



# ISHLT

## ISHLT Launches Pediatric to Adult Transition Task Force to Address Needs of Transplant Recipients

**CHICAGO, IL – 4 December, 2024** – Transplant recipients between the ages of 15 and 25 experience up to ten times higher rates of organ graft loss than any other age group. Further, adolescents and young adults with heart failure, mechanical cardiac support, severe lung disease, and pulmonary hypertension are also adversely affected by the unique challenges accompanying this developmental period and health care transition.

To address the need for a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to patients transition from pediatric to adult healthcare systems, the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) has launched a **Pediatric to Adult Transition Task Force**. ISHLT's multidisciplinary, multi-organ, and multi-national structure provides a unique opportunity to illuminate and address these problems from both adult and pediatric perspectives across the Society's expert membership.

"The broad expertise within ISHLT allows us to look at these challenges from multiple perspectives, spanning both pediatric and adult care," said ISHLT President **Chris Benden, MD, MBA, FCCP**. "By drawing on diverse clinical disciplines and assessing existing resources from multiple sources, we can explore a range of strategies to address the specific needs of this population."

The ISHLT Pediatric to Adult Transition Task Force is co-chaired by **Melissa Cousino, PhD**, a pediatric transplant psychologist at the University of Michigan in the United States, and **Miranda Paraskeva, MBBS, MPH**, a transplant respirologist with experience in both adult and pediatric lung transplants at Alfred Hospital in Australia. ISHLT Board Member Simon Urschel, MD serves as the Task Force liaison to the Board of Directors. The 18-member task force includes ISHLT members from seven countries and represents a range of specialties, including nursing, social work, psychology, palliative care, and transplant administration, as well as cardiology and pulmonology. With more than half of the task force dedicated to adult patient care, the group aims to bring insights from both pediatric and adult healthcare perspectives.



The task force will collaborate with partner organizations, foundations, and, importantly, the patients and families who experience these healthcare transitions firsthand. Through this partnership, ISHLT aims to share insights, develop practical approaches, and create resources to support the healthcare needs of young people with heart and lung conditions.

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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 circulatory support and innovative therapies. ISHLT is the world's largest organization dedicated to the research, education and advocacy of end-stage heart and lung disease. For more information, visit [www.isHLT.org](http://www.isHLT.org).*