A scenic view of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California. The bridge's iconic red-orange towers and suspension cables are visible against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, dark, jagged rocks are scattered along the shoreline, with white-capped waves crashing against them. The water is a deep blue, and the overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

GETTING HIGH AND
HYPOXIC AND
SURVIVING A CAREER
IN TRANSPLANT
SURGERY

Peter Stock MD, PhD
University of California
San Francisco

UCSF Transplant Surgery Fellowship

- **Every weekend off, with paid trips to either Sonoma or Napa Valley (fellow's choice of B and B) OR the Ventana (Big Sur) for the romantic getaway.**
- **Attendings always willing cover donor runs if the fellows feel it will not be a learning experience**
- **After a case that lasts more than 8 hours (or any case the goes past midnight) the fellow is entitled to next day off and spa therapy**



Not the easy path – but.....

- **Best open surgery – as well as an increasing repertoire of laparoscopic procedures**
- **Combines interesting and diverse medical problems (nephrology, hepatology, endocrinology) with immunology and pathology**
- **Interesting ethical challenges – organ allocation, strategies to increase donor pool, etc.**
- **Rapidly evolving field fertile for research and discovery**

Anthony Monaco – ASTS Presidential Address 1985 – “Problems in Transplantation – Ethics, Education and Expansion”

-transplant surgeons were “the eggheads of surgery – talking about genetics, immunobiology, inbred strains, tolerance, enhancement, haplotypes, public antigens, private antigens – and more recently lymphocyte subsets, killer cells, suppressor cells, helper cells, lymphokines, IL-1, IL-2, interferon and so on.....”

Nerds?

- **Inquisitive**
- **Enjoy challenges of an evolving field**
- **Get “high” with every transplant**
- **Still see the “LUSTER” in transplant surgery**
– described in presidential address by Mike Abecassis (2011) entitled “The Luster Cycle of Transplantation
- **“Luster” stronger than ever – stem cells and tolerance, tissue regeneration, bioartificial pancreas, bioartificial kidney**

Would you recommend Tx?

		Overall				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Would you recommend transplant?						
Yes		86.4%	92.5%	87.5%	89.1%	82.2%
No		13.6%	7.5%	12.5%	10.9%	17.8%

What do you really want to hear about?

The job market!

Tx Job Post-Fellowship

	US Only				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Did you get a transplant job post fellowship?					
Yes	73.5%	90.0%	77.1%	86.8%	83.3%
No	26.5%	10.0%	22.9%	10.5%	12.5%
Did not seek transplant job	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	4.2%

	IMGs				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Did you get a transplant job post fellowship?					
Yes	70.0%	38.9%	50.0%	33.3%	55.0%
No	20.0%	50.0%	50.0%	60.0%	35.0%
Did not seek transplant job	10.0%	11.1%	0.0%	6.7%	10.0%

Kim Olthoff – “Think Global, Act Local: The Glocalization of the ASTS (2012-2013)”

- **Historic role of the international community in transplant surgery**
- **For IMG’s returning home after fellowship – well trained to take leadership roles**



- **Job “Angst” has been around along time!**
- **In 1990, I was warned that the market for transplant surgeons was saturated**
- **Issue addressed in Tom Starzl’s Inaugural address of the ASTS in 1974 ...”when will a superfluity of trainees be a problem, as it has become in a number of specialites? What constitutes adequate training? If we work at these questions, maybe we can avoid some of the mistakes that other groups with interests in special fields of surgery have made”**

- **Transplant jobs may not look like the current tx jobs**
- **Many will not be full time transplant positions**
- **Important that the training you have will be regarded as the “best” training for complex cases**
- **Transplant surgeons are the “go to” team for the most complex hepatobiliary cases, tumor resections requiring reconstruction of the cava and portal vein, pancreatic resections requiring autoislet tx, reimplantation of the native kidney , etc.**

You are the best trained and most valuable potential faculty !

- **ASTS is working on a comprehensive survey of the job market – (Membership committee, Business Practice committee, Fellowship committee)**
- **Strategic plan is to make sure that the training experiences and certification process will lead to national and international recognition that surgeons completing ASTS accredited fellowships are exceptionally well trained**

Pearls of Wisdom from an AARP candidate member

- **Don't sweat the small stuff – keep things in perspective**

The Human Connection to Patient Care Video

Pearls of Wisdom from an AARP candidate member

- **Don't sweat the small stuff – keep things in perspective**
- **Keep some balance in your life**

"Because it is there"

George Leigh Mallory

40 killed in Soviet avalanche

Climbers swept from Lenin Peak

The New York Times

MOSCOW — One of the worst tragedies in the history of mountain climbing has claimed the lives of at least 40 members of an international team during an avalanche in the remote Pamirs mountains in the Soviet Union, according to government reports.

The victims were buried Friday when an earth tremor destabilized a mass of snow and debris that fell onto a climbers' camp about two miles below the top of Lenin Peak. The peak is near the Chinese border in the Central Asia range, the highest in the Soviet Union.

The victims included 27 Soviet climbers, principally a 23-member Leningrad team led by Leonid Troshchinenko, one of the nation's leading climbers, according to Soviet officials.

Also killed were six Czech climbers, four Israelis, two Swiss and a Spaniard.

Three climbers have not been accounted for, and there have been conflicting reports that they died.

"This is a tragedy unprecedented in Soviet and, I think, world, mountaineering," Vladimir Shatayev, the Soviet sports-committee mountaineering coach, was quoted as saying by Tass, the Soviet press agency.

What experts rate as the worst previous climbing tragedy occurred in December 1952, when a large team of Soviet climbers perished in an assault on Mount Everest.

Soviet officials never have acknowledged the loss, but Polish climbing experts reported that 40 mountaineers



The Arizona Republic

The Pamirs victims were part of a 140-member expedition climbing Lenin Peak. Most scrambled to safety as the avalanche roared down the face of the mountain, Tass said.

It struck the camp on "the frying pan," an alpine ledge that is a resting spot on the way up the 23,456-foot-high mountain.

It is the Soviet Union's third-highest peak, and one of the most fascinating to sports mountaineers.

The Pamirs, which contain some of the most challenging alpine treks in the world, rise up as a snow-capped swath of the border regions of Tadjikistan and Kirghizia.

The range includes Communism Peak, the highest in the Soviet Union at 24,584 feet.

The frying-pan camp has been used for six decades by climbers pausing in their ascent of Lenin Peak, part of the Pamirs' highest central peaks, which lie between the Tersagar and Kyzylart passes.

He said the initial estimate was that 43 climbers died but that later reports indicate the total may be 40.

"Evidently, the other three managed to survive," Shatayev said, describing reports from some climbers that the trio darted to safer ground "at the moment the avalanche swept























THE LANCET, AUGUST 16, 1986

Environmental Physiology

DO CLIMBS TO EXTREME ALTITUDE CAUSE
BRAIN DAMAGE?

JOHN B. WEST

*Department of Medicine, University of California,
San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093, USA*

THE history of mountain climbing in the U.S.



Pearls of Wisdom from an AARP eligible member

- **Don't sweat the small stuff – keep things in perspective**
- **Keep some balance in your life**
- **Make sure the people you work with are a good fit---even if it is not the “perfect” job**

Pearls of Wisdom from an AARP eligible member

- Don't sweat the small stuff – keep things in perspective
- Keep some balance in your life
- Make sure the people you work with are a good fit---even if it is not the “perfect” job
- Embrace the “luster” of transplantation

Pearls of Wisdom from an AARP eligible member

- Don't sweat the small stuff – keep things in perspective
- Keep some balance in your life
- Make sure the people you work with are a good fit---even if it is not the “perfect” job
- Embrace the “luster” of transplantation
- Take advantage of the opportunities provided by the ASTS

Things have changed in healthcare



APPROVED

MAR 23 2010

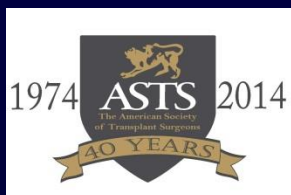
UPHELD

JUNE 2012

Barack Obama

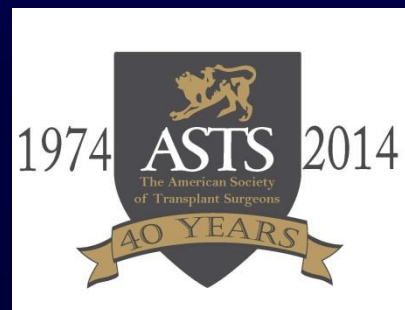
ASTS Engagement

QCDR AST SGR AMA UNOS ACBTSA ACOT
HHS
IOM SSS
NSQIP PCPI
CMS PQRS
OPTN AHRQ APOPO CME P4P SRTR ACS QRUR
NIH CDC VBM ABMS MU DTCP
ABS NATCO ODTA
S-CAHPS



ASTS Advocacy: Legislative activities

- ✓ Affordable Care Act Implementation
- ✓ Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage
- ✓ The HOPE Act
- ✓ Essential Health Benefits
- ✓ Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR)
- ✓ DoT Funding
- ✓ Sunshine Act Implementation



Legislative Fly-in



1974 2014

Goal: Advocacy









What we get from this adventure is just sheer joy. And joy, after all, the end of life. We do not live and eat to make money. We eat and make money to be able to enjoy life. That is what life means and what life is for.

- George Mallory

Why did ASTS create the LDP?

- ✓ Most transplant centers are directed or co-directed by transplant surgeons, leading multidisciplinary teams that include clinical managers, administrators, and financial leaders in their institutions
- ✓ Transplantation is a successful model for how a disease-based service line can provide patient-centered care in the most effective and efficient way

