

VARVARA KIRCHNER

Dr. Kirchner earned her Bachelor of Science in Genetics, Cell Biology and Development and a doctorate in medicine from the University of Minnesota (U of MN). She completed her surgical residency and fellowship in liver, kidney, pancreas and auto-islet cell transplantation at the U of MN under the mentorship of Dr. Timothy L. Pruett. She received her subspecialty training in living donor liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery at the ASAN Medical Center under the mentorship of Prof. Sung-Gyu Lee.

Dr. Kirchner joined the U of MN faculty in 2016 as a tenured Assistant Professor of Transplant Surgery. Her clinical practice includes living and deceased donor liver and kidney transplantation for adult and pediatric population as well as hepatobiliary surgery and total pancreatectomy and islet cell auto-transplantation (TP-IAT) for chronic pancreatitis.

Her clinical research focuses on predictors of the hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence following liver transplantation and long-term outcomes following TP-IAT. In her translational research laboratory, she studies cell transplantation as a potential solution for effective and less invasive replacement therapy. Dr. Kirchner uses stem cell biology techniques to reprogram somatic cells for generation of hepatocyte-like cells for treatment of end-stage liver disease.

Her overarching goal is to advance the field of liver transplantation through clinical practice, research and education ultimately making a relevant contribution to the care of our patients. She believes that the international interdisciplinary collaborations that are fostered by the International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) are integral to the success of our work as a transplant community. These collaborations help to establish the need as well as find and implement the solutions and disseminate the information. This effort would not be achievable by a single individual or institution. She puts a great value on ILTS Vanguard committee's efforts to engage young professionals and trainees.