

Meet the Speakers



Perioperative Care in Liver Transplantation



Sophoclis Alexopoulos, MD Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA

Dr. Sophoclis Alexopoulos is an associate professor of surgery and Chief of the Division of Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He also serves as surgical director of both the adult and pediatric liver transplant programs. His interests include pediatric liver transplantation using technical variant grafts, living donor liver transplantation, dual organ transplantation, and complex hepatic surgery.

Dr. Alexopoulos attended medical school at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York. He completed his residency in general surgery at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston followed by a fellowship in multi-organ transplantation at Stanford University Medical Center.



Mario Altieri, MD Caen University, Caen, France

- Mario ALTIERI, born in Argentina 07/25/1953, Spanish, French, English and Italian spoken.
- Medical Doctor National University of Cordoba Argentina NUCA 1976
- Residency and Chief of residency in Internal Medicine Cordoba, Argentina. Specialist certified NIICA
- Professor in Intensive Care Medicine at the Catholic University of Cordoba from 2000 to 2002
- Strasbourg University France Hospital University Center Hospital HUC
- Fellowship in Intensive Care Medicine
- Fellowship in multiple organ transplantation (liver, kidney, and pancreas)
- Caen University France Hospital University Center: Medical Director of liver transplant program from November 2012 to 31/08/2020
- Alençon Centre Hospitalier: Medical Director of the Liver Unit from 09/01/2020
- Member of SIG on Cardiovascular topics in cirrhosis and liver transplantation 2019
- Member of the Consortium of Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy October 2018



Maged Argalious, MD, MSc, MBA Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

Dr. Argalious serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of General Anesthesiology and Vice-Chair for Education in the Anesthesiology Institute at the Cleveland Clinic.

He completed his internship, anesthesiology residency, and cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellowship training at the Cleveland Clinic. Then he joined the Department of General Anesthesiology in 2003 with a specialty focus on anesthesia for vascular, liver, and multi-visceral transplant. He earned his Executive Masters in Business Administration from Monte Ahuja College of Business in 2009 and his Master's degree in education with a focus on Adult Learning and in 2014. He also holds a faculty appointment as Professor of Anesthesiology at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He served as residency program director for the core anesthesiology residency program from 2013 to 2019.

Dr. Argalious's research interests include peer-reviewed publications in his subspecialty areas of vascular and liver transplant anesthesia, perioperative echocardiography, and education research. He serves as a reviewer for multiple anesthesiology journals and is an editor of several anesthesiology textbooks. He is a fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography (FASE) and a fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (FASA). He serves on several national committees, including the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) subcommittee for Clinical Circulation, the ASA Committee on residents and medical students, and the ASA education subcommittee on Fundamental of Anesthesiology. Currently, he chairs the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists Committee on residents and medical students. He also serves as an Advanced Peer Coach.



Katharina Beckmann, MD University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, USA

Dr. Katharina Beckmann graduated from medical school at the Westfälische Wilhems-Universität in Münster, Germany in 2005, where she also defended a thesis on "Heparin-Coated Left Ventricular Assist Devices" in 2006. She completed her residency in anesthesiology at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 2010, where she returned in 2011 as a consultant anesthetist after a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at Northwestern University. She is currently an associate professor of anesthesiology, the Vice-Chair of Clinical Affairs as well as the Division Chief for both cardiac and liver transplant anesthesiology divisions. Dr. Beckmann has been involved with ILTS since 2012 and has presented several posters. She lives in Riverside, IL, with her husband, three children, and Masa the Apricot Poodle.



Michael Bokoch, MD, PhD UCSF, San-Francisco, CA, USA

Dr. Michael Bokoch is a transplant anesthesiologist and translational researcher at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He is currently an Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at UCSF. His current research interests include interventions to reduce acute kidney injury after liver transplant and the role of endothelial cells in liver ischemia-reperfusion injury. He is the principal investigator of the Mild Hypothermia and Acute Kidney Injury in Liver Transplantation multicenter randomized controlled trial, currently underway at UCSF, University of Colorado, and the Houston Methodist Hospital. He is mentored by Dr. Claus Niemann, the current president of the ILTS.

Dr. Bokoch is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. He received his undergraduate degrees in Biology and Chemistry at Case Western Reserve University in 2003. He then completed his MD PhD training at Stanford University in 2011. He obtained his PhD in Biophysics under the mentorship of Dr. Brian Kobilka (the 2012 Nobel laureate in Chemistry). His thesis work involved the structural biology and pharmacology of adrenergic G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). Dr. Bokoch then moved to UCSF, where he completed residency training in anesthesiology, followed by a liver transplant anesthesia fellowship in 2017. During that time, he also performed postdoctoral research on thrombin GPCRs and endothelium with Dr. Shaun Coughlin at the UCSF Cardiovascular Research Institute. Subsequently, Dr. Bokoch joined the anesthesia faculty at UCSF and has since been active in clinical work, education, and research.

Dr. Bokoch currently lives in San Francisco, CA, with his wife Virginia, and 3-year-old son Max. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, hiking, tennis, skateboarding, cooking, music, stargazing, and fishing.



Rodrigo Cartin-Ceba, MD Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, AZ, USA

Rodrigo Cartin-Ceba, MD, MSc, is an Associate Professor of Medicine and a consultant in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Mayo Clinic Arizona. He attended the University of Costa Rica Medical School in San Jose, Costa Rica, before completing training in Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Cartin-Ceba did fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, after which he joined the Mayo Clinic faculty first in Rochester and then in Arizona. Dr. Cartin-Ceba is the Program Director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Program at Mayo Clinic, Arizona. He is also the Director of Research of the Critical Care Department.

Dr. Cartin-Ceba's main clinical and research interests are related to critical care outcomes and pulmonary vascular diseases with an emphasis on pulmonary vascular disorders secondary to chronic liver disease: portopulmonary hypertension and hepatopulmonary syndrome.



Ranjit Deshpande, MD
Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA

Dr. Ranjit Deshpande is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and the Director of Transplant Anesthesiology at Yale University. Dr. Deshpande received his medical degree from BJ Medical College in India in 2005. Subsequently, he completed a residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Miami /Jackson Memorial Hospital, followed by an Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Deshpande's clinical interests are focused on abdominal organ transplantation and Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS). He has developed a novel approach towards risk stratification for liver and kidney transplantation at Yale. He has implemented a transplant optimization clinic. His current research focuses on risk profiles of renal transplant candidates, including intraoperative factors that lead to poor outcomes. He has also contributed to literature related to ethics in transplantation and organ allocation.

Additionally, Dr. Deshpande is the Director of the POCUS program at Yale for the department of Anesthesiology. He is nationally recognized as one of the leaders in POCUS and is currently involved in various multidisciplinary and multi-institutional projects.

Outside of work, Dr. Deshpande loves spending time with his kids (an 8-month-old boy and a 6-year-old daughter) with tennis, biking, and at the beach.



Duc Pham, MD Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA

Duc Thinh Pham, MD, serves as Surgical Director for The Center of Advanced Heart Failure at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and as Associate Professor at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Pham graduated and completed his general residency at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He completed his Cardiothoracic Surgery residency at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine and did an Advanced Fellowship in Heart Failure and Valvular Surgery in the Cardiovascular Surgery Program.

Dr. Pham's clinical specialties include all aspects of adult cardiac surgery, including coronary by-pass surgery, valvular repair/replacement, transcatheter aortic valve replacement, aortic surgery, ventricular reconstruction, heart transplantation, and ventricular assist device implantations. He has participated in several clinical trials investigating various surgical devices, including the HeartWare HVAD and Thoratec HeartMate. Dr. Pham is a member of both the Society of Thoracic Surgery and the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation. He is board-certified in Cardiothoracic Surgery and General Surgery.



Sheila Ellis, MD University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE, USA

Dr. Sheila Ellis is Vice-Chair of Faculty Development and Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. She has served as Director of Transplant Anesthesia and has extensive experience in the perioperative anesthesia management of adult and pediatric patients for liver, intestinal, pancreas, and kidney transplants. She has also studied and published on anesthesia causes of mortality and cardiac arrests. She is a senior board examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology.



Yoogoo Kang, MD Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Yoogoo Kang, M.D. is an Emeritus Professor of the Thomas Jefferson University of Philadelphia.

He was a graduate of Seoul National University College of Medicine and completed an anesthesiology residency at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and an obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at the Magee Women's Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh. He moved to the Presbyterian University Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh and developed Hepatic Transplantation Anesthesiology with his research background in blood coagulation using thromboelastography. He was instrumental in transforming highly experimental liver transplantation into a clinically acceptable practice by implementing clinical research in all areas, including coagulation, blood transfusion, brain, cardiovascular system, venovenous bypass, renal function, and electrolyte, to name a few. He led the anesthesiology team for simultaneous liver and heart, multivisceral, and xenotransplantation. He was a visiting professor on a global scale and received numerous visiting professors from other liver transplantation centers.

He was the director of the International Symposium in 1984, 1986, and 1988 and was the Founding President of the International Society for Perioperative Care in Liver Transplantation in 1990 and the ILTS in 1991. He published a textbook, Hepatic Transplantation: Anesthetic and Perioperative Management, and was the Guest Editor of Transplantation Proceedings in 1986, 1988, and 1990. He played a key role in developing a journal, Liver Transplantation and Surgery (Liver Transplantation, subsequently) and has been an advisor for the ILTS. His contributions to liver transplantation were recognized by the ILTS Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

He accepted a chairmanship position at Tulane Medical School in 1998, but his passion for liver transplantation forced him to return to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 2000 to rejuvenate the liver transplantation anesthesiology. The program is not the largest one but is well known for its active participation in the evaluation and management of extrahepatic organ function, intraoperative care, and continuing education. He retired from clinical practice in 2019 but continues to be a mentor for junior faculty.

He feels strongly that he is indebted to a great mentor (Thomas E. Starzl, MD) and dedicated colleagues and friends in the liver transplantation field.



Luca Lorini, MD Ospedali Riuniti, Bergamo, Italy

Dr. Ferdinando Luca Lorini has been director of the Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit 2 of the Bergamo Hospital since 2002. From 2008 to 2017, he also directed the Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care. Since 2018 he is director of the Emergency Department and Critical Area. Previously he was Director of the Anesthesia and Resuscitation Unit of the "Montevergine" private nursing home in Mercogliano (AV).

Dr Lorini has graduated in Medicine and Surgery from Pavia University in 1986. He specialized in Anesthesia and Reanimation (Pavia, 1990).

He attended several hospitals in Italy and abroad. He is the author of over 100 scientific publications in national and international journals, has written numerous books on Anesthesia and Echocardiography. The scientific activity mainly concerns the field of Cardioanesthesia; in this context, he has organized several national and international conferences, also carrying out activities as a tutor. He participates as a speaker and moderator at conferences in Italy and abroad. He is a member of scientific committees and national and international study groups.



Carla Luzzi, MD University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Dr. Luzzi was born in Brazil, where she also completed her medical training and postgraduate medical education in anesthesiology. She moved to Toronto – Canada in 2005 for further training as a fellow in multi-organ transplant and cardiovascular anesthesia, eventually becoming a Staff Anesthesiologist at the Toronto General Hospital. Areas of interest include liver transplantation, coagulation management, and medical education. She's also obtaining a Master's Degree in Medical Education for the Health Profession from the Johns Hopkins University.



Claus Niemann, MD UCSF, San-Francisco, CA, USA

Dr. Claus Niemann is the current president of the International Liver Transplantation Society. He has consulted for several governments and countries looking to establish transplantation programs. Dr. Niemann has also been the Principal Investigator on several federally funded studies, including experimental and clinical research in organ protection during transplantation. In addition, he has served on several federal panels and committees that oversee transplantation in the United States and review regulatory bylaws.



Kathleen Nilles, MD Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

Kathleen Nilles, MD, is a transplant hepatologist at the MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute in Washington, DC. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she completed medical school at the University of Pittsburgh, followed by an intentional multicenter approach to postgraduate training. She completed an internal medicine residency at Emory University in Atlanta, followed by a Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship in Denver at the University of Colorado and an advanced Transplant Hepatology fellowship in Chicago at Northwestern University. She joined the faculty in 2019 as an assistant professor at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology and Hepatology and will complete the transplant hepatology boards later this month.

Her clinical interests are centered around liver transplant. Pre-transplant, she evaluates and manages patients in need of a liver transplant, as well as evaluation of people who are interested in becoming living liver donors. However, her favorite aspect of transplant hepatology is the management of post-transplant patients. This clinical interest overlaps with her main research interest, post-transplant outcomes, including graft and patient survival for a liver transplant as well as simultaneous liver-kidney (SLK) transplant. She has done prior research evaluating rejection and graft outcomes in SLK and is currently collaborating with the renal transplant team at Georgetown to evaluate the role of donor-specific antibodies in rejection and graft survival in the SLK population. She enjoys writing clinical reviews and book chapters and has published review articles in Clinical Liver Disease, Hepatology Communications, Transplantation, and others. (Outside of work, she enjoys running, swimming, skiing, traveling, and reading.)



Aaditya Anil Prabhudesai, MD
Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, New Delhi, India

Dr. Aaditya Anil Prabhudesai, has completed an undergraduate (MBBS) from esteemed and Asia's oldest School Grant Medical College and Sir J J Group of Hospitals, Mumbai. He was known to be a competitive, extremely hard working and disciplined student among his peers. His publications, with the help of some very encouraging guides during his formative years, reflect upon his interest in scientific research. He diligently learned and studied through the three years of PG training as a DNB at Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Kolkata. His guides and seniors played a massive role in nurturing this budding anesthesiologist. He actively participated in academics, attended conferences, and made a few presentations during his tenure. After the completion of post-graduation, he lunged into liver transplant anesthesia at one of the premier institutes Max Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi. Apart from academics, he takes an interest in painting and cooking.



Michael Spiro, MBBS, BSc, FRCA
The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, London

Dr. Michael Spiro is a consultant Anaesthesiologist and Intensive Care Physician specializing in Liver Transplantation at The Royal Free Hospital in London. He currently holds lead roles in The Royal Free Peri-operative Research Group, Liver Intensive Care, and Liver Intensive Care Research. He is a current active member of the ILTS Vanguard Committee. His main areas of research are Coagulation changes in COVID-19 using viscoelastic testing; Fast track recovery post-liver transplantation; Pharmacological portal flow modulation during liver transplantation, and Modulation of ischaemia reperfusion injury.



Erin Stewart, MD, MS
University of Colorado, Denver, CO, USA

Dr. Erin Stewart received her MS in Physiology and MD from the Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed internship and residencies in both Internal Medicine and Anesthesiology at the Stanford University Hospital. She has recently finished a fellowship in Transplant Anesthesiology at the University of Colorado Hospital and will be joining the faculty there as an Assistant Professor shortly. Her areas of academic interest include simulation in crisis management, perioperative medicine and research in using myocardial strain methods to quantify perioperative risk in patients with cirrhotic cardiomyopathy.



Emily Vail, MD
UT Health, San Antonio, TX, USA

Dr. Emily Vail trained in Anesthesiology and Critical Care at Columbia University Medical Center. She served as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Fellowship Program Director at the University of Texas Health San Antonio for three years. At UT Health, she was a member of the University Hospital liver transplant anesthesiology team, which performed 113 adult liver transplants in 2019. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Vail is a health services researcher focusing on vasopressor pharmacoepidemiology, drug shortage, and practice variation in critical care. She serves as an Oral Board Examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology. She is currently Co-Chair of the American Thoracic Society's Assembly on Critical Care Early Career Professionals Working Group. This year, Dr. Vail has accepted a new appointment as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania.



Padmini Vishwanath, MD Medanta - The Medicity, Gurgaon, India

Dr. Padmini Vishwanath is an anesthesiologist based in Bangalore, India. She graduated with a medical degree from JJM Medical College, India, and completed specialty training in anesthesiology at Manipal University, India. She completed a fellowship in Liver Transplant Anesthesiology at Medanta – The Medicity Hospital, Gurgaon, one of the reputed centers in India. She has won many accolades throughout her medical training and has presented at national meetings.



James West, MD
Methodist-LeBonheur Healthcare, Memphis, TN, USA

Dr. Jim West received his MD from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN, in 1983, where he also completed his anesthesia residency in 1987. He has been in private practice since that time. After becoming interested in medical ethics and being appointed to the ASA ethics committee, Dr. West earned a degree in bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2005.

He became interested in Liver Transplantation when he was asked to fill in for some ailing colleagues and subsequently joined the transplant team in Memphis in 2007.

He served on the ASA board of directors and its ethics committee for over 20 years. He has published articles on the use of TEE in liver TP, the ethics of liver transplantation, and the ethical treatment of Jehovah's witnesses.

He is currently the director of transplant anesthesiology at the Methodist University Transplant Institute in Memphis, TN, where they perform over 100 liver transplants per year. Additionally, he is now the chair of the ASA ethics committee. He is also an assistant clinical professor of Human Values and Ethics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as well as assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology.