LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear STSW members,

It is with great excitement that I write to you all in anticipation of reuniting at our in person annual conference in October in Orlando, FL. These past two years have challenged us on so many levels as we navigated a new world of virtual and in person contact with our patients, colleagues, and with one another as a transplant social work community.

Even so, our Society has continued to grow and flourish. We have our largest membership to date and a strong Board with strong committees collaborating on how to do this work well. In this Newsletter, you will read about what is going on in our Society and I urge you to get involved and get connected with one another. Utilize the Forum on the Website to reach out to your fellow transplant and MCS social workers, join a committee, and lend us your experience and expertise!

For those of you that are asking for more virtual learning opportunities, we hear you. Our conference committee has worked tirelessly for now the 3rd year in a row to make sure that we continue to have the opportunity to learn from one another and connect. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Florida as we get back to an in-person format. Looking forward, we are talking about what is possible in terms of virtual vs. in-person conferences as we are aware that not all centers are able to send members to conferences in person. We have had to make hard decisions over the past two years to do what is in the best interest of the Society while meeting our contractual obligations. Please know that your feedback is heard and appreciated.

I hope you all remain safe and well. I continue to encourage you all to keep in touch with your colleagues on the Forum and through getting involved with the different committees and opportunities listed on the website. We hope to see you and connect in person again in October!

Thanks,
Molly
Molly Dugan, LCSW, CCTSW-MCS
President, STSW

2022 ORLANDO CONFERENCE UPDATE

Kay Kendall, MSW, LISW-s, CCTSW-MCS
National Conference Chair

Registration for the 37th Annual STSW Conference, being held in Orlando, FL opened on July 22nd. The information for registration along with the complete program is on the STSW Website, here. The conference committee is pleased with the program for our general and breakout sessions. On Monday, October 10th there will be a 3-hour pre-conference workshop. The focus of the workshop will be on Building a culturally competent transplant program.

This will be our first live conference since 2019 and we are looking forward to meeting in person. We will not have a virtual component this year. We hope you will be able to join us at the Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando on the evening of October 11th for our Welcome Reception, hosted by our distinguished exhibitor, COTA, and the poster session. Information about the hotel and reservations is on the STSW website. Covid guidelines will be announced closer to the start of the conference.

YOUR NOMINATION IS NEEDED

This is a reminder that we need your nominations for our two annual awards that are given out each year at our conference.
Each year at the conference we honor two STSW members for outstanding work in the field of transplantation. We ask you to submit nominations of social work colleagues for these awards. The award winners will be honored during the annual Business Meeting at the conference.

The two awards are the Lee Suszycki Memorial Award and the Judy Midelfort Memorial Award. Read about Lee and Judy, as well as past winners of these awards on our website, here.

The nomination form can be found on our website, here (2022 Award Nomination (wildapricot.org). Please submit your nomination, by Wednesday, August 31st, and email it to molly.dugan@choa.org.

STSW NEEDS YOUR INPUT!
Laurie McDonald

Have you ever wondered if your caseload is typical? Or if other transplant social workers have to perform some of the tasks required of you? Or whether your salary is commensurate with other clinicians who have similar levels of experience? If you have these questions, STSW has the answers! We conduct a survey every year to get concrete information about what social workers are doing and how they are compensated. You can find survey results from the past 12 years on our website.

We need your answers for the 2022 survey! The more data we collect, the more meaningful the results. And August 19 is the last day to answer the survey for this year. So take a moment right now, if you haven’t already, to collect this information about the team(s) you work on:

• # of transplants/living donor surgeries done last year (fiscal or calendar; you decide)
• # of durable mechanical circulatory support (MCS) implantations done last year
• # of transplant/MCS/living donation social workers employed on your team(s)
• # of nurse coordinators employed on your team(s)

If you work full time, be sure you know your total annual salary. If you work part time, make sure you know your hourly wage.

Then take the survey! It will only take 10-12 minutes to complete. Your answers are anonymous. We will compile the results and share them at the STSW conference in Orlando in October. They will be available on the website after the conference.

Thanks for doing your part to make this survey a success.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Tech Committee:
Katie Newton

The Tech Committee is excited to share that we will be offering a website that is mobile friendly for the 2022 Annual Conference. The app will include schedule information, information on all sessions including links to downloadable material, information on our exhibitors and more. Attendees will be able to complete all feedback and attestation forms online as well!

Interested in tech? Know a little bit about web design and updating websites? Interested to learn? We are actively looking for new members to join our tech committee! The tech committee is a unique opportunity to be involved in many aspects of "behind the scenes" at STSW. It's a great way to get to know other members and become more involved in our organization. Please send an email to tech@stsw.org if you are interested.
NEED CEUs FOR CREDENTIALING?
Reminder that you can earn educational units to be used toward credentialing by attending STSW organ-specific committee conference calls. Many of our STSW organ-specific committees offer conference calls, zoom calls, or Webex calls on a regular basis, with transplant or MCS content that can count as credentialing educational hours.

There are a maximum number of these STSW hours that can be used toward credentialing: 8 for your initial application, 3 for MCS and 5 for recertifications. These contact hours are not NASW approved so remember that they can only be used toward STSW credentialing, not licensing.

If you are attending one of these meetings, ask the committee chair to provide you with an attendance certificate, which you can submit with your credentialing application or renewal application.

Please check out the committee updates in this newsletter for announcements of upcoming meeting dates. Dates will also be posted on the website FORUM under the appropriate committee heading.

Research Committee
Kate Artin, Colleen Satarino

The Research Committee recently welcomed Gloria Chen as a committee member. Welcome Gloria! MCS Social Workers, please look out for a survey sent out mid-July in cooperation with Abbott (VAD manufacturer), please respond if you haven’t already. STSW and ICCAC are collaborating on another survey for MCS Social Workers which will likely get distributed later this fall.

Don’t forget that STSW has a research grant available to support psychosocial research in transplant/MCS. Our website has details, https://www.stsw.org/Research.

Living Donor Committee
Chrissi White

Exciting news for living donors! The Living Donor Protection Act of 2021 has been introduced into Congress. In addition to this act promoting living donation, it also provides living donors with more protections and rights. Check out the Public Policy committee update, just below, for more details. NLDAC would like to thank everyone who has given the self-service option a try. They are seeing an increased number of applications being filed. They hope this will decrease the administrative burden for filers. If you missed the training webinar, you can still check it out at https://vimeo.com/716461343.

The Living Donor committee is a great way to connect with other living donor professionals. The living donor committee has quarterly meetings to connect and discuss the unique work of living donation. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Chrissi at Christine.white@adventhealth.com.

Public Policy UPDATES
Lara Tushla

Living Donor Protection Act of 2021
Has been reintroduced.

What Does the Legislation Do?
Under current law, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) does not specify that living organ donors can take unpaid leave to recover from their donation and does not guarantee that donors will have a job waiting for them after surgery. Further, according to a 2007 study in the American Journal of Transplantation, as many as 11 percent of living
organ donors experience difficulty securing or paying for insurance after their procedures because of discriminatory practices.

The Living Donor Protection Act of 2021 would protect living organ donors and promote organ donation in three easy, low-cost ways:

- Prohibit life, disability, and long-term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors;
- Clarify that living organ donors may use FMLA time to recover from the surgeries and procedures involved in donation; and
- Direct HHS to update their materials on live organ donation to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ.

What about people who don’t get Medicare until after the transplant.

- Have no other health insurance coverage for immunosuppressants (EGHP, Tricare, Medicaid, VA)
  - Needs clarification in a reference to “other programs that cover immunosuppressive medications”… does that include patient assistance programs.

**What is covered:**
- ONLY immunosuppressants at 80%

**When does it start:**
- January 1, 2023
- Initial enrollments will start 10-1-22.
- For people still covered by Medicare, they will directly notify patients 90 days before their Medicare ESRD benefits end.
  - How many people does Medicare NOT have current addresses on?
- When someone loses benefits post-transplant.

**When will it stop:**
- The beginning of the month after someone has other coverage for their immunosuppressants
  - People have to notify Medicare within 60 days of getting coverage.
- When people become eligible for comprehensive Medicare coverage.

**How much will it cost:**
- Unclear but cheaper than traditional Medicare Part B
- Part B deductible seems to apply here as well

**What meds will be covered**
- Meds FDA approved as immunosuppressants – the list in the document was outdated and incomplete
- What about newer drugs, infusions, rejection treatment, standard of practice but “off label”
UNOS Regional Meetings
In person and virtual this time. 

Summer 2022 meetings
• Region 1: Aug. 29 – Worcester, MA
• Region 2: Aug. 16 – Newark, NJ
• Region 3: Aug. 31 – Atlanta, GA
• Region 4: Aug. 11 – Oklahoma City, OK
• Region 5: Aug. 25 – Las Vegas, NV
• Region 6: Sept. 9 – Seattle, WA
• Region 7: Sept. 1 – Chicago, IL
• Region 8: Sept. 12 – Kansas City, MO
• Region 9: Aug. 18 – New York, NY
• Region 10: Sept. 20 – Toledo, OH
• Region 11: Sept. 22 – Charlotte, NC

Membership Committee:
Katie Newton

Our membership continues to grow. We currently have roughly 560 members and will likely increase as we roll into conference season. Our membership continues to increase activity on our website and through participation in various committees. How incredible!

A few friendly reminders...

Your membership will be due for renewal on the anniversary of the date you became a member. You will receive several emails ahead of the date and a few after that can assist you in renewing your membership. If you haven't already, it's important to set the email address we use for membership emailing - stsw@wildapricot.org as a "safe contact" to ensure that our messages don't go to spam or get turned away. (Don't forget to check your spam periodically to see if there are communications from STSW.) With continuous increasing security in work organizations, some members have chosen to use their personal email address for STSW emails.

Remember that STSW membership is different than credentialing. Both have to be renewed periodically. While credentialing is renewed every three years, membership is renewed yearly. Sometimes it can be difficult to keep track of these dates. You can see your membership renewal date and your credentialing expiration date by logging into stsw.org and clicking your name in the upper right corner. This information can be found in your profile.

Frequent Question - Why is my "member since" date wrong in my STSW profile?
Unfortunately, when we switched to our new website in 2021, we were unable to pull over the original dates for members joining STSW. If you were a member prior to spring 2021, your "member since" date will have a date in May 2021. This date showing up incorrectly will not interfere with credentialing! If you know the date you joined and would like to have this information updated on the website, please feel free to send an email to membership@stsw.org.

Kidney/Pancreas Committee:
Sarah Larmore

We want to invite any social workers that work with Kidney/Pancreas transplants to our next two quarterly meetings: Tuesday, August 16th from 3-4 MST, and Wednesday, November 9, 2022, from 2-3 MST. The links and call-in information are below. During our last meeting we had a great discussion regarding patient follow-up processes across different centers, new concerns that have been trending upwards and supplemental educational materials that we could use. Reminder that you can receive a one-hour STSW educational unit that can
be used toward credentialing when you attend these meetings.

We would love to increase our membership to the committee and appreciate any ideas/involvement on a new project that we could do to enhance membership and/or advance ourselves or patient care on a larger scale (policy, research, standard of care ideas, advocacy, etc.).

There has been a new policy change expanding coverage for immunosuppressants for Medicare’s kidney transplant patients. You can review information in the Public Policy section and/or on the Kidney/Pancreas page of the website.

For those who have obtained permission for use of the Stanford Integrated Psychosocial Assessment for Transplantation (SIPAT): we have heard about some concerns about people having difficulties obtaining the most up-to-date form. You can now find it under the “Assessment Tools” page on our website.

Please feel free to email sarah.larmore@imail.org with any questions.

AUGUST Quarterly Kidney/Pancreas Meeting,
Monday, 8-16-22, from 3-4 MST.
Click here to join the meeting
Or call in (audio only) +1 385-501-4805,,593655757# United States, Salt Lake City
Phone Conference ID: 593 655 757#

NOVEMBER Quarterly Kidney/Pancreas Meeting
Wednesday, 11-9-22 from 2-3 MST.
Click here to join the meeting
Meeting ID: 231 047 711 666
Passcode: z2KeSG
Download Teams | Join on the web
Or call in (audio only)
+1 385-501-4805,,581973966# United States, Salt Lake City
Phone Conference ID: 581 973 966#

> Multicultural Committee
Daniela Matz

The Multicultural Committee is very excited about the upcoming conference! It will be so wonderful to meet in person again. We have two presentations lined up regarding specialized clinics and culturally competent care. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

> Lung Committee
Jessica Duttkin

The committee is going strong with new members joining us each time we meet! The mutual support and shared experience have been phenomenal for new and experienced social workers alike. Our committee has been meeting bimonthly for continuing education video meetings. We have discussed an interesting range of topics recently, including anxiety with vent weaning and how to work with therapy disciplines to help patients manage this.

Next meeting via Webex will be Tuesday August 16th 2-3pm CST. Topic: Psychosocial presentation at committee selection meetings. We plan to discuss how this look at each center and the differences among centers. STSW licensure CEUs are available for participation. Don’t forget to let me know if you need an attendance certificate for credentialing purposes.

Some upcoming topics are Mentoring programs and Post lung transplant patients who are struggling medically and have long admissions.

If you are interested in joining these meetings email Jessica for an invitation at jduttkin@uwhealth.org
Heart Transplant Committee
Tiffany Coco

Last quarter I spoke to the Pig Heart Xenotransplant as the first successful heart xenotransplant; however I was made aware I did not give credit to the true first successful heart xenotransplant. January 1964 Dr. James Hardy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center successfully used a chimpanzee heart which went on to beat for 90 minutes. My goal to provide the most accurate information and I should have included this important part of history. I appreciate this being called to my attention, as this is the only way to grow.

We continue to have monthly Heart Committee Zoom calls; the 4th Wednesday of each month 2pm ET, 1pm CST, 12pm Mountain, 11am AZ and Pacific time. Link is below. I am actively working to confirm a guest speaker to present a discussion on psychosocial considerations when working with the transgender population. Once confirmed, details will be placed in the Heart Group Forum on the STSW website. Reminder that a one-hour educational unit for attendance at these meetings can be used toward credentialing.

https://mchealth.zoom.us/j/99084009348pwd=Wm9Lc3hDWWFDcG5xSm9TEm5WdT1GQT09
Meeting ID: 990 8400 9348
Passcode: 797912

I love interacting with members, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at coco.tiffany@mayo.edu

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. IT DOES.” – William James

VAD / MCS Committee:
Kristin Malaer

There are lots of exciting things happening in the world of MCS social work. A focus group partnership has been created between the MCS committee members and Abbott to explore potential TJC Best Practice guidelines for MCS social workers. Two surveys will be released in the upcoming future to STSW MCS social workers: The first explores disparities and LVAD candidacy while the second explores education for new LVAD social workers. Be on the lookout for both surveys and exciting things to come as a result.

We are still having our monthly zoom call open to all MCS social workers to bounce ideas off, discuss complex cases and explore clinical topics pertaining to LVAD and MCS. The open forum call happens every month on the third Friday at 3:00 pm, CST. Check out the zoom details in the STSW Forum and the Member resources page. For those pursuing or renewing MCS credentialing, one contact hour can be awarded to educational conference call attendees to be used toward credentialing.

There is an educational opportunity coming up on August 24th from 12:00-1:00CST through Medtronic! The flyer is available in the STSW Forum or by visiting https://medtronic.zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN_furiRPHVQIidSwTGUKApgg

We are always looking for new members for our committee as there are many opportunities to get involved. If you’re interested or would like more information, please email me at Kristin.malaer@memorialhermann.org
SPOTLIGHT CORNER

We are pleased to spotlight two STSW members, Kristin Malaer and Tiffany Coco.

Kristin and Tiffany have started their own Transplant/LVAD podcast. You may already be familiar with them through the MCS and Heart Committees.

In May of this year, Kristin and Tiffany started a Podcast called Beats by Social Work. The intent of this podcast is to discuss all things Transplant and LVAD from a social work perspective and bring the human element into the world of transplant. The idea came to them while listening to different social work podcasts during some self-care time.

Tiffany and Kristin began exploring various social work/therapy geared podcasts out there. We can all agree it is nice to listen and even learn from other clinicians. It's also a good way to focus on clinical skills outside of conference, especially those days you feel like the clinical piece is lacking. While it is nice to hear others talk about the world of mental health and feel understood, transplant/LVAD social work was missing. It seemed the majority of transplant talk and LVAD talk out there was very physician and nursing coordinator focused. Even social media sites had a component of motivation/clinical humor, but nothing specific to transplant/LVAD social work, as this is such a niche. So Tiffany and Kristin decided if it didn't exist, they would create their own podcast!

Co-Hosts Kristin and Tiffany shared:

“While we appreciate the resources STSW provides to its members, especially the mentorship program, we know not everyone can go to conferences each year. We wanted to create a space for those social workers that find themselves on an island. For those who miss out on education and mentorship opportunities because the work we do is so fast paced there is not a lot of time. This allows people to listen at their leisure.

Our goal is to allow a place for other social workers in this field to feel understood, to relate, and hopefully learn or refresh in a few areas. As the field of transplant and LVAD continues to grow more centers and institutions are being established. Along with the new social workers joining our profession, there are programs out there that have experienced staff turnover. With these changes, many social workers are new to this field and may not have an opportunity to learn from those before them. Our Instagram page is meant to interact with listeners and allow listeners to interact with others. Our website is available as an additional resource to connect and feel heard.

We invite you to listen and to celebrate our work as LVAD and Transplant social workers. We hope topics discussed here may lead you to further discussions with your own patients and interdisciplinary team. We want this to be a safe space to learn, be refueled, be heard, and feel understood. We want to challenge each other to be the best we can for ourselves and our patients. We are often told what to do, but there is not always time to explore the “why” you do it.”
Check out their podcast, Beats By Social Work; new episodes released monthly through Spotify, Apple, Amazon and Pandora. Episodes and other information available at their website: https://beatsbysw.onpodium.com/ or email them at beatsbysw@gmail.com.

*Disclaimer*
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**UPDATE ON THE SIPAT**
Sarah Larmore

This year the Stanford Integrated Psychosocial Assessment for Transplant (SIPAT) was updated. We would like to give you more information about the tool and changes made.

My center, Intermountain Transplant Services, began utilizing the SIPAT in 2019. The assessment resonated with transplant staff and doctors, due to it being a research based standardized tool. In my experience, many medical providers and others in the hard sciences have been engrained with the idea that things must be peer reviewed or pass rigorous research trials to be accepted as a truth. In some cases, it can be challenging for those in the hard and soft sciences to speak the same language. We have noticed that, for our program, the SIPAT helps bridge some of the gaps. It has been a powerful tool for our social work team to be able to present our expertise alongside an instrument that is research based to give our recommendations for a patient.

Dr. Maldanado’s team was kind enough to speak with me about changes made: the scoring was amended to be more similar to the original SIPAT, making overall scores lower. The same score interpretation was kept. Some verbiage has changed, and several areas were given more precise definitions. Questions have been removed in multiple sections. The contraindication lists added subsections and additional qualifiers. The updated SIPAT includes more/newer versions of supplementary tools in the appendix, to encourage use for even more standardization of the psychological and substance use sections. Of note, it does include the MoCA; as of September 2019, certification is required to administer the MoCA test.

The 2022 version of the SIPAT has been uploaded to our website, here. Please remember that authorization for SIPAT use must be obtained prior to use.

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**HAVE YOU PUBLISHED?**

STSW continues to keep a listing of articles and other publications, authored by current and past STSW members, on this page of our website. Please keep us updated with your publications, new and older, including articles, books, chapters, or manuals. Send that information, along with the proper citation for listing, to help@stsw.org. If co-authors are current or past STSW members, please indicate that as well. Links to new publications will also be posted in this newsletter.

For questions or interest in research and publication, we encourage STSW members to reach out to our STSW Research Committee by contacting Kate Artin and/or Colleen Satarino. Katherine.artin@unchealth.unc.edu Collsata@med.umich.edu
STSW WEBSITE

Have you taken the time to peruse our website? It’s chock full of information that may be helpful for you. Our conference pages are constantly updated with information you will need to know about the upcoming October conference in Orlando. Our Credentialing pages answer many questions about eligibility, applications, renewals, and more. Open transplant social work job positions throughout the country, as well as instructions on how your institution can post a job ad can be found on our Career Announcements page. Upcoming educational opportunities nationally can be found under the Advocacy tab. Under the Member Content tab you can find specialized information about your practice area. Be involved in ongoing discussions about areas of interest by accessing our Forum. Publications on transplant issues authored by STSW members can be found here, on our newly organized (by category and author) page. And there is so much more! Get the most out of your STSW membership by taking advantage of the multiple resources available to you on these pages, www.stsw.org.

Additionally – we appreciate your updates for our webpages. Perhaps there are conferences in your area that you would like to have posted on our education / trainings page. Check to see if there updates to support groups in your area. Please submit information to help@stsw.org. We welcome your submissions.

SUGGESTIONS?

“Society Pages”, this STSW newsletter, is published three times a year, and is intended to keep you updated with current STSW issues, annual conference information, opportunities for involvement in our Society, practice issues and standards, relevant national issues and policies, publications, and more.

Are there items of interest that you would like to see discussed here? Do you have suggestions for improvement? Please reach out to Barbara Levine at help@stsw.org with your suggestions or requests.

STSW MISSION

The mission of the Society for Transplant Social Workers is to inspire and support our members as we:

- Make a difference in the lives of our patients and families
- Connect with and motivate each other
- Promote professional growth
- Collaborate to advance social work in our field.