



Canadian Society of Transplantation
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Société Canadienne de Transplantation
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Pediatric Presse

The Canadian Society of Transplantation Pediatric Group Newsletter



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CST Pediatric Group Annual Meeting 2023



On October 18, 2023, we held our Annual Meeting at the CST Annual Scientific Meeting in Winnipeg, MB. We continued with our hybrid meeting model with attendees both in person and virtually.

Our keynote address was given by Dr Joerg Krueger who is a Clinical Investigator at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Toronto. Dr Krueger did his doctoral thesis at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, USA with a research focus on immune therapeutic approaches to cancers. His current research focuses on cellular therapies and immunological tolerance. He is also the clinical director of the CAR-T cell program at SickKids in Toronto.

The topic of his presentation was “*Adoptive T-cell Therapies for Viral Complications in Immunocompromised Patients*”

CST Pediatric Group AGM 2023

At our annual meeting on October 18, 2023, Dr Krueger was our keynote speaker. He spoke on the topic of “Adoptive T-cell Therapies for Viral Complications in Immunocompromised Patients”, which stimulated lots of questions and discussions from our members.

We also presented abstract awards to pediatric transplant trainees and travel bursaries to pediatric transplant allied health members.



Above & Left:
Dr. Joerg Krueger presenting the keynote session on “Adoptive T-cell Therapies for Viral Complications in Immunocompromised Patients”

Right:
Our members listening attentively to Dr Krueger’s presentation while they enjoyed their meals





CST Pediatric Trainee Abstract Award



Pediatric Trainee Abstract (Basic Science)

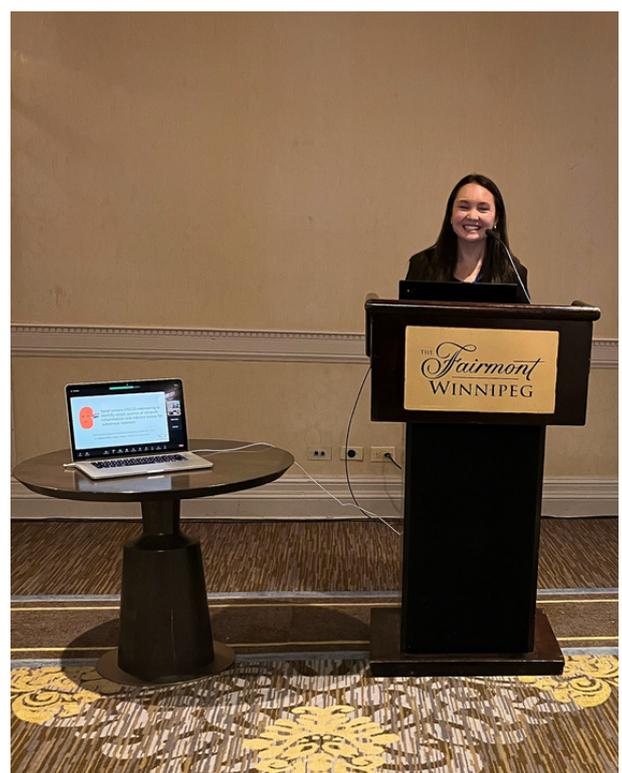
Dr Yasuyuki Kobayashi presented his research work on “*Impact of hemoglobin level in ex-vivo heart perfusion on donation after circulatory death hearts: A juvenile porcine experimental model*”. This research work was done under the supervision of Dr Osami Honjo at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

Dr Kobayashi received the *Best Pediatric Transplant Trainee Abstract Award* for a Basic Science project.

Pediatric Trainee Abstract (Clinical Science)

Ella Chan presented her research work on “*Serial urinary CXCL10 monitoring to identify varied courses of allograft inflammation and indicated biopsy for subclinical rejection*”. This research work was done under the supervision of Dr Tom Blydt-Hansen at BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver

Ella received the *Best Pediatric Transplant Trainee Abstract Award* for a Clinical Science project.





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CST Peds Group Allied Health Travel Bursary



Left: Dipti Manchharam

Dipti Manchharam has been a Clinical Pharmacist with the Transplant & Regenerative Medicine Centre at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto since 2013. She has a keen interest in transplant pharmacology including integration of pharmacogenomics and precision medicine into patient care. She is dedicated to ensuring pharmacologic therapies are optimized, and patients/families are educated and supported from a medication standpoint throughout their transplant journey. She is a preceptor and mentor to pharmacist learners. She works towards improving and standardising the quality of care to all transplant patients.

Right: Jenny Wichart

Jenny Wichart graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. Jenny moved to the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary to become a Clinical Pharmacist in Nephrology & Transplantation. She then transitioned to a Pharmacy Clinical Practice Leader for Solid Organ Transplant & Nephrology.

Jenny has served the Canadian Society of Transplantation since 2009 as Associate Member Liaison Officer to the Board, Chair of the Allied Health Group, as member of the Education Committee. She served on our Pediatric Group as Allied Health Member-at-Large and Secretary/Treasurer. She is currently a member of the Governance and Nominations Committee.





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CST Peds Group Allied Health Travel Bursary



Left: Renee Woo

Renee Woo is a Clinical Pharmacist with the Transplant & Regenerative Medicine Centre at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto since 2012. She completed her Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Pharmacy degree at the University of Toronto and subsequently completed a hospital pharmacy residency at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

Within her role as a Clinical Transplant Pharmacist, Renee has been involved in institution-specific kidney, liver and small bowel transplant protocol reviews, and provided allied health representation on various program committees throughout the years. Her interest in therapeutic drug monitoring of transplant immunosuppressive therapies in children has led her to undertake a supervisory role for a hospital pharmacy resident research project.

Renee has served the Canadian Society of Transplantation Pediatric Group as Allied Health Member-at-Large (2019-2021) and as Secretary/ Treasurer (2021-2023).



Upcoming Events

American Transplant Congress

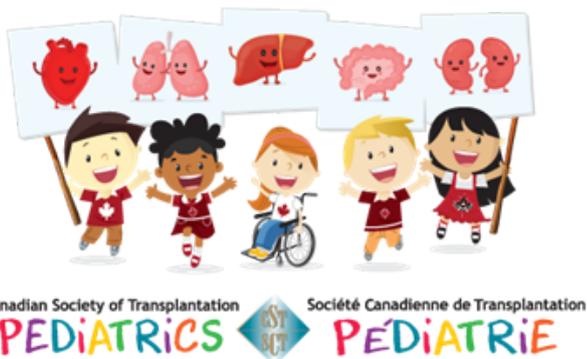
June 1-5, 2024 - Philadelphia, PA, USA

Canadian Society of Transplant Annual Scientific Meeting 2024

October 14-18, 2024 - Montreal, QC, Canada

13th Congress of the International Pediatric Transplant Association (IPTA)

September 18-21, 2025 - Berlin, Germany



CST Pediatric Group Education Webinar



Boost your transplant knowledge with the Pediatric Education Series! Our series addresses core topics in Pediatric Solid Organ Transplant relevant to healthcare providers across specialties, organ groups, and levels of experience. Our library of previously recorded lectures is always available to view on the CST Pediatric Group website.

Previous topics are:

- “HLA for the Pediatric Transplant Clinician” with Dr Christine Ribic
- “Cytomegalovirus in Pediatric Solid Organ Transplant Recipients” with Dr Catherine Burton
- “Career Development and Imposter Syndrome” with Dr Aviva Goldberg
- “Vaccination in Transplantation” with Dr Rupesh Chawla

Our next education webinar series session is on **March 20, 2024** from **3-4pm ET**

- “Thrombosis in Solid Organ Transplantation” with Dr Leonardo Brandao

If you have suggestions for topics and/or speakers, please email us:

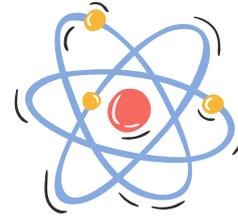
pediatricgroup@cst-transplant.ca

To access previously recorded sessions, click [***HERE***](#)



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CST Pediatric Group Research Highlight



We are proud to highlight abstracts presented by *Dr Blayne Sayed* and his trainees at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) meeting in Boston, MA, USA between November 10-14, 2023:

Anonymous Living Donation Improves Access for Medically Underserved Children in Need of Liver Transplantation: The Canadian Experience.

Toshifumi Yodoshi, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

In 2023, pediatric liver transplants have demonstrated an excellent prognosis. Nevertheless, the shortage of available organs has led to some children dying while on the waitlist, which underscores the critical imbalance between the supply and demand for liver transplants. Living Donor Liver Transplant (LDLT) has been established as a significant strategy to mitigate this issues. Anonymous Non-directed Living Donor Liver Transplantation (A-LDLT) has been performed in Toronto since 2005. This study constitutes the most extensive single-centre series of A-LDLT for pediatric patients, showcasing excellent patient and graft survival rates. Recipients from the Indigenous and Black, single-parent families, and non-native English-speaking households were observed to be more frequent beneficiaries of A-LDLT grafts. A-LDLT has provided crucial medical benefits to medically underserved pediatric patients who would otherwise face limited access to the benefits of LDLT.

Favorable Outcomes of Pediatric Liver Transplantation for Primary Liver Tumors - Retrospective Analysis of a large Canadian cohort.

Sagar Mehta, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Liver transplantation is an integral part of the management of advanced unresectable hepatic tumors in children. This retrospective study over three decades presents our experience from a large pediatric liver transplant centre in Canada. In children with hepatoblastoma, disease recurrence after liver transplant was the singular cause of mortality, with overall survival at three years and five years of 76% and 71% respectively. Poor tumor response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy, as suggested by a minimal decrease in serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) and higher pre-transplant levels was associated with decreased recurrence-free survival. In other non-hepatoblastoma tumors, the outcome after liver transplant is excellent in carefully selected patients.

More questions? You can reach out to Dr Sayed at blayne.sayed@sickkids.ca



CST Pediatric Group Strategic Planning 2024-2029

At the CST Annual Scientific Meeting 2023 in Winnipeg, on October 17, 2023, the CST Pediatric Group Executive Committee met with Frank van Gool who facilitated the development of a strategic plan for the Pediatric Group over the next 5 years (2024-2029). The overarching theme of the session was to try to increase membership, in particular among our allied health members in the realm of pediatric transplantation; and to enhance the value proposition provided to our Pediatric Group membership.

Below is the strategic roadmap that was proposed, encompassing our Vision, Mission and Objectives. We would be like to seek feedback from our members - please let us know what is important to you all!

Our Vision:

The CST Paediatric Group effectively represents and advocates on behalf of the broad and diverse range of Paediatric Transplant practitioners and professionals in Canada and provides its actively engaged membership with opportunities to learn and network with the transplant community and to enhance the practice of transplantation in Canada.

Our Mission:

We represent the Canadian paediatric transplant professionals to advance the practice and science of transplantation for the benefit of Canadian children and society.

Our Challenges and Opportunities:

- Membership is primarily physician-centric. Need to broaden representation to better engage allied health professionals
- The Group has minimal administrative capacity for implementation and relies almost entirely on the good will and capacity of its membership.
- There is minimal data regarding the number of learners, allied health care transplant professionals. Difficult to identify.
- Enhance networking capacity to include national organ groups, both within and outside the CST.
- The value proposition to Paediatric Group members and the network is not well promoted nor clearly understood by the transplant community.

Our Strategic Objectives:

1. Membership	2. Engagement	3. Advocacy	3. Networking
Increase the diversity and breadth of our membership	Enhance engagement of members and a strengthened value proposition	Actively advocate on behalf of paediatric practitioners	Collaborate with other paediatric groups in Canada and internationally
<p>1.1 Specifically target junior faculty and trainees with approaches that entice them to pursue paediatric transplantation careers and membership in the CST.</p> <p>2.2 Develop membership incentives that encourage prospective members to participate in CST Paediatric membership.</p> <p>2.3 Partner with other allied health organizations to share costs for member participation.</p>	<p>2.1 Utilize communication media/tools to ensure all members are aware of current news, research results, networking and advocacy events.</p> <p>2.2 Utilize identified champions to engage the separate professional discipline groups within Paediatrics to ensure messaging is most effectively achieved for each.</p> <p>2.3 Identify and implement opportunities for education and networking beyond the annual CST meeting.</p>	<p>3.1 Establish the capacity to plan and implement an effective advocacy campaign on behalf of the CST paediatric community.</p> <p>3.2 Identify an initial advocacy requirement and build the campaign capacity to address it.</p>	<p>4.1 Identify relevant Canadian networks and develop relationship building strategies.</p> <p>4.2 Establish joint plans; strengthen ongoing relationships; co-author position statements/guidelines etc. in order to provide members with greater opportunities for learning and community.</p> <p>4.3 Establish the international relationships that will benefit CST Paediatric members.</p>

Please share your questions, comments & feedback at pediatricgroup@cst-transplant.ca



CST Pediatric Group Committee: Meet our New Members

Our CST Pediatric Group members elected 3 new committee members for the term 2023-2025:

- Secretary/Treasurer: Astrid De Souza (BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver)
- Member-at-Large: Elizabeth Dale (The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)
- Trainee Member-at-Large: Dr Camille Laroche (BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver)



Secretary/Treasurer - Astrid De Souza

Astrid De Souza is an ACSM Clinical Exercise Physiologist working in the Children's Heart Centre at BC Children's Hospital (BCCH), Vancouver since 2006. She has a Master of Science degree in Exercise Physiology from the University of British Columbia (UBC). She is a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Pediatrics (UBC) and is also an Affiliate Investigator in the Evidence to Innovation Theme at the BCCH Research Institute.

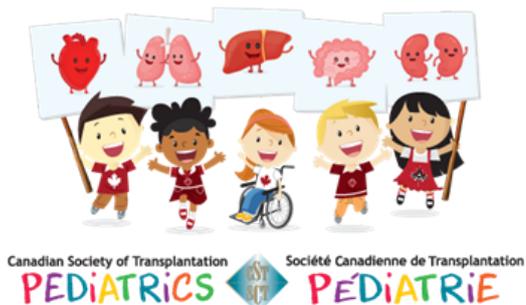
Over the course of her career, pediatric transplant has been both a clinical and research interest. Clinically, she is involved in both exercise testing and prescription, and continues to work on ways to increase physical activity in this population. She has been involved in the pediatric sub-section group of CAN-RESTORE since 2017 and has recently taken on the role of Head for the group, working closely within the larger CAN-RESTORE team. Astrid is passionate about teaching patients and their families about the benefits of physical activity and how it can be used as a tool to improve outcomes and quality of life in pediatric transplant recipients.

Member-at-Large - Elizabeth Dale

Liz Dale is a registered nurse working in the renal transplant program at SickKids in Toronto. She has 15 years of experience working in all areas of organ transplantation but her passion has always been in kidney transplantation. As a bedside nurse, she helped develop comprehensive checklists for bedside nursing staff when calling in patients for organ transplant. In her current role in the renal transplant clinic she splits her time between pre-transplant and post-transplant clinics as well as clinical work in research related to the pediatric solid organ transplant population.

She recently participated in research related to live vaccination after transplant as well as research related to the COVID-19 vaccine in pediatric solid organ transplant recipients. She is interested in improving the patient experience and participating in quality initiatives to continue to provide high quality care to patients and families. She recently joined the CST Pediatric Education Initiative, collaborating with other colleagues across Canada in creating educational materials for patients and families. She has been a part of the Highschool Outreach Initiative for the past 10 years and has a passion for educating youth and the public about organ donation and transplantation. She loves seeing how transplant can transform the lives of children with end stage renal disease and helps to get our pediatric patients back to living a full life. She especially loves to see this while volunteering at Camp Kivita, a camp that gives children who have received an organ transplant, or those living with end-stage organ disease, the opportunity to attend camp at no cost.





CST Pediatric Group Committee: Meet our New Members



Trainee Member-at-Large - Dr Camille Laroche

Camille graduated from the Université de Montréal in pediatric nephrology in 2022 and then completed a one-year research fellowship in kidney transplantation at the Institute of Child Health of Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, UK. This experience enabled her to network in European and International pediatric transplant working groups. She is pursuing a second year of fellowship in pediatric transplantation at BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver in 2023-2024 before joining the Department of Nephrology and the transplant team at CHU Sainte-Justine, Montreal, in 2024.



CST Pediatric Group Committee Members 2023-2024



Dr. Kathryn Armstrong
Chair



Dr. Chia Wei Teoh
Past Chair



Astrid De Souza
Secretary/Treasurer



Dr. Michel Lallier
Member-at-Large



Elizabeth Dale
Member-at-Large



Julie Strong
Member-at-Large



Dr. Blayne Sayed
Member-at-Large



Dr. Camille Laroche
Trainee Member-at-Large

As your CST Pediatric Group Committee, we would like to hear from you, our members, so that we can serve you better!

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, comments and/or updates!

For more info, please visit the CST Pediatric Group [website](#)

Email us at peditriaticgroup@cst-transplant.ca

