



# TSANZ

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

## 2024 NEWSLETTER

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### EDITORIAL COMMENT

*by Associate Professor Kavitha Muthia*

#### **Acknowledging Our Journey Together**

Dear TSANZ Members,

Haere mai tangata whenua.

TSANZ respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Australia and their deep connections to the country, sea, and community. We honour their elders, both past and present, and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Welcome to the 2024 edition of our Society newsletter. This past year has been remarkably fruitful, highlighted by the tremendous success of the Annual Scientific Meeting held in Melbourne. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our program convenors, Dr. Miranda Paraskeva and Dr. Matthew Peter Sypek, for orchestrating such a seamless event. The Solid Organ Transplantation symposia across various transplant specialties garnered an overwhelming response. Special thanks to Dr. George Javorsky and Dr. David Darley (Cardiothoracic SOTS convenors), A/Professor Avik Majumdar (Liver-Intestinal SOTS convenors), and A/Professor Ross Francis and Professor Natasha Rogers (Kidney/Pancreas-Islet SOTS convenors) for their invaluable contributions. The Frontiers and Challenges in Organ Transplantation course preceding the meeting, expertly led by Dr. Melanie Wyld and Mr. Harry Robertson, provided critical updates that enriched our discussions. We are proud to report a total of 345 registrants and 122 abstracts submitted, highlighting the vibrant engagement of our scientific community.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the dedicated efforts of Nieves Piaggio, Kim Rawson, Anne Wiseman, and Emily Larkins, whose hard work has been vital to the Society’s accomplishments, as recognized by the Board.

As we bid farewell to 2024, I wish each of you all the best. May the coming year bring abundant opportunities for us to connect, collaborate, and further our mission of enhancing transplantation for those in need. Wishing you a joyful Holiday season ahead.

Warm regards,  
Kavitha Muthiah  
Honorary Secretary

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Professor Kate Wyburn**  
**President, TSANZ**



Dear All,

As 2024 draws to a close, and we reflect on yet another busy and eventful year, filled with initiatives focused on delivering a stronger more inclusive Society, I am most grateful to the enormous contributions by so many members across our varied sectors.

The TSANZ Board has now been established for just over 12 months, and we subsequently become a registered health promotion charity. This permitted us to apply for and be endorsed as a deductible gift recipient in September 2024 (which was backdated to 31 August, 2023 when we became a Company Limited by Guarantee), allowing the receipt of gifts that are tax deductible to donors. These new structures will improve the function and efficiency of TSANZ, benefit members, and strengthen the Society. I am grateful to everyone, particularly the administrative staff and executive for all the hard work and support that has gone on to achieve these changes. Also, with much thanks to Professor Helen Pilmore, who initiated many of these processes and continues to serve on the Board as past president, specifically working on TSANZ policy development.

**The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual scientific meeting** held in June this year at the Melbourne Convention Centre was a huge success, with the highest attendance on record, at over 345 registrants. I would particularly like to thank Dr Lucy Sullivan and A/Prof Wai Lim as long standing chairs of the Scientific Programme and Education Committee (SPEC), for their consistent hard work, along with program organisers Drs Miranda Paraskeva and Matthew Sypek, for a fabulous meeting, with local and international speakers, including Dr Carole Guillonneau, Professor Alexandre Loupy and Prof Gabriel Oniscu, as well as Women in Transplantation (WIT - in partnership with TSS) speakers Dr Gomathy Narasimhan and the Honourable Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney MP.

The ASM pre-meeting program included for the first time a full day course entitled **Frontiers and Challenges in Organ Transplantation (FACT)**, the renamed and reframed postgraduate course featured cutting edge updates, clinical conundrums, and contemporary approaches to transplant management. The day was expertly crafted by Dr Melanie Wyld and Dr Harry Robertson.

Additionally, we held the **Solid Organ Symposia (SOTS)**, led by the TSANZ transplant advisory committees, providing a forum for in depth discussions and debate on topics specific to each subspecialty across i) Liver, ii) Cardiothoracic and iii) Kidney/pancreas streams. All were exceptionally well received, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for even more opportunity to deepen discussions, which will be taken on board for next year's meeting. A huge thank you to all the organisers and speakers involved in these symposia.

The Transplant Nurses Association (TNA) held their national conference "Better Together" on the Friday before the TSANZ ASM. This co-location, which will continue every second year, is highly valued, and another way to strengthen ties between our members.

TSANZ is also grateful for the generous ongoing support from Kidney Health Australia in awarding prizes for the best clinical and laboratory-based presentations, focused on ways to improve health outcomes of people receiving organ transplants. Awards this year went to A/Prof William Mulley and Dr Jeanette Villanueva.

Collaborations between Transplant Australia and TSANZ this year included the Mark Cocks Award, received by Prof Matthew Jose, and the well-attended Patient forum, 'Back to Life, returning to work and activity post-transplant'. The Hon Ged Kearney launched the Transplant Australia initiative, Transplant Active Breaking the Barriers Program, which is proudly supported by TSANZ, and the TNA.

I would also like to acknowledge Drs Georgie Irish and Griffith Perkins for their excellent chairing of our Early Career Committee (ECC). The ECC group is involved in many of the SPEC/ASM activities, the Grand Round schedule, and provides a healthy environment and pipeline for our future leaders.

I am immensely grateful for the significant amount of work and expertise that all our conveners and members of SPEC put into organising these meetings, particularly given the new format. Next year the ASM will return to Canberra, for the first time in 10 years. The international speakers confirmed for this event include Professors Cameron Wolfe, Megan Sykes, Peter Nickerson, and Roslyn Mannon.

We are exceptionally excited to announce, in partnership with the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID), the inaugural **Transplant Infectious Disease Day**, to be held on Friday 20 June 2025, just prior to the ASM. The program will focus on pre- and early-post transplant infectious disease care, with exceptional local and international speakers, including Professor Cameron Wolfe from Duke University.

We have continued our strong collaborative relationship with the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA), and I would like to express sincere thanks for their significant support, engagement, and funding contributions. I look forward to continuing this work on many fronts and am appreciative of the dedication and joint vision we share.

Three significant other announcements this year include the **National Strategy for Organ Retrieval, Donation and Transplantation**, released by the Department of Health and Aged Care in November. Stakeholder consultations will play a crucial role in ensuring that the National Strategy is both practical and responsive to sector needs and we encourage all members to be involved in these processes. Pleasingly, in August the Government announced it will establish an **Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)** inquiry into human tissue laws to determine whether legislative reform is required to harmonise laws across the nation. This has the potential to significantly enhance our donation practices and provide better transplant outcomes. In September, consultation with TSANZ on the **Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA)** Organ and Tissue Project began, which will develop a schema to categorise all aspects of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, to ultimately fund our services more efficiently by providing evidence-based price determinations. Again, membership engagement is critical to the positive outcome of this process, and the TSANZ advisory committees have been contacted to provide input.

Every year there are so many individuals who contribute to the Society, in so many ways. This is particularly evident in the extensive work and contributions from all the TSANZ advisory committee, working and special interest group members which are highlighted in A/Prof Nikky Isbel's report.

As always, the people who really keep us on track are our administrative staff, including our Executive Officer Nieves Piaggio, who manages to consistently guide us through the challenges of our dynamic work environment; Anne Wiseman, our administrative officer who brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to the role, Kim Rawson our project manager who expertly supports and guides our advisory committees, projects, working groups and navigates the complexities of stakeholder engagements; Emily Larkins, currently on parental leave, continues to skilfully maintain and develop the TSANZ deceased donor Guidelines liaising expertly with all collaborators; and Sarah White whose leadership and exceptional clarity continues to drive the allocation algorithm project.

I would also like to specifically acknowledge the generous guidance and support provided by all members of exec, with whom it is always a pleasure to work, including Deputy Chair A/Prof Nikky Isbel, Honorary Secretary A/Prof Kavitha Muthiah and Treasurer Dr Josh Kausman, and again to thank all TSANZ members for their engagement and contributions.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday period.

Kate

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Associate Professor Kavitha Muthia**

**Honorary Secretary, TSANZ**



It is my distinct honour to present my second report as the Honorary Secretary of The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ). In our first year as a new registered charity, we have been guided by the exceptional leadership of our Chair, Professor Kate Wyburn, along with Deputy Chair Dr. Nikky Isbel and Treasurer Dr. Joshua Kausman. The unwavering support of our esteemed Board members Dr. Tanya McWilliams, Mr. Paul Robertson, Dr. Lucy Sullivan, Professor Angela Webster, Dr. Handoo Rhee, A/Professor Avik Majumdar, Dr. Animesh Singla, and A/ Professor Bronwyn Levvey has been invaluable as we navigate various challenges.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne was a remarkable success, fostering interdisciplinary and interspecialty connections within the transplantation community of Australia and New Zealand. I extend heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Lucy Sullivan, A/Prof Wai Lim, and the dedicated members of the Scientific Programme and Education Committee (SPEC) for their outstanding contributions. We eagerly anticipate our next gathering in 2025 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra, which will feature the inaugural Transplant Infectious Diseases Day, aimed at enhancing collaboration among specialties on this critical topic.

We have also made significant strides in our clinical guidelines, which have evolved into a valuable app. This year, we established a new advisory committee on tissue typing, focusing on optimizing patient outcomes and maximizing equity and utility in transplantation. Additionally, we have formed new working groups in machine perfusion and living donation to further advance these vital areas.

In 2024, our society has experienced steady growth, welcoming an increasing number of members. Encouraging participation across all transplantation disciplines remains a top priority as we continue to expand our reach.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Nieves Piaggio, Kim Rawson, Emily Larkins and Anne Wiseman, whose efforts form the backbone of our society.

As the year comes to a close, I wish you all a joyful holiday season and look forward with optimism to the opportunities that 2025 will bring.

Warm regards,

Kavitha Muthiah

Honorary Secretary, TSANZ

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Dr Joshua Kausman**

**Honorary Treasurer, TSANZ**



The current financial position of the society remains stable. As of October 31, 2024 including monies held for OTA and NIKTT projects, net assets are \$2,957,305.

Income from membership for 2023 was \$150,294, down from 2022 (\$169,817), but incomes from the ASM (\$226,577) and sponsorship (\$331,809) were both up from 2022 (\$160,477 and \$235,113, respectively). Expenses for the ASM (\$335,260) were more than 2022 (\$294,990). Overall, for the calendar year 2023, the society incurred a small gain of \$16,902.

The financial strategy with a balanced investment portfolio managed by Findex Financial and Advisory Services is established. The initial \$1,000,000 has now been fully deployed into socially responsible investment funds, with a

return of 10.6% for the 12mth to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024. The total value of the portfolio is currently \$1,105,852. Additional \$500,000 has been moved from a low-interest at-call account into a 6-month term deposit to improve returns.

The TSANZ Finance Committee meets 3 monthly and is comprised of myself, immediate past treasurer (A/Prof Nikky Isbel), Board member/ SPEC co-chair (Dr Lucy Sullivan) and a Board appointed member with financial expertise (Mr Stuart McLeod). Its key goals are the oversight of the TSANZ finances and risk management, but with the recent changes in the society's status to be a charity eligible for donations, its scope is now broadening to incorporate the approach to accepting donations and managing sponsorship. The finance committee is striving to establish a clear budget plan for 2025, with enormous thanks to Stuart's hard work and with this in place, there will be opportunity to create a strategy for divestment of funds for use in TSANZ strategic projects and initiatives. With Nikky and Lucy's terms coming to an end there will be a need for new members of the committee in 2025 and we also hope to bolster the committee team with 1-2 additional members to help navigate TSANZ's evolving donation and sponsorship strategy.

Thanks to Nieves Piaggio along with all the TSANZ administrative team and all members of the Board for their advice and support.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS REPORT

**Associate Professor Nikky Isbel**  
**Deputy Chair, TSANZ**  
**Chair, TSANZ Advisory Committees & Working Groups**



It has been another exceptionally busy year, with remarkable efforts undertaken by the TSANZ Advisory Committees and Working Groups. Exciting new projects have been commenced and work plans for the upcoming year are in place.

The Tissue Typing Advisory Committee, The Transplant Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group, The Living Donor Clinical Working Group and the Machine Perfusion Working groups have all been established and are actively progressing their initiatives with great enthusiasm.

The work is expertly supported by the project managers Emily Larkins, Kim Rawson and Sarah White whose unwavering guidance and dedication have been invaluable. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their commitment and hard work.

We also gratefully acknowledge the continued support and collaboration with the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA), reflecting more than a decade of successful partnership.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on improving outcomes in the organ donation and transplantation sector. We extend our gratitude to everyone involved in these organisations for their tireless contributions to advancing transplantation in Australia and New Zealand.

Nicole Isbel

### **Summary of Achievements of the Projects, Advisory, Special Interest and Working Groups 2024**

#### ***Projects***

The Kidney Allocation Project, led by Sarah White, has been convened 6 times with the Biostatistics Focus Group meeting regularly to model parameters and run simulations. The group aims to finalise a simulated algorithm that will be released for public consultation early next year with the project to be completed by the end of February 2025.

The TSANZ Clinical Guidelines project, led by Emily Larkins, focuses on improving the review, management, and implementation of guidelines, with active involvement from the Guidelines Advisory Panel (GAP). Version 1.13 of the TSANZ *Clinical Guidelines for Organ Transplantation from Deceased Donors* was released on 31 August 2024, and included updates on pre-donation imaging for liver donors, donor-transmitted infectious disease risks, COVID-19

testing for donors, organ allocation audits, and algorithms for kidney and heart allocation, along with links to the National Histocompatibility Guidelines. The interactive webpage and mobile app were launched on 5 March 2024 with positive feedback being received since. Version 1.14 is scheduled for release in the first half of 2025.

The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) received support from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) for a year of funding (Feb 1, 2024 – Jan 30, 2025) to support progress toward Indigenous kidney transplantation equity. A request has been made to extend funding to 2026 for activities including leadership enhancement, stakeholder collaboration, and kidney health analysis. A second *Transplantation Equity Gathering* is planned for February 2025 in Adelaide, bringing together diverse advocates.

### **Advisory Committee's**

Thanks to the chairs of the Advisory Committees who organised the very successful Solid Organ Transplant Symposia last year. The Cardiothoracic, Liver and Kidney/Pancreas-Islet SOTS days will be going ahead again in 2025. The symposia will precede the TSANZ ASM in Canberra next June. These sessions will allow presentation of controversial cases and facilitate discussion, development of policies and communication between units. All TSANZ members are encouraged to register and contribute to the discussion.

The advisory committees met regularly throughout the year. The committees include the Cardiac Transplant Advisory Committee (CTAC), Donor Surgeons and Donor Coordinators Advisory Committee (DSDC), Immunology Transplant Advisory Committee (ITAC), Liver and Intestinal Transplant Advisory Committee (LITAC), Lung Transplant Advisory Committee (LTAC), Pancreas and Islet Transplant Advisory Committee (PITAC), Paediatric Transplant Advisory Committee (PTAC), Renal Transplant Advisory Committee (RTAC), Tissue Typing Advisory Committee (TTAC) and the Vascular Composite Allograft Advisory Committee (VCAAC).

CTAC are discussing the potential for a national DCD program as well as normothermic regional perfusion and have focused on the Heart Transplant Registry get back up and running. Paediatric donor allocation has been discussed with Westmead Children's and Royal Children's in Melbourne to review allocation workflow.

DSDC are reviewing their terms of reference as well as updating the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines around the use of kidneys with small renal cell carcinomas and to include a table for Bosniak cysts. This will be included in version 1.14 of the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines, due for release in the first half of 2025.

LITAC have been discussing the draft process for reviewing outlier performance in benchmarking reports, including forming ad-hoc committees to investigate and work with underperforming units. The group provided feedback on the proposed approach and agreed to include it in the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines. The group have been discussing the need for consistent protocols across centres for transplanting patients with metastatic colorectal cancer with the LITAC Oncology subcommittee reviewing the protocol. The LITAC Machine Perfusion working group have discussed the potential for sharing machine-perfused organs, particularly DCD livers, between states as well as normothermic regional perfusion, noting that the ALRC review of human tissue laws is underway. Avik Majumdar and Caroline Tallis are leading the newly formed Quality of Care in Liver Transplant working group to focus on the development of a protocol to focus on workforce requirements, patient outcomes and quality care metrics.

LTAC reviewed the issues around donor lung identification and optimisation, community consent rates, retrieval resourcing, and changing indications for lung transplants. The group discussed efforts to standardize donor lung management practices across states, including anti-mortem interventions for DCD donors, use of bronchoscopy, and lung-protective ventilation. There were varying experiences across states, with some challenges accessing bronchoscopy in smaller ICUs. The group discussed extending DCD donor stand-down times beyond 90 minutes up to 120 minutes if the transplant teams believe it will increase donor utilisation. The group agreed this could help increase the donor pool.

PITAC have been engaging with the Kidney Allocation Algorithm project to continue to advocate for changes that would better serve their pancreas transplant recipients agreed upon donor age and weight criteria across jurisdictions.

PTAC have been discussing small paediatric donors after looking at data, it shows good long-term outcomes for en bloc transplants from donors <10kg, even outperforming living donor kidneys in some studies. There is potential to significantly increase paediatric transplant rates if paediatric donors were directed to paediatric recipients.

RTAC have reviewed information to support routine consideration of Hep C NAT positive donors in light of access to and evidence of efficacy of the direct acting antiviral agents This will be included in version 1.14 of the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines. A renal machine perfusion working group has been convened to allow a more streamlined discussion as part of the TSANZ Machine Perfusion Special Interest Group to assist with planning for national approach which may support lobbying for funding.

TTAC chaired by Rhonda Holdsworth has been established and will improve communication between labs and act as a national advisory body for genetics and laboratory testing. The National Histocompatibility Assessment Guideline for Solid Organ Transplantation was published in April 2024.

VCAAC continue to discuss the development of Uterine Transplant Guidelines. A subcommittee has been formed to keep abreast of any progress in uterine transplantation in Australia.

### ***Special Interest Groups***

The establishment of special interest groups were undertaken this year, including the Transplant Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group (TIDSIG) chaired by Dr Peter Boan and Dr Tina Marinelli, and Machine Perfusion Special Interest group (MPSIG) Chaired by Dr Animesh Singla. The TIDSIG will co-ordinate a Transplant Infectious Diseases Day preceding the ASM and is able to advise more broadly on issues relating to infectious diseases and hopefully stimulate collaborative research projects. Various organ specific machine perfusion working groups have also been established and will link in with the MPSIG as there is so much activity and interest in machine perfusion across ANZ and this will help increase communication and collaboration between units as new technologies progress.

### ***Working Groups***

Living Donation Clinical Working Group (LDCWG) chaired by Dr Melanie Wyld was convened and had its first meeting. This group is currently considering the report from the consultation workshops held in 2023 and developing a workplan to facilitate and promote living kidney donation.

The Kidney Allocation Algorithm Working Group aims to finalise and simulate a fully specified kidney allocation algorithm by December 2024, with public consultation planned for January 2025 and finalisation in February 2025. Consultations with RTAC and PITAC have prompted the development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to clarify procedures for simultaneous pancreas-kidney (SPK) patients at high priority levels and to implement the KDPI max function to prevent inappropriate kidney offers. Additionally, input from CTAC, LTAC, and LITAC has led to a request for protocols addressing kidney-after-other organ transplantation, aligning with the broader project to revise the allocation algorithm.

The Adolescent and Young Adult Transplant Working Group (AYA WG) that is led by Rachael Harry, meet on a regular basis. The working group has developed a survey on services for adolescents and young adults with solid organ transplants in Australia and New Zealand to identify gaps and support the creation of a TSANZ statement on optimal care. Ethics approval has been granted by the Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee. The survey will be distributed to transplant units and promoted through email, the website, and stakeholder networks by the end of the year.

Outgoing Chairs. We would like to thank the following outgoing chairs for their leadership, time and support, TSANZ projects and guidelines would not be possible without your valuable input.

- CTAC – Angeline Leet
- DSDC – Mark Connellan
- LTAC – David Darley
- VCAAC – Sharon Ford

Incoming Chairs. TSANZ would like to show our appreciation for those members that give their time and input into our Advisory Committee's and Working groups, we look forward to working with you all.

- CTAC – George Javorsky
- DSDC – Animesh Singla
- LTAC – Miranda Paraskeva
- VCAAC – Rebecca Deans
- Transplant Infectious Diseases SIG – Peter Boan and Tina Marinelli
- Quality of Care in Liver Transplant WG – Avik Majumdar and Caroline Tallis
- TSANZ Machine Perfusion SIG – Animesh Singla
- LITAC Machine Perfusion WG – Arul Suthanathan
- RTAC Machine Perfusion WG – John Whitlam
- Imlifidase WG – John Whitlam
- Living Donation Clinical WG – Melanie Wyld

## SPEC REPORT

### Professor Wai Lim and Dr Lucy Sullivan Co-Chairs of SPEC



Amidst the background of global political and social unrest in 2024, we have also seen the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the continuing rise of organ donation rate since the decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's ASM occurred in the picturesque surrounding of the coastal capital of the state of Victoria, providing a perfect backdrop to the main education and networking event of TSANZ. As with previous years, promoting

networking and providing a forum for early career researchers to present their research, and gender equity remain the foundation of SPEC's priorities, and these priorities are reflected in the representations on committees and speakers as well as the continuing support of TSANZ in providing education grants for members to disseminate their research at the national and global platforms.

The SPEC core committee fell by one member, and we wish to thank Sanda Stankovic for her outstanding contributions to SPEC. Along with the other 3 core members (Jeanette Villanueva, Siah Kim and Karen Keung), we had nine temporary members involved in the organisation of the ASM and related meetings. Half of the core membership will retire at the conclusion of the 2025 ASM and we encourage members to consider applying for these positions. We strive to ensure equal geographical and expertise representation on SPEC to ensure we deliver the best education programs and meetings of direct relevance to our TSANZ membership. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the important contributions from our three core members in Jeanette Villanueva, Karen Keung, and Siah Kim. The Early Career Committee (ECC) continues to thrive under the leaderships of Georgina Irish and Griffith Perkins, with 18 members from diverse clinical and research background and across solid organ groups to provide much needed support to SPEC and the Board in several aspects of TSANZ activities. We have no doubt that this dynamic duo will steer the ECC committee to bigger, better and more entertaining things in the years to come.

The 2024 ASM welcomed 345 delegates participating in a 2.5-day education and social networking events. There was a restructuring of the pre-ASM meetings this year, with the start of the 1-day Frontiers and Challenges in Organ Transplantation (FACT) Day convened by Melanie Wyld and Harry Robertson. The aim of this program was to feature cutting edge updates in aspects of immunology through to clinical conundrums, including contemporary approaches to transplant management, immunosuppression, and infectious sequelae, as well as providing engaging sessions to members in relevant case-based discussion. The highlights of the FACT Day were a panel discussion of "*Would you accept this potential living donor*" and an outstanding final session on "*The Future of Transplant Care*" which focused on modern diagnostics, plus the tools and ethics of AI. This was followed by the inaugural Solid Organ Transplant Symposia (SOTS) with concurrent Liver-Intestinal, Kidney/Pancreas-Islet and Cardiothoracic sessions on the Sunday (June 16) immediately preceding the ASM opening ceremony. The purpose of the SOTS was to discuss



current problems and challenges, which each organ-specific symposium carefully crafted by the respective Chairs of the standing committees. We would like to acknowledge the work of the SOTs Convenors, Dr. George Javorsky and Dr. David Darley (Cardiothoracic), A/Professor Avik Majumdar (Liver-Intestinal), and A/Professor Ross Francis and Professor Natasha Rogers (Kidney/Pancreas-Islet) in providing oversight to ensure the success of SOTS and to form the platform for future engagement of each organ-specific group. The respective attendance of 155 and 253 delegates to the FACT and SOTS is a testament to the appetite for transplant education and engagement and we hope that this new format will provide a better balance between cutting edge transplant translational research, to evidence-based understanding and practical aspects of transplant medicine. We would once again like to thank the continuing generous support of Transplant Australia, who sponsored the Mark Cocks Award as well as the patient forum that focused on employment in transplant recipients led by Karen Keung and Siah Kim. The face-to-face and online forum was attended by clinicians, patients and families and transplant advocates, discussing relevant issues relating to the (re)-integration into workforce and challenges navigating between employment, health and work life balance.

The ASM was brilliantly led by Matthew Sypek and Miranda Paraskeva. We like to acknowledge the excellent contributions from our four international speakers in Dr Carole Guillonneau, Professor Gabriel Oniscu, Professor Alexandre Loupy and Dr Gomathy Narasimhan who each gave outstanding and thought-provoking lectures in both the ancillary meetings and the ASM. This year's ASM emphasised cutting-edge advancements in transplant immunology, digital health applications, and cellular therapies. Other sessions brought attention to strategies for increasing organ donor pools and optimizing organ allocation, reflecting TSANZ's ongoing commitment to improving patient outcomes and transplant efficiency in Australia and New Zealand.

We would also like to thank our local speakers, judges, abstract reviewers and sessions Chairs, in which the ASM and ancillary meetings would not have been possible without their contributions. The basic and clinical research projects presented by our junior and senior TSANZ members were again of high quality, emphasizing that transplant research and mentorship in Australia and New Zealand will remain in good hands for many more years to come. Women in Transplantation (WIT) session remains a showcase event on the first day of ASM. This year, the session titled "*Making a Difference*" featured invited speaker Dr Gomathy Narasimhan gave an outstanding presentation on her journey to become the first female multi-organ transplant surgeon of India. The Federal Member for Cooper and the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged, Ged Kearney also spoke in this session on the upcoming updated National Strategy for Organ Donation, Retrieval and Transplantation.

We would like to thank and acknowledge our sponsors for their ongoing support to TSANZ, in particular our platinum sponsor Astellas and gold sponsors Xvivo and Thermo Fisher. The President's prize honours for 2024 were awarded to Anita Niu and Dhaksha Tharmaraj. Other prestigious prizes were awarded to Matthew Jose and Stephen Alexander.

The ECC was again instrumental in assisting the ASM convenors and SPEC in organising the important aspects of ASM, including the well-attended networking session and "*Meet a Research Leader Event*" the latter coupled ECC and other junior members of TSANZ with established researchers. This is an important event as it provides junior researchers the opportunity to mingle with like-minded ECC and junior members and may foster future collaborations in the coming years. (which is not too different from the judges' awards) and for organising the fun run (which the lack of ECC in participating in the actual run in noted).

We have had three virtual grand rounds this year, and we acknowledge the ongoing unrestricted funding provided by Astellas. The grand round and other initiatives will continue in 2025, and a draft program and announcement of new initiatives will be posted on the TSANZ website in the New Year, with an opportunity to suggest topics for future grand rounds. We would like to acknowledge the ECC members in helping with the organisation and in the participation of the TSANZ grand rounds throughout the year.

The organisation and work of SPEC are only made possible because of the tireless work and support by our behind-the-scenes exceptional administrative team, once again brilliantly led by our super-efficient Executive officer Nieves

Piaggio, Administrative Officer Anne Wiseman and Project Officer Kim Rawson. Their level of efficiency and reliability, combined with excellent communication, ensure that the SPEC duties, ASM and other meetings are well supported and of the highest standard.

This will be our last newsletter and will be stepping down as Co-Chairs at the conclusion of the 2025 ASM. It has been our privilege to have served in TSANZ over the 6 years and we are indebted to the support from TSANZ Board and administrative team during this time. We have no doubt that TSANZ and SPEC will progress with increasing success, and we encourage members to consider applying for SPEC memberships, including the position of TSANZ Co-Chairs. We wish everyone have a Merry Xmas and look forward to another year of education and seeing everyone at the 2025 ASM in Canberra.

**Wai Lim and Lucy Sullivan**

Co-Chairs of SPEC

## ECC REPORT

**Georgina Irish and Griffith Perkins**

Co-Chairs of ECC



This year our young committee has continued to refine its role in the Society, starting with dropping the word 'Research' from our name. We were pleased to welcome members from a range of backgrounds including infectious diseases, hepatology, fundamental and translational sciences, dietetics and nephrology.

The committee organised several events at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne, with positive feedback from respondents to our polls. This year, early career members asked for face time with international speakers and senior researchers who could offer practical career and networking suggestions to a range of early career delegates. We changed up the format of our Meet the Researcher session this year to allow for more intimate discussions over lunch. This format received positive feedback. It also highlighted the diversity in early career attendees, with medical students through to postdoctoral researchers, fellows and allied health professional attending the event!

Our other ASM staples, the Networking Drinks and the Fun Run, were well-attended, and a special shoutout to Lachlan McMichael for his heroic efforts with the latter. The committee's social media representatives Amir Shamshirian, Tracey Ying and Griffith Perkins took the ASM as an opportunity to launch the Society's new LinkedIn page with the help of the irreplaceable Kim Rawson.

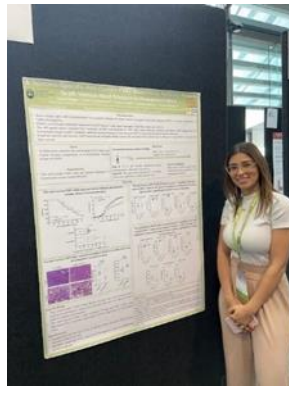
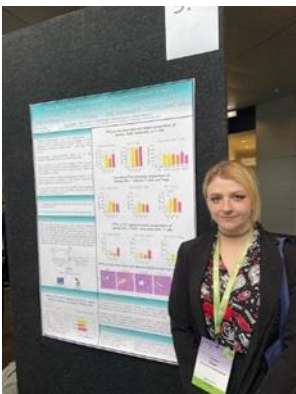
This year the committee also partnered with SPEC to organise three Grand Rounds with input from early career members. These included infectious diseases, medicinal marijuana, and updates in hypertension.

We say goodbye to members Maddie Gill, Tracey Ying and Mel Wyld, and look forward to new applicants after the 2025 meeting. We have big plans for the future of the early career transplant community. The ECC will begin a mailing list for new and existing early career society members interested in clinical and research opportunities and advice. In doing so, we take the first steps towards a TSANZ early career network.

## 51st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology (ASI) - December 4-8, 2023

Dr Debbie Watson

I am grateful to TSANZ providing me with a TSANZ Travel Award to attend the Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology (ASI) Annual Scientific meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand. This was my first time in New Zealand, so was very excited to be able to attend and present my research, and to check out the sites in Auckland, and later in Wellington. I am a mid-career researcher, and group leader of the Genetics and Immunology Research Laboratory (GIRL) at the University of Wollongong, and proudly received an ASI Breakthrough Award (\$50,000) to support my research. Myself, and our PhD students Chloe Sligar and Amal Elhage, and my colleague Prof Ronald Sluyter had the opportunity to present our research on graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) and graft-versus-leukaemia (GVL) models in Poster Sessions at the meeting. It was lovely to spend time with my long-time mentors, past TSANZ president Prof Stephen Alexander, and colleague Prof Ronald Sluyter. I was very interested in different sessions at the meeting, including talks on different diseases like autoimmune diseases (Sjögren's syndrome by A/Prof Joanne Reed, Westmead Institute of Medical Research), and brain cancer (GBM by Prof Misty Jenkins, Garvin Institute), and learning updates on immunotherapies like CAR T cell therapy, regulatory T cells and immune checkpoint inhibitors and it was good to catch up with collaborators. The ASI dinner was amazing as always, with its annual limerick competition, and all the scientists up on the dance floor, and we were chatting with immunologists from Australia and overseas. I am so grateful I was able to attend the immunology conference and spend time in New Zealand, with my late partner Kim (who passed away in March from brain cancer). We checked out the Sky Tower, WETA workshop, Hobbiton, the Glow Worm Caves, and Waiheke Island in Auckland, then travelled by train to Wellington, an amazing journey. Thank you TSANZ for your continued support throughout my career.



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## **44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT), Prague 10-13 April, 2024**

**Dr David Darley**

With the generous support of the TSANZ Travel Grant, I attended the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the ISHLT. This was held on 10-13 April, 2024 at the Prague Congress Centre in Prague, Czech Republic. More than 3,500 people in the heart and lung transplant international community gathered to exchange ideas, reconnect, and collaborate over the latest science. The meeting highlights for me included presentations on novel artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning approaches to data analysis, mechanical circulatory support, lung transplantation in the setting of COVID-19, and new science relating to antibody-mediated rejection in heart and lungs. I also found the career advice for early career transplant professionals' session particularly impactful. I submitted an abstract which was selected as an oral presentation. The aim of the abstract was to assess the independent prognostic utility of airway oscillometry, a novel physiologic tool, being used in Australia and Canada, to assess lung allograft function. I am hopeful that throughout my career, oscillometry may complement or even replace spirometry as the main tool to monitor lung transplant function over time.

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## **American Transplant Congress (ATC), Philadelphia 1-5 June, 2024**

**Dr Alessandra Orsillo**

I was extremely grateful to receive a TSANZ Travel award this year that enabled me to travel to Philadelphia to attend the American Transplant Congress on the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> of June. Attending an international transplant conference was an invaluable opportunity to have as a final year advanced year trainee in Nephrology.

I presented an oral abstract on the impact of donor and recipient diabetes on patient and graft survival in renal transplant recipients. This is a project being undertaken alongside Feruza Kholmurodova, Philip Clayton, Steven Chadban, Alison Weightman and Georgina Irish. I am very appreciative of their fantastic supervision on this project and the opportunity to present our work at this forum.

The meeting provided a vast offering of presentations, and it was great to attend talks across all aspects of organ transplantation and hear about both clinical and basic science research from centres around the world. A few highlights were the success of a Xenothymokidney transplant presented by Jeffrey Stern; a 'hot topic debate' on CMV prevention strategies in solid organ transplant recipients moderated by Atum Humar and Camille Kotton; and an interactive symposium summarising advances in transplant oncology. As I am sure many attending these conferences will have experienced, it is often difficult to decide on one of the sheer number of simultaneous sessions and my step count saw a dramatic uptake, racing between rooms.

The meeting presented a great opportunity for meeting new people and catching up with colleagues who had moved abroad. Outside of the conference I sampled some of the offerings of Philly including the Philadelphia Museum of Art (which included seeing Van Gogh's Sunflowers) and went to see the Phillies v Cardinals baseball game (unfortunately barracking for the losing side). Philadelphia was a vibrant and beautiful city to visit, and it was a bonus to escape the winter weather in Australia to enjoy the warm evenings after a day attending the conference.

Thank you again to TSANZ for the support to attend ATC. These grants provide trainees like me a 'big picture' perspective on the world of transplantation and all it has to offer!

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## **International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS 2024) in Istanbul, Turkey 22-25 September, 2024**

**Dr Min Hu**

I would like to express my gratitude to the TSANZ for the generous travel grant that enabled me to attend the International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) in Istanbul, Turkey from September 22 to 25 in 2024.

The grant covered my registration fee and part of my airfare, making it possible to present the research conducted at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research to an international audience. I gave two research presentations: one oral presentation as a senior author and a mini-oral presentation as the first and corresponding author. In the mini-oral presentation, we presented a method to evaluate the TCR and transcriptomic profile of T cells in transplant tolerance at a single-cell level. We demonstrated that T cell clonal diversity in transplant-tolerant mice mirrored that of control mice, with TCR diversity observed in Tregs and an expansion of TRBV13-1 in tolerant grafts. In the oral presentation, we examined the impact of caspase-1 and NLRP3 mutations in a murine islet allotransplantation model. While we found changes in the innate immune response in these mutant mice, there was no significant impact on allograft survival.

Key sessions of interest at the meeting included:

- Thematic Session: Cellular therapies, with a focus on Treg therapy, including CAR-Treg therapy.
- Abstract Sessions:
  - 1) Novel therapeutics and immunosuppression strategies
  - 2) Immunoregulation, tolerance, and other topics
  - 3) Biomarkers
  - 4) Immune monitoring and Biomarkers
  - 5) Innate immunity and inflammation
- Plenary Session: The President's Plenary session, especially the WIT Awards.

In summary, attending this congress allowed me to gain insights into cutting-edge studies in my field, expand my understanding of immunological mechanisms, and connect with colleagues who offered valuable ideas for my current research.

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**Dr Anjan K Bongoni**

Thanks to the generous support from TSANZ, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 30th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS 2024) in Istanbul, Turkey, from September 22-25, 2024. This conference provided an invaluable platform to explore diverse global research in transplantation and allowed me to present my own work.

This event was particularly special for me, as it marked my first in-person international conference following a significant hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as my first visit to Istanbul. The city's rich cultural heritage enhanced the experience. The conference offered a vast range of topics, and the plenary sessions showcased advancements across the field. I presented my research on a specific inhibitor of the complement lectin pathway, which has shown promise in protecting against renal ischemia-reperfusion injury (IRI) in mice. The interest generated by my presentation was encouraging, and I am hopeful that our findings will soon be published in a scientific journal.

Among the many enlightening discussions, I was particularly captivated by sessions focused on organ preservation and strategies to manage IRI. Researchers showcased innovative approaches to enhance organ preservation, including the use of EMPA and Hi1a, which demonstrated promising results in improving cardiac recovery post-

transplant. Notably, studies involving mini-swine indicated that storing kidneys at 22°C with extracellular-type solutions yielded better post-transplant function compared to traditional cold storage at 4°C. Insights into mitochondrial pathways also identified PDK4 as a potential therapeutic target for renal IRI, while research on bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells with ISL1 overexpression showed significant benefits in reducing renal damage.

The sessions on transplant immunology were particularly informative. One study on acute kidney injury in deceased donor transplants analysed 78 cases and found no adverse outcomes at six months, despite higher rates of delayed graft function. Additionally, a phase 2 trial assessing a CD38 monoclonal antibody showed improved safety and efficacy for renal allograft rejection, resulting in higher rates of antibody-mediated rejection resolution and reduced NK cell counts. The increasing trend of ABO-incompatible kidney transplants in Japan highlighted effective desensitization techniques, achieving 5- and 10-year survival rates comparable to compatible transplants. A comparison of two anti-thymocyte globulins—thymoglobulin and grafalon (ATG Fresenius)—in ABO-incompatible transplants indicated similar short-term outcomes in graft survival and infection rates, underscoring the need to broaden donor criteria and optimize immunosuppressive protocols.

The networking opportunities at the congress facilitated rich discussions on various renal disease models and potential treatments, deepening my understanding of the field. Over the past two decades, advancements in kidney transplantation techniques have significantly reduced complication rates. For instance, the Miami Transplant Institute's refined methods reported urologic complications in only 2.3% and vascular complications in 2.7% of 707 patients, highlighting the importance of ongoing improvements in surgical techniques and patient education.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to TSANZ for the Travel Award, which made this enriching experience possible. For researchers like me, such awards provide not just financial support but also a vital vote of confidence in our work. Overall, attending TTS 2024 was an invaluable experience, both professionally and personally, and I look forward to applying the knowledge gained in my ongoing contributions to transplantation research.

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### **Dr Ling Gao**

I like to thank TSANZ for kindly providing me a travel grant to attend the 30th International Congress of The Transplantation Society held 22-25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Istanbul.

While the conference has given me the opportunity to share with others our research findings entitled "Impacts of warm ischemia on myocardial protein phosphorylation after normothermic ex vivo reperfusion of hearts donated after circulatory death in a rat DCD model", more importantly it has exposed me to the latest advancements in the technologies of donor organ preservation.

As a basic research scientist focusing on optimisation of donor heart preservation in heart transplantation, I found the plenary talk given by Professor David A. D'Alessandro (USA) about "Innovations to improve and transform patient-important outcomes in cardiac transplantation" extremely inspirational and educational. His talk covered the latest developments in donor heart preservation technologies around the world including: the optimal temperature for static cold storage, the use of SherpaPak for long distance donor transportation; the hypothermic machine perfusion for marginal donor hearts etc. It's been encouraging for me to see so much progress has been made in this area during the recent years. Also, during his talk, Professor D'Alessandro mentioned the 1<sup>st</sup> successful DCD heart transplantation in St Vincent Hospital in Sydney published in the journal of Lancet in 2015, of which I was one of the coauthors. I felt extremely proud of being a part of the team and our work has been recognized internationally.

I like to thank TSANZ again for its continuous support and wish to pay back with more outputs in future research works.

## **Dr Dhaksha Tharmaraj**

Thanks to the generous support of the TSANZ Travel Award 2024, I had the incredible opportunity to attend my first international conference, The Transplantation Society Congress 2024, held in the captivating city of Istanbul. I was thrilled to present my PhD research on intragraft gene transcript changes in kidney transplant recipients treated with intravenous immunoglobulin for chronic antibody mediated rejection. Sharing my findings with the broader international transplant community was an honour, and I was especially thankful to be recognised with a Young Investigator Award.

The congress provided an excellent platform for international collaboration and exchange of groundbreaking scientific and clinical research, showcasing remarkable contributions from the past and present, while also addressing questions that will guide future research efforts. A memorable presentation was from the extraordinary Prof. Robert Starzl, the recipient of the 2024 Thomas Starzl Innovation award. He pioneered the team who successfully performed the first gene-edited pig-to-human transplant, followed by the longest functioning pig-to-human kidney xenotransplant (61 days), two years later. He highlighted the crucial foundational work done by earlier pioneers, that enabled his team to achieve their monumental milestones, as well as barriers to graft tolerance and longevity that require further research. He shared the journey of some xenotransplant recipients and lessons learned from the initial cases, including the nature of early immunological injury (NK-cell induced endothelial injury) and promising characteristics of graft tolerance. Professor Muhammad Mohiuddin, another prominent expert in xenotransplantation, also presented the experiences of their first-in-human cardiac xenotransplant recipients (2) at his centre in Maryland and important lessons learnt from these cases.

Several presentations focused on emerging biomarkers of allograft rejection or infection, including donor-derived cell free DNA, chemokines, Torque teno virus, cell-mediated immunity assays (Quantiferon-CMV), and molecular diagnostics. These discussions were insightful and emphasized the importance of understanding current research across diverse patient populations, facilitating global collaboration and standardization of these promising diagnostic tools.

Other interesting topics of note included genetic engineering in biomedicine, stem cell and regenerative medicine and inspirational talks from leading women in transplantation. A.Prof. Camille Kotton and Prof. Atul Kumar also provided an inside scoop on current CMV management in solid organ transplants, before the release of the fourth international consensus guidelines.

Further to the scientific program, the networking events were a great way to connect and collaborate with peers and established experts in their respective fields. Needless to say, the food, culture and sites of Istanbul were a delightful bonus. Once again, I want to express my gratitude to TSANZ for their support.

“History tells us that procedures that were inconceivable yesterday, and are barely achievable today, often become routine tomorrow” Thomas Starzl, 1982.

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## **Mr Cheng Sheng Chai**

With the generous support of the TSANZ Travel Award, I had the privilege of attending The Transplantation Society's conference in Istanbul, Türkiye. This was my first time attending this meeting, and I was honoured to present my research titled “Rapamycin Diversifies Memory T Cells with Stem Cell Phenotype Following SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination” at the general infectious disease session.

The conference was well-organized, highly informative, and thrilling to see cutting-edge research from around the world showcased over four days. The invited speakers delivered outstanding presentations, covering a wide range of topics from basic science to clinical applications. Their talks emphasized the importance of bridging molecular research with clinical practice. One of the greatest benefits of attending an international conference like this is the

exposure to groundbreaking research across various areas of transplantation, broadening my understanding beyond my own field of study.

On the first day of the congress, there was a postgraduate program that provided an excellent overview of the latest advancements in transplantation. The basic science session was particularly valuable for early-career researchers like me, offering foundational knowledge and insights into current scientific research. Additionally, one of the conference days featured a thematic session entitled "Dealing with Post-Transplant Complications," with three speakers presenting up-to-date research on cancer diagnostics and potential therapeutic strategies, the efficacy of new vaccines, and the impact of immunosuppressants on metabolic morbidity in transplant patients. Another fascinating talk was given by Prof. Megan Sykes, who shared incredible clinical research on the combined kidney and bone marrow transplant (CKBMT trial) and explained the underlying theory of mixed chimerism for achieving tolerance induction in an animal model.

Another standout session was the "Cutting Edge of VCA Transplant" session, where Dr. Stefan G. Tullius and Dr. Bruce E. Gelb, both from the United States, presented outstanding research on setting up uterus transplants and the world's first combined face and whole-eye transplant, respectively. Many of innovative studies highlighted the potential to revolutionize clinical practice and highlighted the importance of collaboration between clinicians and scientists in overcoming the numerous challenges in the field of transplantation.

Overall, this was a fantastic learning experience, and I would like to thank TSANZ once again for awarding me the opportunity to attend the TTS conference.

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#### **Dr Brad Gardiner**

Thanks very much to the TSANZ for supporting my travel to TTS 2024. Istanbul is a fascinating, ancient city at the crossroads of the world and was an amazing location for this conference, which brought together diverse groups of clinicians, researchers and others from across the globe. There was a strong transplant infectious diseases track throughout the meeting including a dedicated workshop featuring excellent talks from leaders in the field. This covered the breadth and depth of TID including updates on the literature, diagnostics, the role of AI, frailty and infection, multi-drug resistance organisms, and an interactive session on donor-derived infections.

CMV, one of my key areas of clinical and research interest, featured strongly throughout the program including a well-attended session on the soon-to-be-released updated 2024 international consensus guideline. There were a range of interesting abstracts presented from around the world highlighting the diversity in TID epidemiology and practice globally. There were also excellent sessions on immune biomarkers and a workshop on machine learning in transplantation research.

I had the opportunity to present an oral abstract which was entitled '*Immune markers are predictive of CMV infection in seropositive lung transplant recipients*', which describes how donor serostatus can be combined with absolute lymphocyte count to further risk stratify R+ lung recipients. This could inform decision making regarding duration of antiviral prophylaxis and frequency of virologic monitoring. I also presented a second oral abstract at the follow-up virtual symposium held October 21-23 called '*Quantiferon®-Monitor, infections and long-term survival in lung transplant recipients*'. These studies were funded by the TTS 2022 Research Grant.

Thanks again to TSANZ for supporting my attendance at this meeting. It was an excellent opportunity for networking with both fellow Australians and also colleagues from around the world. I look forward to seeing you in Canberra in 2025 then TTS 2026 in Sydney!

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## Dr Jeanette Villanueva

I am very grateful to have received a Travel Award from TSANZ to support my attendance to this year's international TTS Congress held in Istanbul, Türkiye. I was extremely excited to attend this meeting since the last TTS I had attended was in Berlin 2012. This year, with over 2700 delegates from 97 countries, the meeting did not disappoint. The opening address was delivered by Medawar Prize recipient Professor Mehmet Haberal, a pioneer in kidney transplantation who was involved in the first living donor kidney transplantation at a time when there was no legislation.

I presented my research on the use of funnel web spider venom and the anti-diabetic drug empagliflozin during prolonged cold storage of donor hearts. The Congress was a fantastic learning opportunity, and I gained an abundance of knowledge regarding my research interests of organ preservation, machine perfusion, and donation after circulatory death. Presentations focused on different modalities of organ preservation including the SherpaPak, which presents are more reliable and accurate cooling compared to the standard esky, cryopreservation, supercooling and partial freezing organs. Even though some of these technologies are in pre-clinical or early clinical phases, it is easy to imagine the impact that the various technologies can have on alleviating the donor organ shortage. We can see the impacts of various breakthroughs already such as with xenotransplantation and DCD heart transplantation. It was also evident that several transplant programs around the world have protocols, e.g., DCD protocols, which vary greatly, sometimes even within the same country. For me this highlights the importance of a national protocol and/or guidelines and how TSANZ has played a tremendous role in allowing these advancements to become part of clinical practice.

A personal highlight from the meeting was one of the keynote speakers Adam Anderson who spoke about resilience and defying the odds of transplantation. He had received a Pseudomyxoma diagnosis which resulted in him requiring a multi-visceral transplant performed by Prof. Peter Friend and a transplant surgery involving 8 donor organs. This was a feat that many at the meeting had not realised was possible. It really demonstrated that over the course of organ transplantation, the boundaries have been continuously pushed and result in great benefits. As Dr Thomas Starzl said, *"History tells us that procedures that were inconceivable yesterday and are barely achievable today often become routine tomorrow."*

Overall, the TTS Congress organisers did an amazing job curating a diverse and engaging programme. I look forward to attending the Congress again for Sydney 2026.

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# ASM 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

## 2024 AWARD WINNERS

During the Annual Dinner on June 17 2024, at the 42nd TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting, award winners were announced by TSANZ President, Professor Kate Wyburn.

### TSANZ Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation

This award has been established in honour of Aviva Rosenfeld, the TSANZ Executive Officer from 1996 to 2015. The Aviva award recognises an outstanding clinician (including physicians, surgeons, nurses, psychologists, social workers, other allied health Professionals) who has demonstrated excellence in patient care in transplantation.

WINNER – **CLARE FAZACKERLEY**

Mark Cocks Award SPONSORED BY  **transplant  
australia**  
make the most of life.

This prestigious award is to recognise the life of Mark Cocks and his contribution to Transplant Australia and the wider transplant community

WINNER – **MATTHEW JOSE**

### TSANZ Ian McKenzie Prize for Outstanding Contribution in Transplantation

This prestigious award recognises researchers who have demonstrated excellence and exceptional contribution in the field of transplantation.

WINNER – **NOT AWARDED**

### TSANZ Lafferty Distinguished Service Award

This biennial award is named in memory of Kevin Lafferty, an Australian pioneer in transplantation biology who discovered that co-stimulation was required for T cell activation and graft rejection.

WINNER – **STEPHEN ALEXANDER**

KHA Awards SPONSORED BY



WINNER (CLINICAL RESEARCH) – **BILL MULLEY**

WINNER (LABORATORY RESEARCH) – **JEANETTE VILLANUEVA**

#### BASIC SCIENCE

##### President's Prize

WINNER – **ANITA NIU**

##### President's Prize People's Choice Award

WINNER – **ANITA NIU**

##### Best Poster

WINNER – **ANJAN KUMAR BONGONI**

#### EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD

**Anita Niu x 3**

**Aadhar Moudgil**

**Rohan Bhattacharjya x 2**

**James Zuiani**

**Kayla Singleton**

**Ranje Al-atiyah**

**Sanjay Dutta**

#### CLINICAL SCIENCE

##### President's Prize

WINNER – **DHAKSHA THARMARAJ**

##### President's Prize People's Choice Award

WINNER – **HARRY ROBERTSON**

##### Best Poster

WINNER – **MELISSA LEVY**

#### EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD

**Harry Robertson**

**Julian Singer**

**Tennille Vitagliano**

**Dhaksha Tharmaraj**

**Brenda Maria Rosales**

**James Clement Walcott**

**Georgina Laura Irish**

**Denghao Wu**

**Georgina Ellen Riddiough**

**David Sien Chin Soon**



TSANZ SPEC, with support of the council has continued the interactive state-of-the-art educational virtual webinars which will provide a succinct overview of important clinical, translational and practical aspects of the spectrum of organ transplantation and are suitable for all members of the clinical and research community, including medical and surgical advanced trainees in transplantation. The webinars also provide an opportunity to interact and submit questions to the speakers and access to the recorded talks.



## Grand Rounds #19

**Dr Reece Jefferies**

**“Navigating the Highs and Lows:  
Marijuana Use in Transplant Recipients”**

**17 October 2024  
4:00pm AEDT**



## Grand Rounds #18

**Tina Marinelli and Matthew Roberts**

**Donor-derived infections: Multi-drug resistant organism and  
parasites**

**25 July 2024  
4:00pm AEST**



## Grand Rounds #17

**Professor Markus Schlaich  
Dobney Chair in Clinical Research**

**Hypertension in Transplantation**

**April 18 2024  
4:00pm AEST**

Grand Rounds are presented in 2024 thanks to the support of



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2009 - 2011	Frank Ierino	1995 – 1997	Bruce Hall		

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Eric Son



Karen Waller



Melanie Wyld



Tracey Ying

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Mrs Kim Rawson  
TSANZ Project Manager

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NZ	Heather Dunckley

### Vascular Composite Allograft (VCAAC)

NSW	Kate Wyburn Rebecca Deans Sue Noseworthy Sydney Ch'ng
VIC	Sharon Ford (Chair) Karen Dwyer Dominique Martin (Deakin University) Frank Ierino

## WORKING GROUPS

### CF LIVER & MULTIVISCERAL TRANSPLANT WORKING GROUP

INDIA	Rishi Bolia
NSW	Henry Pleass Anastasia Volovets Michael Stormon Keith Ooi Germaine Wong Sheila Sivam
NZ	Helen Evans Jon Bishop
QLD	Paul Robinson Peter Hopkins Caroline Tallis Peter Lewindon
VIC	Mark Oliver (Chair) John Massie Tom Kotsimbos Silvana Marasco Miranda Paraskeva Greg Snell John Kanellis Kathe Holmes Robert Jones Avika Majumdar

### ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT TRANSPLANT WORKING GROUP

NZ	Rachael Harry (Chair)
WA	Jacqueline Soraru Joshua Kausman
VIC	Elizabeth Bannister Miranda Paraskeva
TAS	Matthew Jose
NSW	Sean Kennedy
NZ	Chanel Prestidge Laura De Souza
QLD	Caroline Tallis Melanie Aldridge

### KIDNEY ALLOCATION WORKING GROUP

TAS	Sarah White (Proj. Mgr)
NSW	Kate Wyburn (Chair) Narelle Watson James Hedley
QLD	Scott Campbell Ross Francis
SA	Phil Clayton
VIC	Rhonda Holdsworth Peter Hughes John Kanellis

	Kathy Paizis
	Matt Sypek
WA	Nicholas Larkins
	Wai Lim
ACT	Kane Deering

Hilton Gock
Frank Ierino
Evelyn Salvaris
Tom Loudovaris

#### GUIDELINES ADVISORY PANEL (GAP) – LED BY EMILY LARKINS

QLD	Niamh Farrell
VIC	Meaghan Bruns
	Andrew Young
	Debbie Gregory
	Sharon Ford
	Julie Pavlovic
	Kathy Paizis
	Jodi Gillott
WA	Kylie Monk
	Nicholas Larkins
NT	Leigh Hill
TAS	Kate Gray
NZ	Annette Flanagan
	Jamie Rance
OTA	Luke Datson
NSW	Paul Robertson
	Dr Karen Keung
	Dr Kavitha Muthiah
	Jessica Harvey
NSW/ACT	Marilina Ripoll
SA	Prof Toby Coates
	Bonny Kapelko

#### LIVING KIDNEY DONATION WORKING GROUP

NSW	Melanie Wyld (Co-Chair)
	Kate Wyburn
	Sara Stoler
	Christine Theodossiou
QLD	Nikky Isbel
WA	Neil Boudville
	Adam Philipoff
VIC	John Kanellis
	Darren Lee
	Amanda Robertson
	Rosemary Masterson
	Emma Vanhardeveld
	Peter Hughes
SA	Alison Weightman
	Lachlan McMichael

#### XENOTRANSPLANTATION (XTWG)

NSW	Wayne Hawthorne (Chair)
	Erin Fuller
	Philip O'Connell
VIC	Anjan Bongoni
	Peter Cowan

#### LIVER ONCOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE

NSW	Michael Crawford (Chair)
	Carlo Pulitano
	Jerome Laurence
VIC	Avik Majumdar
	Marcos Perini
	John Chen
	Graham Starkey
NZ	Louise Barbier
	John McCall
	Peter Hodgkinson
QLD	Caroline Tallis
	Nick Butler
WA	Gary Jeffrey

#### QUALITY OF CARE IN LIVER TRANSPLANT WORKING GROUP (QCLT WG)

VIC	Avik Majumdar
	Winita Hardikar
	Julie Pavlovic
	Ruelan Furtado
SA	Libby John
	Eu Ling Neo
	Jeyamani Ramachandran
QLD	Caroline Tallis
	Peter Hodgkinson
	Fariha Balouch
	David Melgar
	Rebekah Ferris
NSW	Simone Strasser
	Susan Siew
	Michael Crawford
WA	Gary Jeffrey
	Luc Delriviere
	Helen Jahshan
NZ	Louise Barbier
NZ	Dominic Ray Chaudhuri
NZ	Helen Evans

#### RTAC MACHINE PERFUSION (RTAC MPWG)

VIC	John Whitlam
	Bulang He
	Kathy Paizis
QLD	Ross Francis
	Scott Campbell

#### LITAC MACHINE PERFUSION (LITAC MPWG)

WA	Arul Sunanathan (Chair) Luc Delriviere
NZ	Louise Barbier Hannah Giles
SA	John Chen Eu Ling Neo John Thomson
NSW	Simone Strasser Suzanna Lam Carlo Pulitano
VIC	Robert Jones Graham Starkey
QLD	Peter Hodgkinson Nick Butler

#### IMLIFIDASE WORKING GROUP (RTAC IWG)

NSW	Anne Taverniti Kate Wyburn Adrienne Cohen Stella McGinn Narelle Watson David Gracey
NZ	Ian Dittmer John Irvine
QLD	Luke Droney Alycia Thornton Ross Francis Scott Campbell Tina Coco
SA	Michael Collins Phil Clayton Rob Carroll Lucy Sullivan Tim Emery
VIC	Kathy Paizis John Whitlam (Chair) Fiona Hudson Louise Goddard Linda Cantwell Josh Kausman Tim Furlong Peter Hughes Emma Vanhardeveld Belinda Jones
WA	Linh Truong Lloyd D'Orsogna Brittany Stevenson Nick Larkins Wai Lim

#### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

##### TRANSPLANT INFECTIOUS DISEASES SIG

WA	Peter Boan (Chair)
NSW	Tina Marinelli (Co-Chair) Elke Woodhouse Karen Waller
SA	Matthew Roberts Chien-Li Holmes-Liew
VIC	Bradley Gardiner Olivia Smibert
QLD	Lana Sundac Kanthi Vemuri
NZ	Rebekah Lane

##### TSANZ MACHINE PERFUSION SIG

QLD	Handoo Rhee Ross Francis Scott Campbell
NSW	Animesh Sinlga Natasha Rogers
VIC	Greg Snell Bronwyn Levvey
WA	Ulrich Stock Arul Sunanathan