



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HEART AND LUNG TRANSPLANTATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

(Attendance Restricted to ISHLT Members)

Wednesday, 21 May 2025

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM U.S. EDT

Online Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

President Christian Benden called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. U.S. EDT.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Benden expressed his sincere gratitude to the Membership for their support throughout his term and reflected on ISHLT's accomplishments over the past year. He began by highlighting the record-breaking success of the 2024 Annual Meeting in Boston, which welcomed 4,599 participants from more than 50 countries.

He went on to spotlight several major initiatives advancing ISHLT's mission, including the launch of the 2025 Strategic Plan; the impactful work of the Patient Task Force and the Pediatric to Adult Transition Task Force; the upcoming publication of ISHLT's first consensus statement on pediatric lung transplant referral and selection; and the formation of the Pediatric Heart Transplant Alliance.

President Benden also commended the relaunch of the ISHLT Thoracic Transplant (TTX) and International Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (IMACS) registries. Finally, he recognized a significant milestone achieved by the ISHLT Foundation, which has awarded more than \$1.5 million in research funding since 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Mardi Gomberg-Maitland reported ISHLT remains in a strong financial position. She noted that the Society ended 2024 with a net positive balance of more than \$1.78 million and a surplus of \$137,000—far exceeding the projected \$866,000 deficit. For 2025, the budget anticipates a surplus of more than \$200,000, and the Society will invest more than \$400,000 in mission-aligned initiatives.

ISHLT FOUNDATION REPORT

ISHLT Foundation Chair James Kirklin reported on the Foundation's growth and fundraising success. Since its launch in 2022, the Foundation has raised over \$6.5 million, including \$1 million from ISHLT members. In 2024, it provided more than \$1.5 million in research support and awarded more than \$330,000 in grants, including 75 travel grants, five research grants, and one mentorship award. Looking ahead, the Foundation will expand fundraising, renew strategic partnerships, launch a planned giving program, and strengthen infrastructure and industry alignment. Ray Benza and Howard Isen will join the Foundation Board, and Chair Kirklin will continue for an additional two-year term.

JHLT REPORT

JHLT Editor-in-Chief Joseph Rogers shared an update on the *Journal's* progress over the past year. Submissions continue to rise, with more than 1,100 projected for 2025. The *Journal* maintains a 70% rejection rate and has improved editorial efficiency, reducing the time to first decision by two weeks and time to publication by 52 days. In support of diversity and inclusivity in research, *JHLT* will implement a new policy requiring authors to address sex and gender considerations in study design and reporting.

JHLT OPEN REPORT

JHLT Open Editor-in-Chief Dirk Van Raemdonck reported on the Journal's 2024 performance, noting 216 submissions with a 64% acceptance rate. The median time to first decision was 37 days, and to publication, 94 days. Efforts are underway to further shorten publication timelines in 2025. In March, the *Journal* was accepted into PubMed Central, making all articles searchable on PubMed. Indexing decisions from Scopus and Clarivate are expected in 2025 and 2026, respectively, with a first impact factor anticipated by June 2027. To promote accessibility, *JHLT Open* will offer discounts and fee waivers for ISHLT members and authors from designated regions.

RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

Secretary Peter Hopkins recognized a quorum at 4:24 p.m. U.S. EDT.

APPROVAL OF 2024 MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 24 April 2024 Annual Business Meeting minutes. The motion carried.

REGISTRY REPORTS

Thoracic Transplant (TTX) Registry

Rebecca Cogswell, Chair of the ISHLT Thoracic Transplant (TTX) Registry Steering Committee, shared an update on the TTX Registry, which relaunched in 2025 after a pause since 2018. Now containing approximately 185,000 records, it represents the largest known collection of DCD heart and lung transplant data. A new steering committee is in place, and efforts are underway to expand data-sharing agreements with additional partners to enhance the registry's reach and impact.

Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (IMACS) Registry

Daniel Goldstein, Chair of the ISHLT Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (IMACS) Registry, reported that IMACS remains the world's largest and only international registry for durable MCS. It now integrates data from Intermacs, EUROMACS, J-MACS, and the UK registry. IMACS provides a valuable platform for junior faculty to pursue research and benchmarking opportunities. Information on data acquisition and logistics will be available on the ISHLT website. Jose Gonzalez Costello was elected MACS Associate Chair and will serve a five-year term.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES REPORT

Standards and Guidelines Committee Chair Sern Lim reviewed the Committee's progress and outlined plans for the coming year. The process to identify needs and generate proposals for new documents will begin in June, with prioritization expected by July 2025. A call for volunteers to support document development will follow in early 2026. To enhance the quality of future guidelines and consensus statements, a research and publication librarian has been appointed to support the Committee's work.

CEO REPORT

ISHLT CEO Greg Schulz reviewed ISHLT's 2024 accomplishments and outlined strategic priorities for 2025, with a focus on membership value and global collaboration. He noted that 20 of the 23 tactical goals for 2024 were successfully achieved, including the relaunch of key registries and the creation of new structures to advance DEI, patient engagement, and clinical practice improvement. Schulz emphasized that ISHLT remains financially strong. It is inclusive, global, and member-driven.

Looking ahead, the Society will strengthen internal connections and expand partnerships as part of its Global Connection Strategy, which includes plans for the first regional meeting in 2026. The 2025 Annual Meeting in Toronto will feature innovative educational content addressing key challenges in heart and lung transplantation. Future initiatives will continue to integrate ethics, artificial intelligence, and equitable access to promote fair and effective care worldwide.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

President Benden presented a list of the many volunteers who contributed their time, energy, innovation, and enthusiasm to ISHLT over the past year. He offered sincere appreciation for everyone's contributions to the Society.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

President Benden thanked the following outgoing Board Members for their significant contributions to the Society:

Past President: Jason Christie, University of Pennsylvania
Secretary: Peter Hopkins, The Prince Charles Hospital
Director: Caron Burch, Dell Children's Hospital Austin
Director: Jignesh Patel, Cedars-Sinai Smidt Heart Institute (in memoriam)
Director: Diyar Saeed, Heart Center Niederrhein

WELCOME OF INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS

President Benden welcomed incoming 2025-2026 officers and directors:

President-Elect: Peter Hopkins, The Prince Charles Hospital
Secretary: Stephan Ensminger, University of Lübeck
Director: Filio Billia, University Health Network
Director: Angela Velleca, Cedars-Sinai Smidt Heart Institute
Director: Robin Vos, UZ Leuven

RECOGNITION OF INCOMING PRESIDENT

President Benden welcomed ISHLT's 41st President, Josef Stehlik of the University of Utah, and virtually passed to him ISHLT's presidential gavel.

COMMENTS FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT

President-Elect Stehlik thanked President Benden for his outstanding leadership and expressed appreciation for the continued support of the Board, Society members, and staff. He reaffirmed his commitment to building on the Society's accomplishments and advancing its impact in the field of heart and lung transplantation.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Benden encouraged all present to attend the ISHLT 46th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions in Toronto and invited any additional business from the Membership. No additional business was brought to the floor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m. EDT.