplace of California. The first European exploration of the West Coast was by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator sailing for Spain, who landed in San Diego on September 28, 1542.
- The first person to drive over the landmark San Diego–Coronado bridge, which opened in 1969 connecting downtown San Diego with Coronado, was Ronald Reagan.
- San Diego County produces the most avocados of any region in the country.
- Each year over 200 cruise ships berth in San Diego harbor.
- The San Diego International Airport is the busiest, single-runway major airport in the nation and the second in the world after London Gatwick.
- The Giant Dipper, a classic, wooden roller coaster in Belmont Park along Mission Beach, is one of only two ocean-side coasters on the West Coast. Built in 1925, it is also the only roller coaster in the U.S. to have National Landmark status and to be on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The San Diego Bay covers roughly 8 square miles and contains about 300 million cubic yards of water.
- Between The Old Globe and the Tony Award-winning La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego has sent more shows to Broadway than any other city in the U.S.
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- The world’s oldest, still working ship, the Star of India built in 1863 has her home-port in San Diego. She has completed 21 circumnavigations.
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Quotes from the first day

- “42.7% of all statistics is made up on the spot”
- “We know light travels faster than sound because people can look smart until they open their mouth”
  - Larry the Cable Guy

Looking Good #ISHLT2014

Check out our changes to the Daily Links!

Our new masthead visually represents horizontal and vertical elements linking together to create your daily newsletter.

Looking for a session? Just peek at the left side of the Daily Links, it’s all there. Quickly and easily scan the newsletter just by looking at our new icons.

✓ Preview upcoming sessions  |  Updates  |  Reviews of previous sessions