

ASTS STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission: *To advance the art and science of transplant surgery through leadership, advocacy, education, and training.*

Vision: *Saving and improving lives with transplantation.*

Strategic Goals:



Advocacy: To engage other stakeholders and strategic partners to effectively represent the interests of our members and the patients they serve.

Research: To promote basic, translational, and clinical research in the field of transplantation.

Training & Professional Development: To provide life-long learning and educational opportunities for professionals involved in transplantation.

Optimal Patient Care: To create a network of resources that are ethical, safe, timely, and effective for learning and dissemination of knowledge focused on optimal patient care.

Advocacy

Advocacy: To engage other stakeholders and strategic partners to effectively represent the interests of our members and the patients they serve.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Build and maintain an effective public policy program that interacts with other stakeholders in a transparent manner and supports the needs of our members and their patients.
 - *Create strategic alliances with government agencies, professional societies, and other stakeholders.*
 - *Monitor legislation that impacts the field and educate lawmakers as needed.*
 - *Create effective interactions with industry, payers, etc.*
 - *Engage certification bodies (CMS and OPTN) and work to establish meaningful policy and performance metrics.*
 - *Shape regulation through focused engagement with CMS, HRSA, FDA, and others.*
 - *Improve the models for center-specific data.*
 - *Create a framework that fosters the development of new transplant therapeutics.*
2. Create a structured response to implementation issues with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
 - *Actively engage in the public comments process to positively influence the final regulations.*
 - *Create useful messaging to members to help them navigate the changes associated with the ACA.*
3. Create a forum to foster strategies to increase organ donation.
 - *Explore regulated incentives while protecting vulnerable populations.*
 - *Maintain and expand the NLDAC program with a goal of including lost wages.*

Research

Research: To promote basic, translational, and clinical research in the field of transplantation.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Advance research to benefit the transplantation community through advocacy efforts to reduce barriers and create opportunities for research.
 - *Interface with NIH/other government agencies to set the research agenda.*
 - *Address scientific, ethical, regulatory, and logistical barriers to the optimal design, implementation, and execution of research in organ transplantation.*
2. Establish strong partnerships with NIH and other governmental agencies.
 - *Reinvigorate relationships with key institutes: NIAID, NIDDK, NHLBI, and others.*
 - *Cultivate relationships with other key governmental funding agencies: HRSA, AHRQ, DOD, and others.*
 - *Set research agenda and determine priorities.*
 - *Increase participation in peer review.*
3. Support research areas that align and/or synergize with advocacy efforts.
 - *Identify and fund research in important and/or neglected niches that have high priority and impact.*
4. Create and validate modern pathways for success in research.
 - *Recognition that the spectrum of research in transplantation is broad and varied.*
 - *Promote a broad research agenda at all career levels.*
 - *Promote opportunities to integrate research into fellowship training.*
5. Ensure the quality and stability of AJT.
6. Establish a presence in emerging research areas by building relationships with relevant professional societies and stakeholders.

Training & Professional Development

Training & Professional Development: To provide life-long learning and educational opportunities for professionals involved in transplantation.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Support, encourage, and operationalize the existing Fellowship Training Strategic Plan.
 - *Improve quality and uniformity of training programs across the country.*
 - *Develop milestones for fellow assessment, an in-service and a certifying exam.*
 - *Establish “ASTS Board” for oversight of accreditation and certification.*
 - *Establish Global Training Partnerships (GTP) with international training programs.*
2. Enhance the student and resident experience.
 - *Provide structured transplant rotations.*
 - *Create, distribute, and utilize promotional materials to engage students and residents.*
 - *Broaden and enhance modules within the Academic Universe applicable to medical students and general surgery residents.*
 - *Cultivate the collaboration with the ABS and SCORE curriculum.*
3. Support and expand MOC efforts.
 - *Enhance awareness of MOC requirements and promote Trans-SAP.*
 - *Allocate funding and manpower to expand MOC offerings.*
 - *Continue strong collaboration with the ABS regarding specialty-specific MOC.*
4. Continually assess and understand the post-training job market in North America and internationally.
 - *Continue post-fellowship surveys.*
 - *Develop methods of “needs assessment” for transplant surgeons and other transplant professionals.*
 - *Evaluate opportunities in countries where transplant is growing.*
5. Create and disseminate educational material regarding relevant and contemporary issues.
 - *Build/maintain/update ASTS policy library, white papers, best practice, and guideline documents.*
 - *Develop webinars for pertinent, current, topical issues affecting transplant practice and policy.*
 - *Provide “best practice” recommendations for evolving issues.*
6. Enhance the Advanced Transplant Provider (Associate Member) membership experience.
 - *Create educational materials and opportunities that specifically meet their needs.*
 - *Provide greater ability to participate in Society, committee, and work-group activities.*
 - *Increase visibility in ASTS events.*
7. Continue to assess need for and create niche educational opportunities that advance the field.
 - *Funding and support for initiatives such as LDP and ALDP.*
 - *Explore/facilitate global educational training opportunities such as international clinical exchange programs for faculty/staff.*

Optimal Patient Care

Optimal Patient Care: To create a network of resources that are ethical, safe, timely, and effective for learning and dissemination of knowledge focused on optimal patient care.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Create resources for members that enhance patient care.
 - *Create a statement of professionalism.*
 - *Develop “best practices” documents.*
 - *Provide tools for crisis avoidance, preparedness, and management.*
 - *Develop nationally recognized outcomes measurements (i.e., NSQIP).*
2. Disseminate tacit knowledge, non-punitively and confidentially, that supports the goal of optimal patient care.
 - *Gather and disseminate, possibly through a patient safety organization (PSO), adverse events, near misses, human error, crisis avoidance and management, and workflow and process issues.*
 - *Provide real-time, online information via a secure network.*
3. Create an open information exchange forum for members and communities.
 - *Develop a platform for information dissemination and discussion with archival properties.*
 - *Focus on priorities and strategic thoughts.*
 - *Make threads open, engaging, and relevant.*
4. Create patient education resources.
 - *Create surgeon portfolios that are searchable and public.*
 - *Provide access to validated resources, avoiding duplication and ensuring quality of content.*
 - *Establish liaisons with patient advocacy groups.*
5. Increase access to transplantation by increasing organ supply.
 - *Create resources to elevate the standard of care.*

Organizational Structure

Research: To optimize performance and strive for excellence with our members, patients, and other stakeholders.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Maintain and build a solid a strong financial basis on which to advance the strategic plan through:
 - *Efficient and effective operations;*
 - *Strong partnerships between volunteers and staff; and*
 - *Creation of revenue opportunities from new and existing programs and services.*
2. Maintain and build a strong, diverse, and loyal membership by providing unique value to the field.
 - *Provide innovative tools and resources to help members do their jobs more effectively.*
 - *Facilitate volunteer opportunities within the Society.*
3. Create member experiences that are positive, memorable, customized, and responsive to generational differences.
 - *Provide tools and resources for all membership categories.*
 - *Create engagements for surgeons at all career levels.*
 - *Recruit and maintain high quality staff.*
4. Embrace technology to effectively communicate with and provide value to the membership.
 - *Facilitate opportunities for members to interact with each other.*
 - *Increase virtual educational opportunities.*
 - *Streamline internal policies and processes to best utilize ASTS' technical resources.*