



# ISHLT

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

## ISHLTconnect Rules, Etiquette, and Privacy Guidelines

Thank you for being part of the ISHLTconnect community! **By joining and using this community, you agree that you have read and will follow these rules and guidelines.** In order to preserve a climate that encourages both civil and fruitful dialogue, we reserve the right to suspend or terminate participation in ISHLTconnect for anyone who violate these rules.

Posts to ISHLTconnect trigger an email to all participants of the group. The email could be sent in real time, as part of a daily digest of all emails, or not at all, depending on each individual's preferences set in the system. Daily digests are sent at midnight Eastern Time.

### The Rules

- Posts about meetings, publications, programs, and services from other organizations and institutions are welcome, as long as they meet all of the following criteria:
  - They are relevant to the subject matter covered by the ISHLT membership: advanced heart or lung failure, heart or lung transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, and/or pulmonary vascular disease.
  - They do not conflict or directly compete, occur within 90 days before or 60 days after, with any scheduled ISHLT meeting, publication, program, or service.
  - They are presented by a nonprofit organization.
- Do not post commercial or sales messages in any discussion list, resource library entry, or any other public area on ISHLTconnect.
- Do not post job advertisements. ISHLT offers a dedicated Job Board, which can be found in ISHLTconnect. Job postings should be made there. Posts seeking Fellows are permitted on any discussion board, but we recommend that they be cross-posted to the Early Career Professionals group.
- Do not attack or aggressively challenge others. Discussions and comments are meant to stimulate conversation, not to create contention. Let others have their say, just as you may.
- Do not post any information or other material protected by copyright without the express written permission of the copyright owner.
- Use caution when discussing commercial products. Information posted on the lists and in the libraries is available for all to see, and comments are subject to libel, slander, and antitrust laws.
- All defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal materials are strictly prohibited.
- ISHLT affirms the principles of equity, inclusion, diversity, and respect for all people, regardless of age, color, religion, disability, gender, gender expression, place of origin, or sexual orientation. Posts in conflict with these principles are prohibited.
- Please note carefully and adhere to all items listed in the disclaimer and legal rules below, particularly regarding the copyright ownership of information posted.



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- Post your message or documents only to the most appropriate groups. Crossposting is acceptable in moderation; do not spam multiple discussion boards with the same message.
- Messages posted in ISHLTconnect should be relevant to our shared mission to improve the care of patients with advanced heart or lung disease and/or Society activities.
- ISHLT reserves the right to remove any message for any reason, including violation of these rules.

## Patient Confidentiality

The privacy of all medical records and other individually identifiable health information must be protected at all times. Information relating to a patient's health care history, diagnosis, condition, treatment, or evaluation shall be considered individually identifiable health information. Confidentiality of this health information must be maintained in all posts and direct messages on ISHLTconnect, and may only be disclosed with the express written consent of the patient.

Non-individually identifiable health information, (e.g., health information that cannot be linked to a specific patient) is not included within the definition of protected health information, and is acceptable for inclusion in ISHLTconnect posts.

Posts and private messages on ISHLTconnect should protect confidentiality of all patient health information in a manner consistent with these guidelines. Authors should remove all information from posts that might identify a patient, and follow their own institution's guidelines about patient confidentiality.

ISHLT reserves the right to suspend or terminate participation in ISHLTconnect for anyone who violates patient confidentiality. ISHLT will not publish or otherwise make generally available any information or data that identifies a patient for purposes other than treatment or other health care operations without his or her express written consent.

## Discussion Group Etiquette

- Be sure your signature tag is included on all messages. ISHLTconnect auto-populates the signature tag to include your name, affiliation, and location, so please double check this for accuracy.
- When crafting a new post, state concisely and clearly the topic of your comments in the subject line. This allows members to respond more appropriately to your posting and makes it easier for members to search the archives by subject.
- If quoting a prior message, include only the relevant portions of the original message in your reply.
- Only post a reply (either in the ISHLTconnect platform or via the "Reply to Discussion" link in your email notifications) when it contains information that **everyone** can benefit from. Messages such as "thanks for the information" or "me, too" should be sent only to individuals as a direct message, or by using the "Reply to Sender" option.



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- Do not send administrative messages to the Discussion Boards, such as "Remove me from the list." Instead, use the web interface to change your settings or to remove yourself from a list. To change your email preferences, visit the Email Preferences section of your profile on ISHLTconnect. To adjust notifications for specific discussion groups, visit the Community Notifications section of your profile. To update your contact information, visit your [ISHLT membership profile](#) and make the change there.
- If you need assistance changing your settings, preferences or member profile, call ISHLT at +1-312-224-127 or email [information@ishlt.org](mailto:information@ishlt.org).

## Legal Notice

This site is provided as a service for the members and subscribers of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT). ISHLT is not responsible for the opinions and information posted on this site by others. We disclaim all warranties with regard to information posted on this site, whether posted by ISHLT or any third party; this disclaimer includes all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness. In no event shall ISHLT be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data, or profits, arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of any information posted on this site.

Do not post any defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal materials. Do not post any information or other material protected by copyright without the permission of the copyright owner. By posting material, the posting party warrants and represents that he or she owns the copyright with respect to such material or has received permission from the copyright owner. In addition, the posting party grants ISHLT and users of this site the nonexclusive right and license to display, copy, publish, distribute, transmit, print, and use such information or other material.

Messages should not be posted if they encourage or facilitate members to arrive at any agreement that either expressly or impliedly leads to price fixing, a boycott of another's business, or other conduct intended to illegally restrict free trade. Messages that encourage or facilitate an agreement about the following subjects are inappropriate: prices, discounts, or terms or conditions of sale; salaries; profits, profit margins, or cost data; market shares, sales territories, or markets; allocation of customers or territories; or selection, rejection, or termination of customers or suppliers.

ISHLT does not actively monitor the site for inappropriate postings and does not, on its own, undertake editorial control of postings. However, in the event that any inappropriate posting is brought to the attention of the ISHLT, appropriate actions will be taken.

ISHLT reserves the right to terminate access to any user who does not abide by these guidelines.

## Privacy Policy

We respect your privacy. For the most up to date Privacy Policy document, [visit the ISHLT website](#) and select the PDF titled "Privacy Policy".