Structure, Purposes, and Operations of the
ISHLT Professional Communities (PCs)
March 8, 2020

Structure

The Society's members practice in more than 23 different professional specialty areas. Within ISHLT, our members are organized into 11 Professional Communities in which they network, provide mentorship, share expertise, and advance knowledge in their specialty as it relates to the mission of ISHLT.

Any professional specialty with at least 10 members will have a Professional Community within ISHLT.

Any Professional Community with at least 40 members will be entitled to elect a representative to each of the Interdisciplinary Networks they feel is relevant to their community

Each ISHLT member is required to select a Primary Professional Community. As a member of this community, they will be entitled to participate in the election of one representative from their Professional Community to serve on the Steering Committee of each relevant Interdisciplinary Steering Committee.

Because so many of ISHLT's members have practice interests in more than one specialty, any member may choose to join and participate in any of the 11 Professional Communities in the ISHLTConnect online forum. The designation of a Primary Professional Community is purely for voting purposes and is used only as an administrative purposes tool for such.

Purposes

The members of the Professional Communities are the source of scientific and medical content expertise for all ISHLT programs and services.

The Professional Communities are the entry point for members to engage in ISHLT.   These communities serve the following purposes for members:

- Provide a forum for members with a common professional specialty to network with colleagues, engage with each other regarding issues of interest to the specialty, mentor early career professionals, and welcome new members
- Identify specialty-level interests to be brought to the Interdisciplinary Networks and the Leadership Advisory Forum for consideration
- Serve as the forum from which content experts for ISHLT's programs and services are drawn
- Provide a forum for new members and junior faculty to become engaged in the Society
- Serve as an entry point for professional visibility and opportunity to participate in volunteer leadership opportunities
- Serve as the locus for mentor-mentee relationship development

Operations

- Each Professional Community with more than 40 members will select a representative to serve on each of the relevant Interdisciplinary Network Steering Committees (one representative per Network) and on the Early Career and Trainee Committee.

- Professional Communities with fewer than 40 members will elect a Professional Community Leader will not have representation on any Interdisciplinary Network Steering Committees or on the Early Career and Trainee Committee.

Key Values Provided by Professional Communities

- Welcome new members to the Professional Community and to ISHLT
- Exchange knowledge and information via the Community's online discussion forum in ISHLTConnect
- Provide the Interdisciplinary Networks with a specialty-specific perspective
- Connect with and mentor junior members of the Community
- Through engagement and networking, facilitate more diverse involvement in ISHLT volunteer opportunities.

Responsibilities of Elected Professional Community Leaders (representatives to Interdisciplinary Network Steering Committees and Early Career and Trainee Committee)

- Serve as the Community's leadership to proactively facilitate engagement and communications among the members
- Connect community members with volunteer opportunities
- Utilize the Society's Roster of Potential Volunteers to identify members to fill volunteer positions
- Moderate the Community's online interactions ISHLTConnect and drive year-round engagement
- Communicate with Community members regarding the relevant actions of the Interdisciplinary Networks
- Represent the interests of the Community to the Steering Committees of the relevant Interdisciplinary Networks and, as requested, to the Leadership Advisory Forum, the Committees, and the Board
- Upon request, provide community-specific insight and feedback to the Society leadership (Board, Committees, Leadership Advisory Forum) via the appropriate Interdisciplinary Network

See also
Interdisciplinary Networks
Interdisciplinary Network Steering Committees
Early Career and Trainee Committee
Leadership Advisory Forum