ISHLT Pioneer Award

2013 Recipient - Jack Copeland, MD



Jack Copeland, MD, Past President of ISHLT, is recognized for his landmark contributions as a pioneer in the field of heart transplantation.

In his 33 years as head of the cardiothoracic surgery program at the University of Arizona Medical Center (UAMC) in Tucson, Copeland performed Arizona's first heart transplant (1979) and its first heart-lung transplant (1985). He

also conducted the first U.S. implant of a pediatric ventricular assist device designed for newborns and toddlers (2000).

In 1985 he became the first surgeon to successfully bridge a patient dying from end-stage heart failure to a donor heart transplant with a total artificial heart.

Dr. Copeland co-founded and served as one of the first presidents of the International Society of Heart & Lung Transplantation, the first trade association of its kind that brings together the best practitioners in transplantation, mechanical support and innovative therapies that improve the care of patients with advanced heart and/or lung disease.



Jack Copeland, MD, receives the ISHLT Pioneer Award on April 25, 2013. Pictured: ISHLT President David Taylor, MD, Jack Copeland, MD, and ISHLT Past President James Kirklin, MD.