

**ISHLT Thoracic Recovery Course**  
**26 April 2025 | 8:00AM – 5:30 PM EST**  
**Boston Bioskills Lab**

**ACADEMY CHAIRS**

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**FACULTY**

- TBD

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This comprehensive, hands-on training course is designed for Cardiothoracic Surgery trainees/fellows interested in a unique training experience. The program offers a unique blend of didactic education and hands-on practical training to enhance participants' proficiency in donor organ recovery, ex-situ preservation, and transplantation decision-making. *Scrubs and instruments will be provided.*

**Didactic Sessions:** Expert-led lectures covering standard and extended criteria donor hearts and lungs, DBD and DCD procurement techniques, and ex-situ preservation strategies, including the latest advancements in temperature-controlled static preservation and normothermic perfusion.

**Hands-On Practical Training:** Under the guidance of experienced Cardiothoracic Surgeons, participants will work in pairs to perform cadaver-based thoracic organ retrieval from both DBD and DCD models. The training will include rapid recovery techniques and cannulation for thoraco-abdominal normothermic regional perfusion (TA-NRP), providing realistic, hands-on experience in donor management and organ preparation.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

Cardiothoracic Surgery trainees/fellows.

**No CME will be offered for the course**

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**8:00 AM – 8:05AM**

**Welcome and Introductions/ Overview**

**8:05AM – 9:25 AM**

**DIDACTIC SESSION 1**

**8:05AM – 8:20AM**

**Heart Assessment and Recovery Technique 101**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Explain the rationale for critical aspects of the standard heart retrieval
- Identify pitfalls during retrieval

**8:20AM – 8:35 AM**

**Lung Assessment and Recovery Technique 101**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Explain the rationale for critical aspects of the standard lung retrieval
- Identify pitfalls during retrieval

**8:35AM – 8:50AM**

**Ex situ Preservation of the Heart**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Describe available alternatives to standard cold preservation (temperature controlled static preservation, ex situ perfusion – hypothermic and normothermic)
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of these techniques including logistics and cost
- Discuss current data and their limitations

**8:50AM – 9:05AM**

**Ex situ preservation of the lungs**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Describe available alternatives to standard cold preservation (temperature controlled static preservation with and without airway pressure regulation, ex situ perfusion- static and mobile)
- Discuss advantage and disadvantages of these techniques including logistics and cost
- Discuss current data and their limitations

**9:05 AM – 9:25 AM**

**Panel Discussion/Audience Q&A**

**9:25 AM – 9:40 AM**

**Break**

*Time will be used to change into scrubs*

**9:40AM – 10:40AM**

**Practical (Hands On) Session I**

*Participants work in pairs on a cadaver with a cardiothoracic surgeon*

**9:40 AM – 10:40 AM:**

**Thoracic Organ Recovery from a DBD Model**

**Teaching Points**

- Demonstration of the technique for standard heart/lung recovery
- Back table technique for preparation for ex situ preservation

**10:40 AM – 11:10 AM**

**Break**

**11:10AM – 12:30 PM**

**DIDACTIC SESSION II**

**11:10AM - 11:30AM**

**DCD heart**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Describe protocols for DCD heart procurement and their rationale
- Surgical tricks/pitfalls of DCD heart procurement
- Discuss outcomes related to DCD heart transplantation

**11:30AM – 11:50AM**

**DCD Lungs**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Describe a protocol for DCD lung procurement and its rationale
- Surgical tricks/pitfalls of DCD lung procurement
- Discuss outcomes related to DCD lung transplantation

**11:50AM – 12:05PM**

**The Abdominal perspective**

**Teaching/Discussion Points**

- Understanding key components of abdominal organ procurement and their rationale
- Identifying critical aspects of the abdominal procurement that require cooperation between teams including DCD

**12:05 PM – 12:30 PM**

**Panel Discussion/Audience Q&A**

**12:30PM – 1:15PM**

**Lunch**

**1:15PM – 2:15PM**

**Practical Session II:**

**Teaching Points**

**Thoracic Organ Rapid Recovery from a DCD Model**

- Simulation of cannulation for thoraco-abdominal NRP
- Demonstration of the technique for DCD heart/lung rapid recovery
- Technique for rapid cannulation for TA-NRP in a model

**2:15PM – 2:30PM**

**Break**

**2:30PM – 4:00 PM**

**DIDACTIC SESSION III**

**Case Based Interactive Discussions**

**2:30PM – 3:15PM**

**Extended Criteria Heart- Which, When and How?**

**Discussion and Teaching Points**

- Define the marginal heart
- Describe data about their use
- Discuss a practical approach to their assessment and utilization

**3:15PM – 4:00PM**

**Extended Criteria Lungs- How Do I Decide Which Lungs to Accept**

**Discussion and Teaching Points**

- Define marginal lungs
- Describe data about their use
- Discuss a practical approach to their assessment and utilization

**4:00PM - 4:15PM**

**Break**

**4:15PM – 5:15PM**

**Practical session: Industry Perspective**

**Teaching Points**

Interactive session with industry representatives demonstrating equipment/preservation of organs for ex situ preservation

**5:15PM – 5:30PM**

**Wrap Up**