

## AST Board of Directors 2015-2016

### PRESIDENT

James S. Allan, MD, MBA  
Massachusetts General Hospital

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Anil Chandraker, MD, FRCP  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

### IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

Kenneth A. Newell, MD, PhD  
Emory University

### SECRETARY

Ronald G. Gill, PhD  
University of Colorado, Denver

### TREASURER

Thomas C. Pearson, MD, DPhil  
Emory University

### COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE

Sharon M. Bartosh, MD  
University of Wisconsin

Richard N. Formica, Jr., MD  
Yale University School of Medicine

John S. Gill, MD, MS  
University of British Columbia

Deepali Kumar, MD, MSc, FRCPC  
University of Toronto

Josh Levitsky, MD, MS  
Northwestern University

Larry B. Melton, MD, PhD  
Hackensack University Medical Center

David P. Nelson, MD  
Integrus Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma

Jesse D. Schold, PhD, M.Stat, M.Ed.  
Cleveland Clinic

Alexander C. Wiseman, MD  
University of Colorado, Denver

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Libby McDannell, CAE

May 30, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady (R-TX)  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Pat Tiberi (R-OH)  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sander Levin (D-MI)  
Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim McDermott (D-WA)  
Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health  
U.S. House of Representatives

RE: AST Endorsement of H.R. 5273, "Helping Hospitals Improve Patient Care Act of 2016" and Recognition of Transplant Patient Population in Hospital Readmissions

Dear Chairmen Brady & Tiberi and Ranking Members Levin & McDermott:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), representing a majority of medical professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation, we applaud and support your bipartisan leadership to advance H.R. 5273, the Helping Hospitals Improve Patient Care Act of 2016. Among the many provisions included in this important legislation, the AST remains grateful for the inclusion of refinements to the Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program to prevent hospitals from being unfairly penalized for certain readmissions, including organ transplant patients.

The AST appreciates the support and leadership that the Ways and Means Committee has shown over the years with regard to transplant patients, donors and their families. As you know, transplant patients can require more frequent follow-up care and often unpredictable hospital readmissions to treat and protect their life saving donor organ. We commend the Committee for including provisions in H.R. 5273 to allow the Secretary of Health and Human

### NATIONAL OFFICE

1120 Route 73, Suite 200 • Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
856.439.9986 • Fax: 856.581.9604 • [info@myAST.org](mailto:info@myAST.org) • [www.myAST.org](http://www.myAST.org)

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

William Applegate, Director of Government Relations • Bryan Cave, LLP  
1155 F Street, NW • Washington, DC 20004  
202.258.4989 • [bill.applegate@bryancave.com](mailto:bill.applegate@bryancave.com)

### AMERICAN TRANSPLANT CONGRESS 2016

June 11-15, 2016  
Boston, MA

Services (HHS) a pathway for addressing, and if necessary, removing certain readmission penalty categories, including organ transplantation. This critical patient population remains vulnerable and frequently in need of additional follow-up care that is fluid and necessary to protect the transplant recipients, donors, and overall investment made by the Medicare Program.

Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership on these important patient care issues. The AST supports H.R. 5273 and looks forward to its swift passage and enactment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or our Director of Government Relations, Bill Applegate at [\(202\) 258-4989](tel:(202)258-4989).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J S Allan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James S. Allan, MD, MBA  
President