



**ISHLT**



**HFSA**

HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

## 2026 HFSA/ISHLT Heart and Lung Transplant Series

### Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Roles in Heart and Lung Transplantation

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This session provides a multi-center overview of the roles and practice models of advanced practice providers (APPs)—including nurse practitioners and physician assistants—in heart and lung transplantation programs. APP leaders from four transplant centers describe how their program structure inpatient and outpatient coverage, define scope of practice, manage staffing ratios, and support continuity of care across the transplant lifecycle.

Faculty compare operational models across lung, heart, and combined programs, highlighting differences in service design (primary vs consult models), readmission management, ICU involvement, billing approaches, and collaboration with physicians, pharmacists, coordinators, and surgical teams. The session also examines workforce strategies in response to rising transplant volumes, including APP reporting structures, use of float and cross-trained staff, bridge roles between inpatient and outpatient services, and development of APP fellowship programs to build specialized transplant expertise. The discussion emphasizes how APPs function at the top of their scope to improve access, continuity, and quality of care for advanced heart and lung disease and transplant patients.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, learners will be able to:

1. Describe at least two advanced practice provider (APP) care delivery models used in heart and lung transplant programs, including key differences in inpatient and outpatient roles, staffing structures, and multidisciplinary integration.
2. Apply at least two operational approaches to optimize APP practice in transplant services, such as staffing ratio frameworks, readmission management models, or APP fellowship and training pathways.

## **FACULTY**

- **Kate Hughes, MSN, APRN, AGACNP**, Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA  
*(Chair)*
- **Meg Fregoso, MSN, NP-BC, CCTC**, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, VA, USA  
*(Chair)*
- **Elizabeth Olsen, APRN, CNP**, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA
- **Cody Roger, PA-Cm** Norton Thoracic Institute / St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ USA

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR THIS SEMINAR ONLY**

The HFSA/ISHLT Transplant Seminar Bundle offers up to 0.50 continuing education hours, including CME, NCPD, AAPA CME, and CEPTC.