



# ISHLT

A Society that Includes Basic Science, the Failing Heart, & Advanced Lung Disease

## ISHLT Elects New Board Members and Professional Community Leaders

*Incoming volunteer leadership brings diverse expertise and dedication to interdisciplinary care*

**CHICAGO, USA – 1 December, 2023** – The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) has announced the results of the 2022 member election for the 2023 Board of Directors as well as leadership positions in the Professional Communities. The Society will welcome six members to the Board of Directors and 14 leaders across various specialties to serve as representatives to the 4 ISHLT Interdisciplinary Network Steering Committees and the Early Career & Trainee Committee beginning 1 May, 2023, immediately following the [ISHLT 43rd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions](#).

Professor Christian Benden, MD, MBA, FCCP, will serve as ISHLT President-Elect beginning in May 2023 and as ISHLT President beginning in May 2024. **President-Elect Jason Christie, MD, MSCE**, begins his term as ISHLT President in May 2023.

"The Governance Committee commends the membership for their engagement during this election cycle," said **Lara Danziger-Isakov, MD**, ISHLT Past President and Governance Committee Chair. "These results represent the development of coordinated election processes and were boosted by a record number of nominations and engagement of professional communities to expand opportunities for leadership in ISHLT to our members. I am also pleased to see ISHLT leaders from five different countries elected to the ISHLT Board of Directors, and to see such a mix of geographical, gender, and generational representation stepping into leadership roles in the Professional Communities."



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The elected members of the Board of Directors are:



**Christian Benden, MD, MBA, FCCP | President-Elect**

Adjunct Professor of Pulmonology and Transplant Medicine  
University of Zürich  
Zürich, Switzerland

Professor Benden is a pediatric pulmonologist. He has previously served as Secretary of the Board of Directors; Chair and member of



# ISHLT

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the Annual Meeting Program Committee; Chair, Vice-Chair and Co-Chair of the Pediatric Scientific Council; and as a member of the *JHLT* Editorial Board.



**Peter M. Hopkins, FRACP | Secretary**

Director of the Queensland Lung Transplant Service  
The Prince Charles Hospital  
Chermside, QLD, Australia

Professor Hopkins is the Executive Director of the Heart and Lung Clinical Stream Metro North Brisbane and holds positions on numerous state-wide and national advisory groups. He has served as Secretary of the ISHLT Board of Directors, Chair of the ISHLT Standards and Guidelines Committee, and Scientific Chair of the ISHLT 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions.



**Yael Peled, MD | Director**

Medical Director, Heart Transplantation Unit  
Sheba Medical Center  
Ramat Gan, Israel

Professor Peled's research interests include advanced heart failure and transplantation and COVID-19 vaccination in immunocompromised patients. She currently serves as a member of the *JHLT* Editorial Board, a member of the ISHLT2023 Program Planning Committee, a Project Lead for the Care of Heart Transplant Candidates Guidelines, a member of the ISHLT COVID-19 Task Force, and is an active member of the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network.



**Laurie D. Snyder, MD | Director**

Associate Professor, Associate Medical Director of Lung Transplant  
Duke University  
Durham, NC, USA

Professor Snyder's research interests include advanced lung disease, lung transplantation, interstitial lung disease, and immune monitoring. She has served in a variety of roles at ISHLT, including as Chair of the ISHLT 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, member of the Grants and Awards Committee, and invited subgroup chair of the CT-ILD Consensus Guidelines Committee.



# ISHLT

A Society that Includes Basic Science, the Failing Heart, & Advanced Lung Disease



## **Josef Stehlik, MD | Director**

Professor of Medicine, Heart Transplant Program Director  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Professor Stehlik's areas of interest include advanced heart failure, heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, cardiac sarcoidosis, and cardioversion. He has served as a member of the *JHLT* Editorial Board, Medical Director of the Thoracic Registry, a member of the Research Oversight Committee, a Regional Ambassador of the ISHLT Foundation, and a member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.



## **Simon Urschel, MD | Director**

Service Director Pediatric Cardiac Transplantation, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Microbiology & Immunology  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB, Canada

Professor Urschel's research interests ABO-incompatible heart transplantation in children and social diaspora within medical practice. He currently serves as Chair of the Pediatrics Community of Practice, the Pediatrics Professional Community representative to the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network Steering Committee, a member of the *JHLT* Editorial Board, and a member of the Grants and Awards Committee.

Beginning 1 May, 2023, the new composition of the Board will be:

*President:* **Jason D. Christie, MD, MS**, Pulmonologist, USA (2025)

*Past President:* **Andreas Zuckermann, MD**, Cardiac Surgeon, Austria (2024)

*President-Elect:* **Christian Benden, MD, MBA, FCCP**, Pediatric Pulmonologist, Switzerland (2026)

*Treasurer:* **Martin J. Goddard, FRCS, MRCPa**, Pathologist, United Kingdom (2024)

*Secretary:* **Peter M. Hopkins, FRACP**, Pulmonologist, Australia (2025)

*Director:* **Caron L. Burch, RN, MSN, FNP, CCTC**, Transplant Coordinator, USA (2025)

*Director:* **Marc de Perrot, MD**, Thoracic and Lung Transplant Surgeon, Canada (2024)

*Director:* **Daniel F. Dilling, MD**, Pulmonologist, USA (2024)

*Director:* **Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, MD, MSc**, Cardiologist, USA (2024)

*Director:* **Angela Lorts, MD, MBA**, Pediatric Cardiologist, USA (2024)

*Director:* **Jignesh K. Patel, MD, PhD**, Cardiologist, USA (2025)

*Director:* **Yael Peled, MD**, Cardiologist, Israel (2026)



# ISHLT

A Society that Includes Basic Science, the Failing Heart, & Advanced Lung Disease

Director: **Diyar Saeed, MD, PhD**, Cardiac Surgeon, Germany (2025)

Director: **Laurie D. Snyder, MD**, Pulmonologist, USA (2026)

Director: **Josef Stehlik, MD**, Cardiologist, USA (2026)

Director: **Simon Urschel, MD**, Immunologist, Pediatric Cardiologist, Canada (2026)

The elected Professional Community leaders are:



**Katherine Kozarek, MD**

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, WI, USA

***Anesthesiology & Critical Care Representative  
Pulmonary Vascular Disease (PAH & CTEPH) Interdisciplinary  
Network***



**Lynn R. Punnoose, MD**

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine  
Nashville, TN, USA

***Cardiology Representative  
Advanced Heart Failure Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network***



**Brian A. Houston, MD**

Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC, USA

***Cardiology Representative  
Mechanical Circulatory Support Interdisciplinary Network***



**Alexander M. Bernhardt, MD**

University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg  
Hamburg, Germany

***Cardiothoracic Surgery Representative  
Pulmonary Vascular Disease (PAH & CTEPH) Interdisciplinary  
Network***



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**Caitlin T. Demarest, MD, PhD**  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Nashville, TN, USA

***Cardiothoracic Surgery Representative***  
***Early Career & Trainee Committee***



**Emily Eichenberger, MD, MPH**  
Emory University School of Medicine  
Atlanta, GA, USA

***Infectious Diseases Representative***  
***Advanced Lung Failure Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network***



**Elsa Garza, DNP, ACNP-BC, BSN**  
AMITA Health  
Elk Grove Village, IL, USA

***Nursing & Allied Health Representative***  
***Pulmonary Vascular Disease (PAH & CTEPH) Interdisciplinary Network***



**Federica Pezzuto**  
University of Padova  
Padova, Italy

***Pathology Representative***  
***Early Career & Trainee Committee***



**David M. Peng, MD**  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI, USA

***Pediatrics Representative***  
***Advanced Heart Failure Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network***



# ISHLT

A Society that Includes Basic Science, the Failing Heart, & Advanced Lung Disease



**Shawn C. West, MD**

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA, USA

***Pediatrics Representative***

***Pulmonary Vascular Disease (PAH & CTEPH) Interdisciplinary Network***



**Neha Bansal, MD**

Children's Hospital at Montefiore  
Cliffside Park, NJ, USA

***Pediatrics Representative***

***Early Career & Trainee Committee***



**Fay S. Burrows, BPharm**

St. Vincent's Hospital  
Darlinghurst, NSW, Australia

***Pharmacy Representative***

***Advanced Lung Failure Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network***



**Amanda Ingemi, PharmD, MPH**

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital  
Norfolk, VA, USA

***Pharmacy Representative***

***Mechanical Circulatory Support Interdisciplinary Network***



**Daniel R. Calabrese, MD**

University of California San Francisco  
Mill Valley, CA, USA

***Research & Immunology Representative***

***Advanced Lung Failure Transplantation Interdisciplinary Network***



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**About ISHLT**

*The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation is a not-for-profit, multidisciplinary professional organization dedicated to improving the care of patients with advanced heart or lung disease through transplantation, mechanical support and innovative therapies. With more than 3,800 members in more than 45 countries, ISHLT is the world's largest organization dedicated to the research, education and advocacy of end-stage heart and lung disease. ISHLT members represent more than 15 different professional disciplines. For more information, visit [www.ishlt.org](http://www.ishlt.org).*