



33rd Annual Symposium



Transplantation Odyssey: Honoring History, Inspiring the Future

Recording of Main Auditorium
Sessions from **October 3-5, 2025**

Rubenstein Auditorium – Smilow Center
for Translational Medicine
at Penn Medicine

Philadelphia, PA • United States



Overview

The Annual Symposium presented by the International Transplant Nurses Society features world-class speakers providing cutting-edge research and clinical information in transplant nursing. Attendees will have the opportunity to continue their professional education in a highly respected, stimulating environment, while earning continuing education credits and CEPTCs. ITNS' Annual Symposium is the ideal context to engage in innovative sessions, address evolving issues, and connect with an international organization of nurses devoted to the advancement of transplant nursing excellence.

This course is planned and organized by the International Transplant Nurses Society (ITNS).

Contact info@itns.org or visit www.itns.org.

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Sabrina Kopf, DNP, ACNP-BC, CRNP Chair

Shereena Sylvester, RN, CCTC Co-Chair

Whitney Holland, DNP, CRNP

Karina Dal Sasso Mendes, MSc, PhD, RN

Yaprak Sarigöl Ordin, PhD, RN

Course Director

Maria Molina, DNP, CRNP

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, learners should be able to:

1. Identify the key disciplines involved in transplant care for patients and explain how each discipline contributes to the optimal outcome for the patient.
2. Explore emerging strategies and technologies that multi-disciplinary teams can adopt to enhance personalized approaches and improve patient outcomes.
3. Evaluate best practices for multi-disciplinary collaboration to enhance outcomes for long-term transplant recipient success.
4. List the challenges and opportunities encountered by transplant nurses in all phases of care and across a variety of healthcare systems.
5. Discuss emerging therapies to mitigate post-transplant complications.
6. Examine the technological advances that impact organ donation, improve organ utilization, and advance graft survival.
7. Identify the impact that emerging pharmacological treatments have on post-transplant care.

Friday, October 3, 2025

7:45am – 8:00am

Welcome and Introductions

Alison Heil, BSN, RN, CCTN
ITNS President

Sabrina Kopf, DNP, ACNP-BC, CRNP
Annual Meeting Planning Committee Chair

Regina Cunningham, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
CEO, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Abraham Shaked, MD,
Penn Transplant Institute

8:00am – 9:00am

KEYNOTE

TRANSPLANTATION: PIONEERING EXCELLENCE THROUGH TIME

Kim M Olthoff, MD

9:30am – 10:00am

ECMO's Legacy in Transplantation: Bridging the Past to the Future of Solid Organ Transplantation

Christian A Bermudez, MD

10:00am – 10:30am

Transplant Nursing: Celebrating a Legacy, Elevating Certification, and Shaping the Future

Linda Ohler, MSN, RN, CCTC, FAAN, FAST

10:30am – 11:00am

Beyond the Graft: The Transformative Role of Transplant Social Workers

Rachel Schendler, MSS, LCSW

11:00am -11:30am

VAD Evolution: Navigating the Post-2018 Cardiac Allocation Odyssey
Rose DeRosa, MS, PA-C

1:00pm – 1:30pm

Leading the Voyage; Navigating the Transplantation Odyssey with Vision and Impact
Laura A Taylor, PhD, RN
Stacia Hays, DNP, APRN, CNE, CCTC, FAANP

1:30pm – 2:00pm

Fueling the Future: The Power of Nutrition in Transplant Success
Allison Angelucci, MS, RDN, LDN, CNSC

2:30pm – 3:00pm

Funding the Future: Navigating the Financial Odyssey of Transplantation
Kara Hovatter, BS, CTFC, LSSGB

Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:00am – 9:00am

KEYNOTE

PATHOGENS ACROSS TIME: EXPLORING INFECTIOUS DISEASES BACK TO THE FUTURE
Emily Blumberg, MD

9:30am – 10:00am

Optimizing Mobility and Recovery in Transplantation: The Vital Role of Rehabilitation
Sarah Gurgal, PT, DPT

10:00am -10:30am

Charting the Course: Transplant Coordinators as Pioneers in Leadership and Innovation
Angela Velleca, MSHS, BSN, RN, CCT

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Combatting Infections in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: Balancing Immune Suppression and Antimicrobial Strategies

Jennifer Trofe, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP, FAST

2:30pm – 3:30pm

INTERNATIONAL PANEL

GLOBAL TRANSPLANTATION ODYSSEY: CELEBRATING LEGACY, EMBRACING DIVERSITY, AND ADVANCING INNOVATION ACROSS THE CONTINENTS

Bridging Borders: Exploring Spain and Europe's Legacy and Innovation in Transplantation

Maria M Crespo, MD

Threads of Life: Embracing Diversity and Navigating the Complexities of Organ Donation in Asia's Transplantation Odyssey

Joyce Trompeta, PhD

Transplantation Down Under: Celebrating Legacy and Driving Innovation Across Australia

Holly Northam, PhD, AOM, RN, RM, M CritCareNurs, SFHEA

Transplantation Frontiers: Celebrating Legacy and Advancing Innovation in the United States and North America

Dawn Wilkerson, MSN, RN, CCTC, CPTC

Transplantation Frontiers: Celebrating Legacy and Innovation in the Middle East
Yaprak Sarigöl Ordin, PhD

Transplantation Horizons: Honoring Legacy and Driving Innovation Across Brazil and South America

Karina Dal Sasso Mendes, RN, PhD

Transplantation Pathways: Honoring Legacy and Cultivating Innovation Across Africa
Maya Clark-Cutaia, PhD, ACNP-BC

3:30pm – 4:00pm

Transplantation Trailblazers: Advancing SOT Through APP-Led Research
Elaina P Weldon, MSN, ACNP-BC

Sunday, October 5, 2025

8:00am – 9:00am

KEYNOTE

THE FUTURE IN PERSONAL: HOW GENOMICS IS REPROGRAMMING TRANSPLANT CARE

Bernice Coleman, PhD, ACNP-BC, FAHA, FADL, FAAN

9:00am – 10:00am

Precision Medicine in Transplantation: Personalizing Pharmacological Strategies for Optimal Outcomes

Nikitha Yagnala, PharmD, BCCCP

Megan Galle, PharmD

11:15am – 11:45am

Bridging the Divide: Advancing Social Justice and Equity in Transplantation

Maya Clark-Cutaia, PhD, ACNP-BC

11:45am – 12:15pm

Maintaining Mental Wellness as a Transplant Nurse: It's ok to not be ok!

Gemma Smith, RN, BSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Mechanical Circulatory Support



Accreditation

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by University of Minnesota, Interprofessional Continuing Education and the International Transplant Nurses Society (ITNS). University of Minnesota, Interprofessional Continuing Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit Designation Statements



American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

This activity is eligible for 12.0 ANCC contact hours.



American Board for Transplant Certification (ABTC)

This activity is eligible for 12.0 Continuing Education Points for Transplant Certification (CEPTCs).

Other Healthcare Professionals

Other healthcare professionals who participate in this CE activity may submit their certificate of participation to their appropriate accrediting organizations or state boards for consideration of credit. The participant is responsible for determining whether this activity meets the requirements for acceptable continuing education.