

# 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 Excellence

**Organizational Excellence:** 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.*