



The European Society for Organ Transplantation

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Executive Summary

2024 was a **transformational year** for the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT), a year shaped by **strategic focus, international collaboration, educational excellence**, and a deepened commitment to **equity, innovation, and sustainability** in transplantation.

At the core of this year's progress was the development of the **ESOT Strategic Plan 2025-2030**, a forward-thinking roadmap structured around six strategic drivers and grounded in ESOT's core values of **fairness, inclusion, collaboration, and sustainability**. The plan reflects a renewed focus on advancing science, strengthening professional education, influencing policy, and enhancing global engagement - ensuring ESOT remains at the forefront of transplantation in Europe and beyond.

ESOT's scientific and educational activities continued to flourish, with standout events including the **13th EPITA Symposium, ELITA Summit, International DCD Congress**, and flagship training programmes such as **HESPERIS, LiDO**, and the **HLTP Course**. These initiatives reinforced ESOT's leadership in fostering multidisciplinary learning and harmonising best practices across European transplant centres.

Through a series of impactful **awareness and advocacy campaigns**, including **World Kidney Day, ESOT Action Day**, and a joint campaign with EDQM on **European Donation Day**, ESOT used its platform to advocate for equitable access to transplantation and reduce disparities in care. At the same time, ESOT's expanded **digital and in-person outreach** amplified its visibility, strengthened its brand identity, and brought its mission to new audiences across the globe.

Strategic partnerships with national transplant societies and professional associations were deepened, fostering shared objectives and cross-border cooperation. ESOT also continued its investment in future professionals through its **grants, fellowships, and mentorship programmes**, supporting clinical and scientific development across a global network.

With the growth of the **ESOT Registries**, the continued impact of its official journal **Transplant International**, and its role in leading **EU-funded research and innovation projects** (such as **VANGUARD, BRAVEST, HORUS, and LEOPARD**), ESOT demonstrated its unwavering commitment to shaping the future of transplantation through knowledge, collaboration, and action.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our **volunteers, staff, partner organisations, and sponsors**, whose expertise and dedication powered every success in 2024.

As we look ahead, ESOT is well-positioned to lead the next chapter of transplantation, with a stronger strategy, a united community, and a clear mission to improve outcomes for patients across Europe and around the world.

About ESOT

The European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) has been at the forefront of organ transplantation for over 40 years, dedicated to advancing science, education, and policy to improve patient outcomes.

As a highly influential international organisation, ESOT fosters an inclusive and collaborative environment, ensuring that fairness, equality, and social responsibility remain at the core of its mission. Through groundbreaking research initiatives and multidisciplinary collaborations, ESOT is committed to expanding access to high-quality transplantation care for all, regardless of background or geography. The society actively works to shape policies that promote ethical practices, equitable organ allocation, and patient-centred approaches. ESOT is also the driving force behind the biennial ESOT Congress (The International Transplant Congress®), bringing together approximately 3,500 global experts to exchange knowledge and discuss the latest scientific advancements.

Beyond its role in research and education, ESOT remains a champion of social responsibility, advocating for equitable access to transplantation and working to reduce healthcare disparities. By working closely with leading experts, policymakers, and healthcare professionals, ESOT continues to lead the way in transplantation with fairness, integrity and inclusivity.

Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission

To improve outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease by means of transplantation, organ regeneration and substitution.



Our Vision



To promote sustainable scientific advancement through multidisciplinary communities of healthcare professionals



To deliver first-class education, training and career advancement opportunities to all healthcare professionals, with specific training programmes for low-income countries



To work with partner organisations, professional bodies, and competent authorities to improve public and institutional awareness of organ donation and the latest research in the field



To develop and promote policies for equitable access to transplantation and related therapeutic strategies

Governance & Leadership

ESOT's governance structure reflects its commitment to transparent, collaborative, and expert-driven leadership. At the heart of this structure is the ESOT Council, a multidisciplinary body that unites key figures from across the organisation. The Council is comprised of the Executive Committee, elected Councillors, and the Chairs of ESOT's 12 scientific sections and committees, ensuring broad representation from all domains of transplantation science and practice. This inclusive model fosters strategic alignment, encourages knowledge exchange, and supports informed decision-making across all ESOT activities. Through regular meetings and coordinated efforts, the Council plays a vital role in shaping the society's direction, championing its mission, and guiding its growth and innovation.

Executive Committee

- **President:** Gabriel Oniscu, Sweden
 - **Past president:** Luciano Potena, Italy
 - **Secretary:** Umberto Cillo, Italy
 - **President-elect:** Olivier Thaunat, France
 - **Treasurer:** Frank Dor, The Netherlands
-

Councillors

- Chloe Ballesté Delpierre, Spain
 - Amedeo Carraro, Italy
 - Ekaterine Berishvili, Georgia/Switzerland
 - Speranta Iacob, Romania
 - Annemarie Weissenbacher, Austria
 - Ina Jochmans, Belgium
 - Geir Mjoen, Norway
-

Transplant International Editor-in-Chief

- Thierry Berney, Switzerland
-

Centre for Evidence in Transplantation (CET) Director

- Simon Knight, United Kingdom
-



Basic Science Committee

Maria Kaiser	Chair	United Kingdom
William Scott	Vice-Chair	United Kingdom
Fabian Eibensteiner	Board Member	Austria
Philipp Kron	Board Member	Switzerland
Rosa Lammerts	Board Member	The Netherlands
Sophie Limou	Board Member	France
Caterina Lonati	Board Member	Italy
Cyril Moers	Board Member	The Netherlands
Nina Pilat	Past-Chair	Austria



The European Cardio Thoracic Transplant Association (ECTTA)

Cristiano Amarelli	Chair	Italy
Irene Bello Rodriguez	Vice-Chair	Spain
Marius Berman	Board Member	United Kingdom
Stephen Clark	Board Member	United Kingdom
Stephan Ensminger	Board Member	Germany
David Gomez de Antonio	Board Member	Spain
Merel Hellemons	Board Member	The Netherlands
Martin Schweiger	Board Member	Switzerland



The European Donation and Transplant Coordination Organisation (EDTCO)

Nuria Masnou	Chair	Spain
Giuseppe Feltrin	Vice-Chair	Italy
Orsolya Deme	Board Member	Hungary
Wolfgang Ender	Board Member	Switzerland
Anne Floden	Board Member	Sweden
Marcus Nauwerk	Board Member	Switzerland
Alberto Sandiumenge	Board Member	Spain
Sándor Mihály	Past-Chair	Hungary



The European Kidney Transplant Association (EKITA)

Emin Baris Akin	Chair	Turkey
Lorna Marson	Vice-Chair	United Kingdom
David Cucchiari	Board Member	Spain
Carmen Lefaucheur	Board Member	France
Fernanda Ortiz	Board Member	Finland
Andreas Kousios	Board Member	Cyprus
Sanem Cimen	Board Member	Turkey
Elvana Rista	Board Member	Albania
Rachel Thomas	Board Member	United Kingdom
Gianluigi Zaza	Board Member	Italy
Lucrezia Furian	Past Chair	Italy



The European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA)

Giacomo Germani	Chair	Italy
Hermien Hartog	Secretary	The Netherlands
Silvio Nadalin	Secretary-Elect	Germany
Luca Belli	Treasurer	Italy
René Adam	ELTR General manager	France
Thierry Artzner	Board Member	France
Deniz Balci	Board Member	Turkey
Eliano Bonaccorsi	Board Member	Belgium
Miriam Cortes	Board Member	United Kingdom
Sarwa Darwish Murad	Board Member	The Netherlands
Pal Dag Line	Board Member	Norway
Constantino Fondevila	Past Chair	Spain



The European Platform on Ethical, Legal and Psychosocial Aspects of Organ Transplantation (ELPAT)

Christina Papachristou	Vice-Chair	Greece
Frederike Ambagsheer	Vice-Chair	The Netherlands
Joe Brierley	Board Member	United Kingdom
Antonia Cronin	Board Member	United Kingdom
Ines Mega	Board Member	Portugal
Ana Manzano	Board Member	United Kingdom
Gregory Moorlock	Board Member	United Kingdom
David Rodriguez	Board Member	Germany
David Shaw	Board Member	Switzerland



The European Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (EPITA)

Julie Kerr-Conte	Chair	France
Joana Ferrer	Vice-Chair	Spain
Shadab Abadpour	Board Member	Norway
John Casey	Board Member	United Kingdom
Peter Girman	Board Member	The Netherlands
Paul Johnson	Board Member	United Kingdom
Michiel Nijhoff	Board Member	The Netherlands
Steven White	Past Chair	United Kingdom



The European Cell Therapy and Organ Regeneration Section (ECTORS)

Sandra Lindstedt	Chair	Sweden
Fotios Sampaziotis	Vice-Chair	United Kingdom
Lara Aygen Özbay	Board Member	Denmark
Jan Czogalla	Board Member	Germany
Marco Eijken	Board Member	Denmark
Luc van der Laan	Board Member	The Netherlands
Bojan Vrtovec	Board Member	Slovenia



The European Transplant Allied Healthcare Professionals (ETAHP) Committee

Marleen van Buren	Chair	The Netherlands
Coby Annema	Vice-Chair	The Netherlands
Tania Rogach	Board Member	Belgium
Chiara Cavalli	Board Member	Italy
Asia Imedi	Board Member	United Kingdom
Cecilia Ragntoft	Board Member	Sweden
Brigitte Ursini	Board Member	France
Christy Walklin	Board Member	United Kingdom



Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (VCA)

Fadi Issa	Chair	United Kingdom
Franka Messner	Vice-Chair	Austria
Emmanuel Morelon	Board Member	France
Palmina Petruzzo	Board Member	Italy
Robert Rieben	Board Member	Switzerland
Gerald Brandacher	Past-Chair	Austria/US



Young Professionals in Transplantation (YPT)

Dilan Dabare	Chair	United Kingdom
Caroline Dudreuilh	Vice-Chair	United Kingdom
Stan Benjamins	Board Member	The Netherlands
Georgios Papadakis	Board Member	United Kingdom
Marita Dalvindt	Board Member	Sweden
Chiara Mazzarelli	Board Member	Italy
Maria Ibrahim	Board Member	United Kingdom
Gianluca Rompianesi	Board Member	Italy



Education Committee

Luca Toti	Chair	Italy
Liset Pengel	Vice-Chair	The Netherlands
Anna Brantmark	Nursing lead	Sweden
Daniele Dondossola	Basic Science lead	Italy
Amelia Hessheimer	Courses and Masterclasses lead	Spain
Muhammad Khurram	Outreach lead	United Kingdom
Maria Simonenko	Professional Development lead	Russia

Membership Growth & Engagement



In 2024, ESOT made notable progress in strengthening its membership base, focusing on value, engagement, and long-term sustainability.

A key achievement was the introduction of a revised membership benefits package, designed to ensure consistent value for all members. These benefits now include free access to Transplant Live and reduced Article Processing Charges (APCs) in *Transplant International*, reinforcing ESOT's commitment to accessible education and scientific advancement.

A targeted collaboration strategy, led by Ekaterine Berishvili and Chloë Ballesté, resulted in stronger relationships with national transplant societies across Europe and enhanced links with international transplantation organisations. These partnerships have created new opportunities for engagement and have raised ESOT's visibility across the global transplant community.

To improve flexibility and user experience, ESOT transitioned from a calendar-year membership to a rolling 12-month model, allowing members to join at any time of the year. Additionally, the launch of a new membership platform brought significant improvements, integrating registration, event access, and scientific programme participation while ensuring GDPR compliance. This upgrade also enhanced operational efficiency and streamlined the member journey from registration to event attendance.

ESOT maintained a strong presence at major transplantation events throughout the year, promoting its initiatives and engaging directly with the community. These efforts contributed to sustained member retention and a stable annual membership income.

1,168 active members

As of December 2024, ESOT counted 1,168 active members, with 83% based in Europe and 17% internationally.

22% Generation X Years born: 1965-1976

18% Baby Boomers Years born: 1946-1964

31% Millennials Y Years born: 1977-1995

29% Generation Z Years born: 1996-2012

Key Milestones



New benefits introduced:



Free access to Transplant Live



Reduced APCs in *Transplant International*



12-month rolling membership model (replacing calendar year)



New GDPR-compliant platform with:

- Seamless event registration
- Scientific programme access
- Membership account management

Engagement & Collaboration



Strengthened ties with:

- National transplant societies in Europe
- International transplant organisations

Active promotion at major transplant meetings

Led by: Ekaterine Berishvili & Chloë Ballesté

Sustainable Impact



Stable annual membership income



Improved operational efficiency and user experience

Increased member engagement across platforms

Membership Snapshot

December 2024

Total Active Members:

1,168

Top Countries

United Kingdom	Italy
The Netherlands	Spain
Germany	Belgium
United States	France
Switzerland	Romania

Gender Balance:

 44%  56%

ESOT Community & Global Presence



Key Highlights of 2024

In 2024, ESOT undertook a pivotal year of strategic reflection and forward planning, focusing on the development of its Strategic Plan 2025–2030. This comprehensive roadmap was shaped around six strategic drivers, aimed at guiding ESOT’s future actions across science, education, policy, and community engagement. The process was deeply rooted in the organisation’s core values of fairness, inclusion, sustainability, and collaboration, ensuring that the plan reflects the evolving needs of the transplantation field and its diverse stakeholders. A key milestone of the year was the successful delivery of the International Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Congress, where ESOT convened global leaders to drive consensus on best practices, research priorities, and ethical standards in DCD. This congress not only reinforced ESOT’s leadership in setting clinical standards but also exemplified its commitment to multidisciplinary dialogue and innovation. These initiatives collectively underscore a transformative year, laying a strong foundation for ESOT’s impact in the years ahead.

Awareness & Advocacy Campaigns

In 2024, ESOT amplified its commitment to public engagement and advocacy through a series of impactful awareness campaigns aimed at promoting organ donation and addressing disparities in transplantation. The Society actively participated in global health observances such as World Kidney Day and World Health Day, utilising these platforms to highlight the importance of equitable access to transplantation and the role of innovation in improving patient outcomes. ESOT also took a leading role in more targeted initiatives, most notably the ESOT Action Day, which featured a powerful editorial by Prof. Luciano Potena titled “Joining Forces to Eliminate Inequalities in Organ Transplantation Across Europe.” This editorial called for unified, cross-border efforts to tackle systemic barriers in access to care and donor availability. In collaboration with the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), ESOT also launched a joint campaign around European Donation Day, reinforcing the shared responsibility of institutions, healthcare professionals, and the public in fostering a culture of donation. These coordinated efforts reflect ESOT’s strategic use of communication to inspire change, raise awareness, and advocate for inclusive, patient-centred transplant care across Europe.

Collaborations & Strategic Partnerships

Throughout 2024, ESOT reinforced its role as a unifying force in the European transplantation landscape by cultivating strategic partnerships with various national transplant societies and medical associations. These collaborations were founded on shared missions and a mutual commitment to advancing transplantation science, clinical excellence, and equitable access to care. By formalising relationships with key partners, ESOT aimed to create synergies, reduce duplication of efforts, and align strategic priorities across institutions. Recognising the importance of continuous dialogue, these partnerships also established regular exchanges between leadership teams—often through mutual participation in one another’s annual or biennial congresses. These efforts reflect ESOT’s broader vision of fostering a more connected, collaborative, and efficient transplant community that can effectively respond to the complex challenges and opportunities facing the field today.

ESOT Scientific & Educational Activities

ESOT Events

13th EPITA Symposium

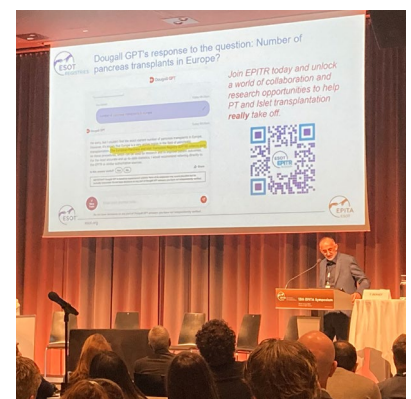
28- 30 January | Innsbruck-Igls, Austria

The 13th EPITA Symposium, held in January 2024, brought together the largest gathering in Europe dedicated to beta cell replacement, focusing on pancreas and islet transplantation as well as stem cell-derived insulin-secreting cells. Over three days, the symposium served as a critical platform for scientists, clinicians, trainees, and allied health professionals to exchange knowledge, explore new techniques, and establish international benchmarks and consensus in the field.

The symposium commenced with an inspiring session chaired by Joana Ferrer (Barcelona) and Julie Kerr-Conte (Lille), which set a collaborative and forward-thinking tone. Following a warm welcome from Kerr-Conte, the esteemed Pfeiffer Lecture was delivered by Thierry Berney (Geneva), offering valuable insights from decades of innovation in transplantation. Attendees were then treated to a thought-provoking talk by Michael Nicholson (Cambridge) on the enzymatic conversion of human blood groups, exploring the potential for creating universal donor organs—a concept with profound implications for organ availability and matching.

Throughout the symposium, participants engaged in abstract-driven sessions, invited lectures, and hands-on activities such as the ultrasound workshop, which enhanced technical proficiency and clinical application. The programme also provided unique opportunities for trainees and young professionals to gain guidance and feedback, reinforcing EPITA's role in nurturing the next generation of transplant specialists.

One of the symposium's highlights was the highly anticipated debate: *"Living donor kidney with optimised insulin technology versus SPK (Simultaneous Pancreas-Kidney Transplantation) for patients with end-stage diabetic nephropathy."* Chaired by Mehdi Maanaoui (Lille) and Lucrezia Furian (Padua), the session featured compelling arguments from Eelco de Koning (Leiden) and Jon Odorico (Madison, USA). This session exemplified EPITA's commitment to encouraging critical thinking and evidence-based clinical decision-making in complex therapeutic areas.



ELITA Summit 2024

18-20 April | Madrid, Spain

In April, the city of Madrid played host to an extraordinary gathering of the European liver transplantation community, the ELITA Summit 2024, a three-day event that merged cutting-edge science, collaborative consensus, and a celebration of three decades of impact.

With 211 participants from 25 countries, the Summit provided a vibrant forum for clinical exchange and strategic dialogue. It marked a significant milestone: 30 years of ELITA's dedication to advancing liver transplantation in Europe and beyond.

This year's Summit was built around three core components:

The Monothematic Conference focused on ACLF, alcohol-related liver disease, and transplantation, addressing clinical challenges, ethical considerations, and evolving pathways for patients with urgent needs.

The Consensus Meeting tackled some of the most pressing issues in the field — from liver graft discard policies to viability assessment strategies — bringing experts together to define best practices for a safer, more effective transplant journey.

The 30th Anniversary Celebration honoured ELITA's legacy, spotlighting how indications, techniques, and donation models have evolved, while also turning attention to future challenges and opportunities in European liver transplantation.

The heart of the Summit was its rich scientific content. With 25 posters and 17 oral presentations, the programme sparked discussion and discovery across clinical, translational, and logistical dimensions.

Scientific Excellence Recognised

Three standout contributions were awarded:

- **Best Oral Presentations**

Jubi de Haan (Rotterdam)

– for her work on 1-year outcomes in ACLF patients in ICU

Daniele Dondossola (Milan)

– for insights on oxygen dynamics during HOPE perfusion and transplant outcomes

- **Best Poster Presentation**

Alessandro Loglio (Bergamo)

– for a multicentre analysis on de-novo HBV risk in HBsAg-negative recipients

The Summit was accredited with 11.5 EACCME credits, reinforcing its standing as a premier educational opportunity.





The feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive:

“High quality of the programme and faculty”

“Great networking opportunities”

“Consensus-building on graft viability was very valuable”

“Well-organised and engaging”

Suggestions for the future included:

- Incorporating more translational research
- Hosting the Summit regularly
- Introducing hands-on workshops

This memorable event would not have been possible without the leadership and vision of the Scientific Leads:

- Luca Belli
- Constantino Fondevila
- Giacomo Germani
- Wojciech Polak

Together with the dedicated ELITA Board, their efforts shaped a Summit that was both forward-looking and deeply rooted in the values of collaboration and excellence.

As liver transplantation continues to evolve, so too does ELITA's role in shaping its future. The ELITA Summit 2025 reminded us of the power of community - clinicians, researchers, and advocates - united by purpose and driven by science.

Here's to the next chapter of innovation, inclusion, and impact in liver transplantation.

International DCD Congress & Consensus

10-12 October | Bucharest, Romania

With innovation and collaboration at its core, the **International DCD Congress & Consensus 2025** brought together nearly **300 professionals from 32 countries** for a powerful and timely discussion on the future of Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD). Over three compelling days, the Congress provided a platform for exchanging knowledge, challenging assumptions, and shaping a global vision for DCD practice.

Now officially a **registered trademark**, the International DCD Congress has cemented its role as a pivotal event for the organ donation and transplantation community.

Amid renewed interest in DCD — driven by technical progress and evolving policies — this event explored the full spectrum of topics at the heart of today's DCD landscape:

DCD Then and Now

– A journey through the history of DCD and a look into what lies ahead

Regulatory Frameworks

– Comparative approaches across continents

Criteria for Death Determination

– Clinical and ethical implications

Warm Ischemia Time

– Definitions, function, and outcome impact

Thoraco-Abdominal Perfusion

– The revolution of NRP in controlled DCD

Donor Management Strategies

– Comparing NRP and other perfusion technologies

A particularly meaningful moment came with the **Paolo Muiesan Lecture**, a tribute to the late pioneer whose work in DCD transplantation continues to guide and inspire.

Day 1: Setting the Stage

The Opening Session and Paolo Muiesan Lecture inspired attendees with powerful reflections on leadership and progress. Sessions like *“Law and Order: When the Law is an Ass”* and *“Launching a National cDCD Programme”* sparked dialogue on how legal theory meets medical reality. The day ended with a provocative panel on *“Controversies in the DCD Pathway.”*

Day 2: Going Deeper

The momentum continued with:

- Ethics of NRP and the permanence principle of death



- Uncontrolled DCD viability and expansion
- Diverse perspectives from donor families and clinicians
- A live international simulation on family conversations
- NRP technology debates and policy updates
- AEIOU session to optimise DCD strategies

The second day intensified the focus on practical implementation, global policy trends, and multidisciplinary insights.

Day 3: Driving Consensus

The final day was devoted to shaping the DCD Consensus — an important step forward for harmonising international practice. Preliminary statements were presented on:

- The cDCD Pathway
- Paediatric cDCD
- NRP
- A unified concept of death?

This culminating moment offered attendees a chance to co-author the future of DCD practice worldwide.

The International DCD Congress & Consensus not only reflected the field's current strengths, it actively pushed its boundaries. It served as a rallying point for professionals to **challenge norms, rethink strategies, and build consensus** across borders.

As we look to future editions, one thing is clear: the DCD community is more engaged, interdisciplinary, and ambitious than ever before.

Educational & Training Programmes



ESOT Mentorship Programme

Year-long, online and at DCD Congress

The ESOT Mentorship Programme aims to provide transplant professionals with the opportunity for close interaction and expert guidance at a key stage of their career. The programme welcomes mentors and mentees from all disciplines, and participants can apply to work with expert mentors selected on the basis of their specialty and areas of interest. In addition to the individual mentor-mentee sessions, participants can take advantage of a wealth of resources, including professional development workshops and in-person networking opportunities.

Countries:

- Mentee Thozama Siyotula (South Africa) with Mentor Hermien Hartog (The Netherlands)
- Mentee Hafizah Ismail (Malaysia) with Mentor Nina Pilat (Austria)
- Mentee Alessandra Bertacco (Italy) with Mentor Astrid Schielke (United Kingdom)
- Mentee Stephen Knight (United Kingdom) with Mentor Robert Minnee (The Netherlands)
- Mentee Bojana Simunov (Croatia) with Mentor Raj Thuraisingham (United Kingdom)

HESPERIS Course 2024

4-6 April | Valencia, Spain

From **4 - 6 April 2024, Valencia, Spain**, played host to one of the most impactful educational events in the European transplant community, the **Hesperis Course**, led by **Amelia Hessheimer** and **Annelies de Weerd**. Designed for early-career professionals and newcomers to the field of transplantation, the course delivered an intensive, hands-on introduction to the multidisciplinary landscape of modern transplant care.

With **42 delegates from 17 countries**, the 2024 edition of Hesperis stood out not only for its international reach but also for its **energy, interactivity, and practical focus**. Over three days, participants immersed themselves in six core areas of transplantation: **immunology, clinical indications, organ donation and preservation, recipient management, regenerative medicine, and person-centred care**.

Participants consistently praised the **blended format**, which combined virtual tools with immersive on-site sessions, enabling deeper engagement while maintaining accessibility. The course structure offered a **thoughtful balance of lectures and interactive discussions**, with a strong emphasis on **real-world clinical challenges**. The breakout sessions and the popular “**My Most Difficult Case**” format sparked some of the most meaningful learning moments.



The course also spotlighted **person-centred care**, with the valuable inclusion of **patient representatives**, giving attendees a powerful reminder of the human dimension behind every clinical decision. The **diverse faculty**, acclaimed for their expertise and openness, helped foster a welcoming environment that encouraged active participation and knowledge sharing across professional backgrounds.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with particular appreciation for:

- The **networking opportunities** and international peer exchange
- The **practicality and clinical relevance** of content
- The **diversity of topics and audience**
- The high quality of organisation and coordination

Suggestions for future editions included adding more sessions on **immunology, paediatrics, and kidney transplantation**, extending the course duration, and creating even **more space for live discussion** within lecture blocks—valuable insights that will help shape the next edition of Hesperis.

The 2024 Hesperis Course successfully met its core objective: to provide an **advanced introduction to transplantation with a multi-disciplinary mindset**. It also delivered something equally valuable, **a sense of community** among future leaders in transplantation, united by a shared mission and a practical framework they can take back to their own centres.



LIDO Masterclass 2024

14 - 16 October | Rotterdam, The Netherlands

From **14-16 October 2024**, the **Skills Lab at Erasmus MC in Rotterdam** welcomed 18 transplant professionals for the **LiDO Masterclass**, one of the most advanced and hands-on educational experiences in the field of **live donor nephrectomy**. Led by course directors **Khe Tran** and **Frank Dor**, the 2024 edition upheld its reputation as a world-class learning opportunity designed for surgical precision and clinical excellence.

The **LiDO Masterclass** is built around the philosophy of **education on demand**, offering a powerful mix of **short, high-impact lectures** and intensive **hands-on training**. Held in a state-of-the-art simulation environment within one of Europe's top transplant centres, the course provided participants with direct mentorship from internationally recognised leaders in transplantation surgery.

Over three focused days, participants explored every technical nuance of **live donor nephrectomy**, from traditional approaches to **robot-assisted techniques**. Interactive sessions covered:

- The pros and cons of various nephrectomy techniques
- Step-by-step procedural breakdowns
- Realistic skills lab simulations
- Reflections on real-world donor cases

Designed for a small group of just **18 participants**, the masterclass offered a highly personalised experience. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on their own surgical style and challenges, and to apply what they learned immediately within the lab environment. This hands-on model allowed for real-time feedback, in-depth peer discussion, and deep dives into case-specific questions.

By the end of the course, participants left with a clear understanding of how to **select and apply surgical techniques** tailored to their patients and clinical settings, as well as greater confidence in their ability to perform **robot-assisted nephrectomy and kidney transplantation**.

HLTP Course – 6th Hepatologist in a Liver Transplant Program Course

24 - 25 October | Padova, Italy

On **24 – 25 October 2024**, Padua hosted the **6th Hepatologist in a Liver Transplant Program (HLTP) Course**, a collaborative initiative by **ESOT/ELITA** and the **Italian Association for the Study of the Liver (AISF)**. This two-day learning event brought together **young hepatology professionals and liver transplant experts** for an intensive and interactive educational experience.

Liver transplantation remains the only effective therapy for acute and chronic liver failure and select liver cancers, with outcomes now approaching those of age-matched individuals in the general population. These remarkable results stem from ongoing advances in **pharmacology, hepatology, and surgical techniques**—underscoring the need for continuous professional development in the field.

The HLTP Course delivered a rich programme combining **lectures, case-based discussions, and interactive presentations**, with a strong focus on:

- Management of **acute and chronic decompensated liver disease**
- **Emerging indications** for liver transplantation
- Innovations addressing **donor shortages**
- **Long-term care** of liver transplant recipients

Designed especially for **hepatology trainees and young specialists**, the course also served as a **preparatory resource** for both the **AISF Transplant Hepatology Exam** and the **European Diploma in Transplant Medicine (UEMS-EBTM)**.

More than just a training event, the HLTP Course created a **unique space for young transplant hepatologists to connect, collaborate, and grow together**. The synergy established during these two days laid the groundwork for lasting professional relationships and a stronger, more unified transplant community moving forward.



ESOT Virtual Online

ESOT Virtual is a comprehensive digital resource platform that hosts a vast repository of our webinars and ESOT Congress recordings. This virtual library serves as an invaluable tool for transplant professionals. It enables them to stay updated with the latest advancements and best practices in the field of transplantation.

YPT Podcast Series

Our innovative podcast series is aimed at complementing the renowned ESOT Transplant Live education programme. Informing our global audience by covering subject areas that are not easily delivered in a traditional lecture format, the podcasts provide a platform for more conversational and engaging teaching methods.

Research Grants



Research Grants & Funding Impact

The ESOT Grants Programme aims to promote the education and career development of European transplant professionals. Visiting European transplant centres and taking part in ESOT education programmes provides participants with state-of-the-art opportunities for scientific exchange and collaboration.

The range of ESOT grants includes:

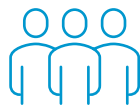
- **ESOT Educational Scholarship**
(20 scholarships of up to €1,000 each)
- **Sevda Hassan Study Scholarship**
(10 scholarships of €2,000 each)
- **ESOT Transplant Fellowship** (2 fellowships
– basic and clinical – of €55,000 each)
- **ESOT Global Grants**
(10 grants – 5 educational and 5 travel
– of either €1,000 or €2,000 each)

"This exceptional opportunity from ESOT fuels my passion and commitment to advancing medical research and improving patient care."

"I am profoundly grateful for this recognition and support."

Sara Akalay

SEVDA HASSAN STUDY SCHOLARSHIP
2024



ESOT Educational Scholarships

The ESOT Educational Scholarships provide a fantastic platform for young transplant professionals. A total of 20 scholarships are available, allowing recipients to attend ESOT courses and events.

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Clara Steichen
2. Samuel Tingle
3. Chiara Becchetti
4. Louise Benning
5. Suzanne Bezstarosti
6. Arriel Makembi Bunkete
7. Andrea Della Penna
8. Alicia Paessler
9. Laia Oliveras
10. Sahil Gupta
11. Iva Košuta
12. Alex Borin
13. Georgios Kourounis
14. Alessandro Furlanetto
15. Azarudeen Jalaludeen
16. Buddhika Uragoda Appuhamilage
17. Emilia Kniola
18. Kristi Salić
19. Monica Cucco
20. Cornelius van Beekum



ESOT Sevda Hassan Study Scholarships

The Sevda Hassan Study Scholarships allow recipients to travel and acquire new knowledge and skills, which can be used for their career progression and to enhance the progress of their institution. The duration of the programme is between two months and one year.

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Sara Akalay
2. Gianluca Rompianesi
3. Nazarii Mysynchuk
4. Miki Scaravaglio
5. Francesca Albanesi

"This opportunity is a big step toward my dreams. Let this journey begin!"

Miki Scaravaglio

SEVDA HASSAN STUDY SCHOLARSHIP
2024



ESOT Transplant Fellowships

There are two ESOT Transplant Fellowships available: one Basic Science Fellowship and one Clinical Fellowship. These allow two young professionals to acquire knowledge and skills by working in a European institution for a full year.

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Andrea Zajacova (Clinical)
2. Jasper Callemeyn (Basic Science)



ESOT Educational Global Grants

ESOT Global Grants are awarded to international members who wish to attend an ESOT course or masterclass, or to visit a European Centre to gain specific knowledge and skills important for their personal career progression.

Educational

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Samrat Ray
2. Denis Efimov
3. Nodir Ruzimurodov
4. Changliang Cao

Travel

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Seyed Ali Moosavi
2. Qiang Zhang
3. Maksim Vasilenka

"I am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to learn from European experts, contribute to the advancement of organ transplantation, and ultimately improve patient care."

Qiang Zhang

ESOT TRAVEL GLOBAL GRANT
2024

Communication & Outreach



In 2024, ESOT significantly expanded its **communication and outreach efforts**, both online and in person, reinforcing its identity as a leading voice in the transplantation community. Our growing presence across **digital platforms**, including Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, allowed us to share scientific updates, promote educational initiatives, and engage directly with members, stakeholders, and the broader public. Strategic campaigns around major awareness days, congresses, and ESOT-led projects helped drive record levels of engagement and visibility. In parallel, ESOT maintained a strong **on-site presence at key transplant events** across Europe and globally, where we connected with professionals, showcased our initiatives, and built meaningful partnerships. These combined efforts played a vital role in shaping and promoting the **ESOT culture and brand** - anchored in excellence, inclusion, and innovation and ensured that our message resonated widely throughout the field.

ESOT Initiatives & Special Projects

ESOT My Life – My Health

Advancing Person-Centred Transplant Care

In 2024, ESOT strengthened its commitment to **person-centred transplant care** through the **My Life My Health (MLMH)** initiative - a collaboration with **Takeda** and the **European Transplant Patient Organisations (ETPO)**.

The initiative was developed in response to a joint survey highlighting the need for greater emphasis on person-centred rehabilitation following organ transplantation. MLMH is underpinned by a clear vision: to focus on the **person with the organ**, rather than simply the **organ in the person**. Its mission is to empower transplant recipients to navigate life after transplantation, recognising them as individuals with unique needs that extend beyond their medical condition.

The project pursues three key objectives: enhancing **patient literacy and adaptation**, raising **awareness and capacity among healthcare professionals (HCPs)**, and **empowering transplant nurses** as vital contributors to long-term patient support.

A major milestone in 2024 was the **Train the Trainers live session**, held on **17 September at Guy's Hospital, London**, which introduced the MLMH model to healthcare providers. This interactive workshop focused on fostering a shift in care, placing the individual at the centre of the recovery process, beyond the bounds of clinical treatment.

The initiative also launched a **practical toolbox** to help implement person-centred principles in day-to-day care. As highlighted during the session, person-centred care goes beyond the clinical view of patients; it recognises their lived experiences, challenges, and personal journeys. As one speaker noted, "**A life gained should also be lived.**" This holistic approach is key to improving long-term outcomes, enhancing patient acceptance and adaptation, and delivering **more empathetic, precise, and sustainable care** across the transplant pathway.

[Read the reports](#)

ESOT Masterclass

14 - 15 Jun 2024 | Krakow, Poland

From Liquid Biopsy to Tissue Gene Expression:
The Impact of New Technologies on Clinical
Practice in Solid Organ Transplant (SOT)

ENGAGE II - International Workshop on Immunomodulation and Desensitisation

27 - 28 Nov 2024 | Barcelona, Spain

The ENGAGE II International Workshop on Immunomodulation and Desensitisation was held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 - 28 November 2024.

The event brought together 60 nephrologists, HLA specialists, transplant surgeons, and experts in immunomodulation and desensitisation from 21 European countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Kingdom).

Over the course of the two-day workshop, participants reviewed the outcomes of the European Guidelines for the management of Graft recipients (ENGAGE) and ENGAGE II initiatives and discussed recent advancements in desensitisation and immunomodulation strategies in kidney transplantation.

Case studies were presented to illustrate clinical decision-making based on the ENGAGE-defined humoral risk stratification system, in alignment with the ENGAGE II recommendations for tailored desensitisation and immunomodulation approaches according to each risk category.



Research and Projects



ESOT Guidelines

ESOT is deeply committed to improving the quality and accuracy of guidance documents related to solid organ transplantation. To achieve this goal, ESOT has established a dedicated task force responsible for selecting cutting-edge topics crucial to the field's progress. The task force uses a rigorous and independent methodology to ensure that the guidance remains credible and applicable globally. The group also follows strict selection criteria for members of the guidelines' drafting groups, ensuring that only the most qualified and unbiased experts are involved. To maintain the impartiality and integrity of the guidelines, the task force monitors any conflicts of interest among panel members. This initiative reflects ESOT's commitment to setting new standards in the development of transplantation guidelines and its leadership in the field.

[Visit the ESOT Guidelines webpage](#)

ESOT Registries

ESOT started building a platform to host pan-European registries in January 2021, leveraging on the experience of its section ELITA which had been successfully coordinating the European Liver Transplant Registry since 1985. The platform was thought of as modular, scalable and able to receive information on different organ transplants: a one-stop solution for European national and local authorities to contribute data and share practice with the community.

In September 2023, the Committee of Ministers of the [Council of Europe](#) issued a [recommendation](#) to member States on establishing national harmonised organ transplant registries to facilitate international data sharing. In particular, it recommends that the *"governments of member states promote the development and maintenance of national transplant registries with a view to facilitating harmonisation of the said registries and international data sharing"*. ESOT welcomes this recommendation and gladly makes its registries platform available to transplantation centres, competent authorities and ministers.

ESOT is a member of the [European Health Coalition](#), a network that aspires to health and care systems centred on people and patients. To make this vision a reality, the European Health Coalition has put forward [nine recommendations](#) focusing on four priority areas (Digital Transformation, Health System Integration, Boosting Research and Innovation, and Access to Innovation). The ESOT registries are in line with all these recommendations, particularly the following ones concerning data and digital health:

- Enable the collection of standardised, high quality and relevant health data in a secure manner to improve healthcare delivery, enhance research and drive greater healthcare system efficiency.
- Build a positive ecosystem fostering greater coordination and collaboration on artificial intelligence (AI) across the EU and between different disciplines to enhance the trustworthy and ethical use of AI in healthcare.

[Visit the ESOT Registries webpage](#)

Transplant International

Transplant International is the official journal of ESOT. *Transplant International* aims to be the premier journal publishing the key basic science and clinical developments in organ replacement medicine, including all aspects of transplantation, organ reconditioning, cell therapy, regenerative medicine, bioengineering and artificial organs.

The aim of the journal is to serve as a forum for the exchange of scientific information in the form of original and high-quality papers in the field of transplantation. Clinical and experimental studies, as well as editorials, letters to the editors and, occasionally, reviews on the biology, physiology and immunology of transplantation of tissues and organs, are published.

Publishing time for the latter is approximately six months, provided major revisions are not needed. Papers submitted to the journal are subject to a thorough double-blind peer-review model.

[Visit the *Transplant International* website](#)

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief

Thierry Berney, Switzerland

Deputy Editors-in-Chief

Nuria Montserrat, Spain

Oriol Bestard, Spain

Stefan Schneeberger, Austria

Maria Irene Bellini, Italy



[Read more on *Transplant International*](#)

EU-Funded Projects

ESOT embark on a number of EU-funded projects that reflect the society's mission to improve outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease by means of transplantation, regeneration and substitution. By collaborating with competent authorities and partners, these projects look to enhance public, healthcare professional, political and institutional awareness of transplantation, as well as develop and promote policies that improve equitable access and patient outcomes across the field.

VANGUARD

The VANGUARD project aims to generate a vascularised and immune-protected bioartificial pancreas that can be transplanted into non-immunosuppressed patients. It combines advanced tissue engineering strategies, including 3D organoid generation, hydrogel design, bioartificial organ assembly, and CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing.

[Visit the VANGUARD website](#)



BRAVEST

Building Resilience Against crisis: a systematic and global approach to adVancE organ Safety and supply in Transplantation

The BRAVEST project is coordinated by ESOT under the EU4Health Programme. The project aims to analyse factors that have influenced the organ procurement processes before, during and after the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, as a paradigm of the resilience of the donor procurement network in ensuring safety and continuity of supply of organ donation.

[Visit the BRAVEST website](#)



HORUS

Casting light on HOSt-cytomegalovirus interaction in Solid organ transplantation

The HORUS project unites solid organ transplantation experts, computational data scientists, virologists and immunologists in a fully operating European network consisting of 25 partners. Solid organ transplantation is the optimal treatment for end-stage organ failure. However, the immunosuppressive drugs used to prevent graft rejection increase the risk of opportunistic infections. Among these infections, CMV leads to the most frequent morbidity and can lead to mortality. The ambitious but realistic goal of HORUS is to improve our understanding of CMV/host interactions in the context of immunosuppression, with a particular focus on:

1. The characterisation of signatures associated with the control of CMV replication after transplantation
 2. The characterisation of signatures associated with evolution toward a difficult-to-treat CMV disease and poor outcome during CMV replication
 3. The discovery of new specific immunomodulatory molecules promoting CMV control while maintaining the prevention of acute rejection
- Altogether, HORUS will enhance personalised clinical prevention and the treatment of CMV disease, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

[Visit the HORUS website](#)

HORUS

LEOPARD

Liver Electronic Offering Platform with Artificial intelligence-based Devices

The LEOPARD project seeks to enhance liver transplantation outcomes by creating and validating an AI-based predictive algorithm, considering recently identified predictors, which surpasses current models in stratifying both decompensated cirrhosis (DC) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients by mortality/dropout risks on the waitlist. Additionally, the project will develop calculators for DC and HCC candidates to aid in patient prioritisation, as well as integrate predictive signatures from OMICs/radiomics to improve risk-assessment accuracy. At its core, the LEOPARD project aims to improve patient outcomes by ensuring timely transplantations, harmonising European prioritisation schemes and advocating for equitable access to liver transplantation (LT) to significantly reduce mortality on the waitlist.

[Visit the LEOPARD website](#)

LEOPARD

Financial Performance & Transparency

2024 Annual Accounts Accounting Policies in Respect of the Valuation of Assets and Liabilities General Information

The financial statements have been prepared according with the Dutch generally accepted accounting principles and are denominated in Euro. The financial statements have been prepared by applying the historical cost convention. Unless disclosed otherwise in the accounting principles for the specific balance sheet item, assets and liabilities are presented at face value. Income and expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. Profit is only recognised when realised on the balance sheet date. Losses originating before the end of the financial year are taken into account if they have become known before preparation of the financial statements.

Accounts Receivable

Upon initial recognition, the receivables are valued at fair value and then valued at amortised cost. The fair value and amortised cost equal the face value. Provisions deemed necessary for possible bad debt losses are deducted. These provisions are determined by individual assessment of the receivables.

Accounting Policies in Respect of Result Determination

Net Turnover

The net income shown in the profit and loss account is the revenue from sponsors through a support foundation and grants received from third parties net of value added tax.

Direct Costs

The direct costs are recognised at cost.

Other Operating Expenses

Expenses are based on the historical cost convention and attributed to the financial year to which they pertain.

Amsterdam, June 2025

G.C. Oniscu

F. Dor

President of the
Executive Committee

Treasurer

[View the 2023 Financial Statements](#)

Future Outlook & Strategic Vision

ESOT's Roadmap for 2025 & Beyond

Today, transplantation stands at a pivotal moment. Scientific breakthroughs, new technologies, and data-driven healthcare solutions are revolutionising patient care, creating significant opportunities to extend organ viability and enhance patient survival. However, disparities within the transplantation pathway continue to prevent many patients from accessing life-saving transplants.

The European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) stands at the forefront of science, research, innovation, education, and advocacy in this evolving field. As the demand for transplantation grows, ESOT remains dedicated to its mission of improving outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease through transplantation, organ regeneration, and substitution. The **ESOT Strategic Plan 2025–2030** provides a comprehensive framework to address the field's most pressing challenges while capitalising on emerging opportunities. It focuses on advancing transplantation science, empowering healthcare professionals, and influencing global policy to ensure equitable access to life-saving therapies.

The plan is built on a dynamic framework of six key strategic drivers:

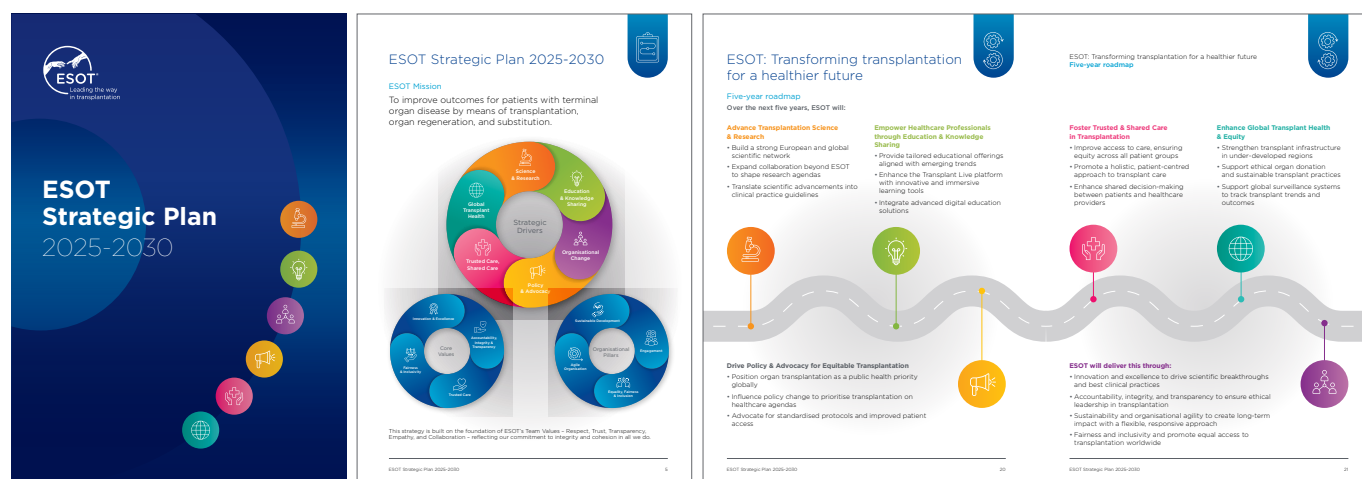


In addition to serving as a cornerstone for ESOT's advancement, the new Strategic Plan will strengthen the transplantation community and significantly improve the lives of patients dependent on organ transplants. It represents an ambitious step forward that will enable ESOT to drive the field of transplantation towards greater accessibility, sustainability, and excellence.

ESOT extends its sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

Coby Annema	Anna Forsberg	Devi Mey
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Daniele Dondossola	Sophie Limou	Marleen van Buren
Frank Dor	Wai Lim	Annemarie Weissenbacher
Joana Ferrer	Sandra Lindstedt	Luke Yates
Constantino Fondevilla	Hannah Maple	

Read the Strategic Plan: [ESOT Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#)



Acknowledgements

Acknowledging Our Volunteers

ESOT extends its deepest gratitude to the many dedicated volunteers whose time, expertise, and passion have been instrumental to the Society's work throughout 2024. From contributing to scientific committees and organising events to advancing educational programmes and strategic initiatives, their collective efforts have shaped the success of our activities across Europe and beyond.

This spirit of collaboration and shared purpose lies at the heart of ESOT's mission, and we are proud to recognise and celebrate the invaluable role our volunteers play in driving progress in transplantation.

Thank You to the ESOT Team

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the ESOT Team, whose unwavering commitment and shared values have formed the foundation of our work throughout 2024. This year has been one of innovation, growth, and impact, made possible by a team that is not only skilled and passionate but also deeply aligned with our organisational culture. Guided by principles of respect, trust, transparency, empathy, and collaboration, the team consistently exemplified what it means to work with purpose.

Whether coordinating complex projects, supporting scientific initiatives, or ensuring the seamless delivery of our programmes, the ESOT Team embraced each challenge with integrity and excellence. Their dedication continues to propel our mission forward and inspire all those we serve.

Sponsors

ESOT warmly thanks all our sponsors and partner societies for their steadfast support and collaboration throughout 2024. Your commitment has been essential to the success of our scientific, educational, and advocacy efforts. Through your partnership, we have been able to expand our reach, enhance the quality of our programmes, and foster innovation in transplantation across Europe and beyond.

We deeply value the trust you place in ESOT's mission and the shared vision we pursue, one rooted in excellence, progress, and the collective advancement of transplant care. We look forward to maintaining this strong collaboration in the years ahead.

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