

**ISHLT ACADEMY**  
**MASTER CLASS IN NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH**

**CRUCIAL TRANSITIONS IN THE CARE OF HEART AND LUNG TRANSPLANT  
AND MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT PATIENTS**

**18 April, 2023 | 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. MDT | Denver, CO USA**

*For Nurses and Allied Healthcare Professionals in  
Heart and Lung Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support*

**ACADEMY CHAIRS**

Bronwyn Levvey, RN, Grad Dip Clin Epi, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC Australia  
Samantha J. Anthony, PhD, MSW, RSW, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON Canada

**Faculty**

Larry A. Allen, MD, MHS, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO USA  
Nancy P. Blumenthal, DNP, ACNP-BC, CCTC, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA USA  
Fabienne Dobbels, PhD, MSc, Psychologist, University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Leuven, Belgium  
Christiane Kugler, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing Science, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany  
Michael G. Petty, PhD, RN, APRN, CNS, CCNS, Clinical Nurse Specialist, University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN USA  
Melissa Sanchez, BSc Hons, PGDip, DClinPsy, MSc, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK  
Patrick J. Smith, PhD, MPH, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC USA  
Gregory Snell, MD, Lung Transplant Physician, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC Australia

**Course Description**

Patients are known to be at risk during care transitions. This session will examine two of the most significant transitions of care for transplant and mechanical circulatory support (MCS) patients: entry into the transplant or MCS program and end-of-life following transplantation or MCS. We will also examine the role of family caregivers and their inclusion in healthcare team considerations in these experiences.

Each patient and their caregivers will likely encounter both transitions at some point within the trajectory of care. Healthcare providers need to recognize that these crucial transitions are perhaps the most significant in a patient's life. This Master Class will provide an opportunity for members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team to share perspectives and best practices to optimize patient and family members' experiences at these times of transition.

**Educational Goals**

This course will focus on patient assessment and will address the wide national and international variation in elements of psychosocial assessment that may potentially impact decision-making around candidacy for MCS or transplantation. Also covered will be the wide variation across centers in how psychosocial evaluation information is used in making these candidacy transition decisions. The course will also focus on the role of the patient's family/caregivers and how they are often underrecognized participants in care and how advanced planning support and end-of-life care is not consistently provided.

## **Target Audience**

The Nursing and Allied Health Master class is designed for clinicians from all fields of the interdisciplinary health team with a higher level of expertise in transplant and/or MCS. The program format is intended to facilitate highly interactive discussion amongst the participants in order to explore topics relating to significant transitions in care for patients and their family members/caregivers facing transplantation, MCS or end-of-life discussion. Rather than didactic lectures, this course will utilize faculty moderators and case discussants to present real-world case scenarios to stimulate active audience participation, providing insights, strategies and skills that will address the practice gaps and learning objectives.

## **Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this meeting, participants will have improved competence and professional performance in their ability to:

1. Describe the key elements recommended for psychosocial assessment for transplant or MCS.
2. Recognize what influences our decision-making when determining candidacy for transplant or MCS.
3. Provide insights and solutions to manage patients' psychosocial challenges discovered during the screening process to support candidates to achieve maximum success in transplantation or MCS.
4. Address risk factors in order to optimize patient candidacy for transplantation or MCS.
5. Identify and describe strategies and mechanisms to engage family members/care givers in patient care and decision-making.
6. Incorporate strategies for advance care planning and end-of-life care into routine clinical practice.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**1:00 – 1:05 p.m.**

### **WELCOME AND OVERVIEW**

Bronwyn Levvey, RN, Grad Dip ClinEpi, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC Australia  
Samantha J. Anthony, PhD, MSW, RSW, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada

**1:05 – 2:10 p.m.**

### **SESSION 1: A COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSESSMENT**

**Moderator:** Fabienne Dobbels, PhD, MSc, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

**1:05 p.m.**

#### ***Summary of the State of the Science of the Session Topic and Its Most Pressing Challenges***

Fabienne Dobbels, PhD, MSc, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

**1:10 p.m.**

#### ***CASE SCENARIO 1A: To Transplant or Not? The Importance of a Comprehensive Psychosocial Assessment***

Patrick J. Smith, PhD, MPH, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC USA

#### ***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Highlight the importance of a comprehensive psychosocial assessment.
2. Explain what a comprehensive psychosocial assessment entails, using the framework presented in the Consensus document (Dew et al. 2018).
3. Discuss how the results of a psychosocial assessment could guide the decision-making process on transplant listing.
4. Help the target audience identify what areas of psychosocial assessment can be improved within their own clinical practice.

**1:40 p.m.**

#### ***CASE SCENARIO 1B: Isolated, Lonely, or Ill-Supported? The Role of Social Support***

Fabienne Dobbels, PhD, MSc, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

#### ***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Discuss what is meant by the term “social support.”
2. Show that social support cannot be disentangled from the other components within psychosocial assessment e.g., adherence, health behavior, psychological functioning, and resilience.
3. Help the target audience identify gaps and opportunities for assessment and enhancement of social support of patients within their own clinical practice.
4. Showcase which supportive mechanisms could be offered in case of poor social support.

**2:10 – 3:15 p.m.**

### **SESSION 2: PROCESS OF TEAM DECISION-MAKING: DETERMINING CANDIDACY SELECTION**

**Moderator:** Nancy P. Blumenthal, DNP, ACNP-BC, CCTC, Univ of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA USA

**2:10 p.m.**

***Summary of the State of the Science of the Session Topic and Its Most Pressing Challenges***

Nancy P. Blumenthal, DNP, ACNP-BC, CCTC, Univ of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA USA

**2:15 p.m.**

***CASE SCENARIO 2A: The Frail Patient***

Nancy P. Blumenthal, DNP, ACNP-BC, CCTC, Univ of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA USA

***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Review elements of frailty and methods of measurement.
2. Identify and describe the multi-disciplinary perspectives on frailty.
3. Describe strategies used in optimization pre-listing/pre-implantation.
4. Discuss the influence of patient's reported quality of life as a listing criterion.

**2:45 p.m.**

***CASE SCENARIO 2B: Re-Transplantation after Failure of Self-Care***

Gregory Snell, MD, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC Australia

***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Explore the impact of developmentally reasonable behaviors that constitute transplant nonadherence.
2. Recognize the ethical constructs associated with re-transplantation.
3. Identify strategies to support multi-disciplinary team members at risk for moral distress.
4. Describe the elements of a credible argument when supporting literature does not exist.

**3:15 – 3:45 p.m.**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**3:45 – 4:50 p.m.**

**SESSION 3: FAMILY MATTERS: STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGEMENT**

**Moderator:** Michael Petty, PhD, RN, APRN, CNS, CCNS University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN USA

**3:45 p.m.**

***Summary of the State of the Science of the Session Topic and Its Most Pressing Challenges***

Michael Petty, PhD, RN, APRN, CNS, CCNS University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN USA

**3:50 p.m.**

***CASE SCENARIO 3A: Let's Not Talk About It, Just Do It: Promoting Dialogue Between Patient, Family Caregivers, and the Healthcare Team to Optimize Decision-Making and Outcomes***

Christiane Kugler, PhD, RN, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Identify methods to ensure that patient and family members/caregivers have similar understanding of current state and expected outcomes.
2. Discuss ways to uncover varying expectations between patient, family members/caregivers, and healthcare team.
3. Consider strategies to harmonize expectations between team members.
4. Review processes for engaging patient and family members/ caregivers in "the long run."

**4:20 p.m.**

***CASE SCENARIO 3B: Now You See Me, Now You Don't: Coping with a Change in Caregiver Ability to Provide Support***

Michael Petty, PhD, RN, APRN, CNS, CCNS University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN USA

***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Outline potential backup strategies in the event a caregiver becomes ill or unable to provide expected support.
2. Define the boundaries of when requirements to have a caregiver can be abandoned.
3. Discuss community resources that can successfully assist a transplant/MCS patient to success.
4. Review current data on impact of lack of caregiver on outcomes and patient experience.

**4:50 – 5:55 p.m.**

**SESSION 4: GOOD LIVING, GOOD ENDING: ADVANCE CARE AND END-OF-LIFE PLANNING (PEDIATRICS AND ADULTS)**

**Moderator:** Melissa Sanchez, BSc Hons, PGDip, DClInPsy, MSc, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

**4:50 p.m.**

***Summary of the State of the Science of the Session Topic and Its Most Pressing Challenges***

Melissa Sanchez, BSc Hons, PGDip, DClInPsy, MSc, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

**4:55 p.m.**

***CASE SCENARIO 4A: The Young Transplant Patient in Palliative Care***

Melissa Sanchez, BSc Hons, PGDip, DClInPsy, MSc, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Highlight the issues for a young person in a palliative care setting including advance care planning.
2. Present the challenges of transitioning from a transplant/MSC to palliative care environment.
3. Discuss who has the responsibility to talk to young people about their end-of-life wishes.
4. Explore way to engage family members/caregivers in the end-of-life care for young people.

**5:25 p.m.**

***CASE SCENARIO 4B: Integrating a Palliative Care Approach into Care of Transplant and MCS Patients***

Larry A. Allen, MD, MHS, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO USA

***Teaching/Discussion Points***

1. Highlight the importance of early engagement of the palliative care team.
2. Discuss the different aspects of 'emotional homework' – e.g. advance care planning legal documentation, last wishes, memory boxes.
3. Present some of the challenges in supporting family members/caregivers and working with 'complex' family or support units.
4. Discuss the importance of self-care when working with transplant/MCS patients in the end-of-life phase.

**5:55 – 6:00 p.m.**

**CLOSING REMARKS/EVALUATION**

Bronwyn Levvey, RN, Grad Dip Clin Epi, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC Australia

Samantha J. Anthony, PhD, MSW, RSW, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON Canada

**6:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURN**