



Preface

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines *revolution* in a discipline such as medicine as a “momentous change in any situation,...a radical change...”. No one could deny the revolutionary shift in attitudes and therapeutic practices that arose from the seminal experimental work of Shumway and Lower that first surfaced clinically in Capetown with Barnard’s historic “first human-to-human” heart transplant. The truly international flavor of the “race” for the first heart transplant provided the prophetic threads for the eventual composition of our society, with its international membership at the core of the worldwide struggle against advanced heart and lung failure. The inclusive nature of The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) applies not only to global geography, but also to age, spanning the spectrum from neonate to the elderly, and to expertise, calling forth participation from multiple medical and surgical subspecialties. The evolution of this revolution is shrouded in the fabric of novel therapies for advanced heart and lung failure, which embrace the ISHLT and its journal as the portals for reporting and transitioning innovations from experimental laboratories to the clinical arena. ISHLT provides the international forum for continuously evaluating and disseminating the emerging interventions, and for reflecting about the role of mature therapies in a landscape that requires basic science diagnostic tools, outcomes analyses, and multidisciplinary collaborations.

As the revolution brought about by heart and lung transplantation evolved, the field of mechanical circulatory support emerged from innovations that focused on long-term solutions to the failing heart and required a symbiotic relationship with heart transplantation to fulfill its promise of clinical relevance. The ISHLT emerged as the preeminent scientific forum to facilitate the clinical application of these life-extending devices in a world of limited available donors.

The history of ISHLT reveals the human underpinnings of this revolution and its evolution. The list of participants includes surgeon and physician innovators and leaders; clinicians, scientists, and entrepreneurs; and a multitude of members refining and amplifying the accomplishments of predecessors.

The editors (James Kirklin, Mandeep Mehra, and Lori West) have selected authors and topics that record, personalize, and bring to life the events and people who molded the field and our unique and vibrant society.

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