

MEDICAL DIRECTORS FORUM

JUNE 19 - 20, 2026 | BOSTON, MA

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

12:00 PM	Registration Opens
12:00 PM	Networking Lunch Sponsored by Sanofi
1:00 PM	Welcome and Introduction
1:10 PM – 2:20 PM	<p><u>General Session 1: Moving the Needle: Practical Approaches for Program Growth & Strategy</u></p> <p>Session Moderators: <i>Marie Budev, MD; Mona Doshi, MD</i></p> <p>Expanding Footprints Beyond Local and State Boundaries Speakers: <i>Tina Block, MHA, RN; Heidi Schaefer, MD</i></p> <p>Financing Machine Perfusion - Impact on Bottom Line Speaker: <i>Kim Nicoll, RN</i></p> <p>Q&A Discussion</p>
2:20 PM – 2:50 PM	Networking Break
2:50 PM – 4:00 PM	<p><u>General Session 2: Workforce Pipeline & Burnout</u></p> <p>Session Moderators: <i>John Friedewald, MD</i></p> <p>Barriers to Transplant Fellowship Training – Report from the AST Fellows Task Force Speaker: <i>Prince Mohan Anand, MD</i></p> <p>Negotiations between the Transplant Program and the Hospital to Maintain and Increase the Current Work Force Speakers: <i>Silas Norman, MD; Nicolae Leca, MD</i></p> <p>Strategies for Enhancing Wellbeing, Reducing Burnout in the Transplant Workforce, and Leveraging Partnerships with APPs and Community Providers Speaker: <i>Kelly Bryce, PhD</i></p> <p>Q&A Discussion</p>

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FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026 (continued)

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Networking Break/Travel to Breakouts

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM [Breakout Session 1](#)

Kidney Breakout

Engaging with C-suite

Breakout Session Moderator: *Todd Pesavento, MD*

Roundtable Discussion Leaders:

1. **Academic/Large Program:** *Sumit Mohan, MD;*
John Friedewald, MD
2. **New (started within 5 years)/Small Program:** *Neeraj Singh, MD*
3. **Hospital-Based/Large Program:** *Francis Weng, MD*
4. **Private Practice:** *Bernard Fishbach, MD*

Pushing for Better and Fairer Compensation

Breakout Session Moderator: *John Friedewald, MD*

Roundtable Discussion Leaders:

1. **Academic/Large Program:** *Gaurav Gupta, MD;*
Asif Sharfuddin, MD
2. **Academic/Small Program:** *Prince Mohan Anand, MD*
3. **Hospital-Based Program:** *Sundus Lodhi, MD*
4. **Private Practice:** *Rajendra Baliga, MD*

Thoracic Breakout: Burnout and the Workforce

Fellowship Training in Heart Failure and Heart Transplant, Lung Failure and Lung Transplant

Breakout Session Moderators: *Sean Pinney, MD;*
Erika Lease, MD

Lung Speaker: *Hakim Azfar Ali, MD*

Heart Speaker: *Justin M. Vader, MD (pending acceptance)*

Alternates: *Sara Kalantari, MD; Cynthia Gries, MD*

Q&A Discussion

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Strategies for a Thoracic Transplant Physician to Mitigate the Risk for Burnout

Lung Speaker: *John Reynolds, MD*

Heart Speaker: *Maryjane Farr, MD*

Wrap-up Discussion

Liver Breakout: How Do I Re-Align Goals for Transplant Hepatology in an Unfriendly Academic Healthcare Environment?

Breakout Session Moderators: *Hyosun Han, MD; Brett Fortune, MD; Andres Duarte-Rojo, MD, PhD; and Deepika Devuni, MD*

Hiring and Growing Your Workforce, Balancing the Needs of a Transplant Center Over the Needs of an Academic Department/Hospital

Speaker: *Lindsay King, MD*

C-Suite Influence: Taking Advantage of High Tide Incentives

Speaker: *Naudia Jonassaint, MD*

Collaboration Challenges in Current LDLT vs. DDLT Landscape

Speaker: *Jamak M. Esfeh, MD*

Q&A Discussion

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM Networking Reception

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SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM **Networking Breakfast**

8:00 AM – 9:05 AM **General Session 3: Balancing the Rising Cost of Saving Lives with Controlling the Bottom Line**

Session Moderator: *Todd Pesavento, MD*

Follow the Money: Maintaining Transplant Program Growth within a Constrained Financial Environment

Speaker: *Luke Preczewski*

Show me the Money: Billing, Reimbursement, and Contracting

Speaker: *Andrea Tietjan, MBA*

Directing the Money: Making Hard Financial Decisions from the Lens of the CEO/Health System Leadership

Speaker: *David Zambrana, PhD*

Q&A Discussion

9:05 AM – 10:10 AM **General Session 4: Conflict, Compromise, and Collaboration: Finding the Middle Ground**

Session Moderators: *Erika Lease, MD; Brett Fortune, MD*

Case 1: Finding the Balance in How to Improve Organ Acceptance Rates

Speakers: *Francis Weng, MD; Prince Mohan Anand, MD*

Case 2: Fighting for FTEs: Hospital/Physician Leadership Perspectives

Speakers: *Robert Brown, MD; Vivek Ayha, MD*

10:10 AM – 10:30 AM **Networking Break**

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SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026 (continued)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM [Breakout Session 2](#)

Kidney Breakout

Growing a Pancreas Transplant Program

Breakout Session Moderator: *Neeraj Singh, MD*

Panel Speakers: *Ronald Parsons, MD; Reginald Gohh, MD; and Lavanya Kodali, MD*

New Paradigms and Challenges in Living Kidney Donation

Breakout Session Moderator: *Christina Mejia, MD*

Panel Speakers: *Mona Doshi, MD; John Friedwald, MD; and Andrea Tietjen, MD*

Thoracic Breakout

Safety Net in Thoracic Transplant: Is It Working?

Breakout Session Moderators: *Rey Rampolla, MD; Selim Krim, MD*

Lung Speaker: *Lorenzo Zaffiri, MD; Heart Speaker: Maryjane Farr, MD; Nephrologist Speaker: Nicolae Leca, MD*

Q&A Discussion

Liver Breakout: Building Bridges with Other Disciplines

The Transplant Protocol: How to Incentivize and Operationalize Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Speaker: *Tom Schiano, MD*

Multidisciplinary Clinics within LT Space: How to Innovate and Lead the Field

Speaker: *Laura Kulik, MD*

Q&A + Roundtable Discussion

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Closing Comments/Participation Survey