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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear STSW members,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2022 and Happy Social Work Month! I trust that you and your colleagues are taking the time to celebrate one another and the

amazing contributions you make to your patients and centers!

I always like to think about where we were a year ago when I write to you all. When I reflect on all that we have accomplished since last year at this time, I remain inspired and proud to be a transplant social worker. We ushered in a new website all while having to make the difficult decision to convert to a Virtual Conference for the second year in a row. We had record breaking participation in our conference and had ample opportunities to connect and learn from one another.

2022 brought a few changes in our Board as a few long-standing Board members passed the baton to their Co-Chairs. **Beth Mosele, Pat Dennis, and Linda Pham** spent the last year training **Tiffany Coco, Alexandra Radomsky, and Jessica Duttkin** to take over their respective roles. **Deb Gordon** stepped into the vacant National Exhibitor Chair role just in time to help garner support for our conference last fall. Deb has agreed to stay on for another year and is on the lookout for an interested member to take over the role next year with her continued guidance. Additionally, **Anne LaFleur** is stepping down as By-Laws Chair and we are looking for someone to take on this role on the Board. We are also hoping to fill the Historian role in the coming months.

Please refer to the STSW Board section on the website for more information about open Board positions and feel free to complete the [Board Interest Form](#) that you can find on the website if you would like to join our team. We are always

looking for new talent and skills to support our growing and diverse membership!

Thank you for all you do for your patients, centers, colleagues, and yourselves. Take a minute and realize the value you bring to this work and know that your impact is immeasurable.

Molly

Molly Dugan, LCSW, CCTSW-MCS
President, STSW

2022 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Kay Kendall, National Conference Chair

The STSW Conference Committee is making great progress in planning our 37th annual conference. Plans continue for this to be a live conference in Orlando beginning on Monday, October 10th. There will not be a virtual component of the conference this year and we are so looking forward to being able to gather in person. Details about the hotel and registration for rooms are posted on the STSW [website](#). *The call for abstracts was posted and the **deadline for submission is March 28th**.* We are pleased that we have received so many abstracts.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

► Credentialing

Clif Hill, STSW VP, Chair of Credentialing

Does your credential expire in 2022?

All expiring 2022 credentials expire on *June 1, 2022*. If this is your expiration year, it is time to submit your [application for recertification](#), which you can find on the STSW website along with information about [recertification requirements](#).

Please pay close attention to the criteria for acceptable [transplant-specific CEUs and MCS-specific CEUs](#) (*scroll to bottom of webpage*). For additional MCS CEUs, also see this [page](#).

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Note that you must save your attendance certificates and STSW attestation forms, but you are no longer required to submit them with your *recertification* application. (New credential applicants must submit these forms.) For *recertification*, you are only required to submit a list of your CEUs with the credit hour(s) received. We will conduct random audits of those lists. For those submitting MCS credits – please specifically indicate which CEUs are specific to MCS.

Be aware that **June 1, 2022, is a firm deadline!** We look forward to receiving your application for re-certification at any point up to and including June 1. If you have any questions about this process, please direct them to credentialing@stsw.org.



► Heart Transplant Committee

Tiffany Coco

Heart Committee members would like to express the utmost gratitude from the bottom of our hearts (pun intended) to **Beth Mosele** for her contributions to the Heart Committee over her years as Board chair. She has left some large shoes to fill but we're so glad to know she will continue to participate in our group as an active member. I am so grateful for her mentorship during our year as co-chairs as well as her ongoing availability.

The Heart Committee continues to have monthly calls via Zoom on the *4th Wednesday of each month*, 2pm Eastern time (1pm Central; 12pm Mountain; 11am Pacific). For any fellow Arizonians, time will now be 11am. We have had some robust discussions and even discussions around ideas for potential projects. Please let Tiffany know if you have any specific topics you would like to discuss and/or if you would like to be added to the email reminder list, at Coco.tiffany@mayo.edu.

Join STSW Heart Committee Zoom Meeting

<https://mchealth.zoom.us/j/99084009348?pwd=Wm9Lc3hDWFFDcG5xSm9Tem5WdTIGQT09>

Meeting ID: 990 8400 9348

Passcode: 797912

I also want to highlight a historical event in the world of transplant but specifically related to heart. On January 7th, 2022, the first successful heart xenotransplant occurred; a genetically modified pig heart to human transplant took place at University of Maryland Medical Center. This patient was given two additional months before passing away March 8th, 2022. Condolences to his family and his transplant team. Despite opinions on this case, it was a major step towards ongoing innovation. This comes just 55 years after the world's first human to human heart transplant in Cape Town South Africa, allowing the patient 18 additional days, and 42 years after the introduction of cyclosporine to cardiac patients in 1980 (they let the kidney folks try this medication first). We look forward to continued innovations in the world of transplant, not just in the science but the continued innovation within our role as social workers.

Heart Transplant Social Work truly is a work of

HEART ♥



► Research Committee

Kate Artin, Colleen Satarino

Members of STSW Executive and Research Committee attended the first in a series of virtual Listening Sessions presented to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the topic of expanding Medicare coverage for medically necessary oral treatments on March 16. STSW has historically supported the efforts of Dr. Larry Coffee of Donated Dental Lifeline Network in his advocacy efforts for transplant patients. Please connect with your transplant nurse coordinators to identify a compelling story to share of a patient who had delayed listing or surgery related to lack of coverage for dental care. Please share stories with either Kate Artin, at

Katherine.artin@unchealth.unc.edu or Colleen Satarino at Collsata@med.umich.edu.

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▶ Public Policy Committee

Lara Tushla

There have been 3 main activities since our previous newsletter:

- CNSW Response to CMS' Request for Information as they are looking to make revisions to the Conditions of Participation. It was a very unusual request in its scope and style. View STSW's response [here](#), or email help@stsw.org for a copy.
- Attended the UNOS Regional Meeting. The topics were largely medical and technical this time.
- Listened to a CMS Listening Session hosted by Medicare Advocacy regarding expansion of dental services. (*Research Committee update, above, for more details.*)



▶ Lung Committee

Jessica Duttkin

The STSW Lung committee has had excellent participation from a core group of members providing lively discussions and mutual support during regular video meetings. The group has found the meetings so beneficial they have voted to increase meeting frequency from quarterly to bi-monthly.

February meeting topic was *Vaccine Hesitancy in Lung Transplant Candidates, Caregivers and Lung Transplant Recipients*. The group spent time discussing the challenges involved in working with lung transplant patients during the Covid pandemic. Long discussion took place around post Covid ARDS transplant patients and the approach and experiences of each center.

Next meeting Tuesday April 12 2pmCST via Webex. Topic: *Complex family dynamics-caregiver stress and patient caregiver conflicts that effect post-transplant recovery.*

If you are interested in joining these meetings, email Jessica for an invitation at jduttkin@uwhealth.org



▶ Membership Committee

Katie Newton

Our current membership is 545 members! We continue to encourage members to use our online forums as a way to connect and participate in questions and discussion with other members. Forums are located by clicking on "member content" on the home page or by going to <https://stsw.wildapricot.org/Forums>. As always, please send any membership questions to membership@stsw.org.



▶ VAD / MCS Committee

Kristin Malaer

A new educational opportunity for MCS credit is available through the American Association of Critical Care Nurses <https://www.aacn.org/education/ce-activities/nti19357/nursing-consideration-for-the-lvad-patient> Be sure to visit the MCS forum page on the STSW website to check out and add other MCS educational opportunities. We have also updated the MCS resource page to include additional resources. Our MCS open forum calls are still going strong every third Friday of the month 3:00p.m. CST. We would love to have you join us on Zoom! This month we talked about *Health Literacy and LVAD*. In April we will be discussing *Palliative Care / End of Life and LVAD-DT*.



▶ Tech Committee

Katie Newton

As more and more hospitals and organizations increase security, we encourage members to consider using a personal email for business related to STSW. We're hearing more and more that emails coming from inside hospitals are being blocked. If you are having any issues with viewing the STSW

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website from a work computer, try switching to a home computer or a smartphone. If you have an idea for something on the website or you're having any issues with the website, please feel free to send an email to tech@stsw.org



► Kidney/Pancreas Committee

Sarah Larmore

Hi Everyone! Thanks for all you've done to enhance our group this quarter! We are having quarterly virtual meetings where we can touch base with others working within the same area, learn from each other, foster relationships and talk about things affecting kidney/pancreas transplant. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4th at 5pm EST. Please email sarah.larmore@imail.org if you want the invite and also if you have any thoughts for topics to discuss. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can!



► Multicultural Committee

Daniela Matz

The Multicultural Committee sends our heartfelt thoughts and hope for peace to all people who are struggling through war and the ramifications of war all over the world.



► Living Donor Committee

Chrissi White

The **Living Donor Committee** would like to introduce our newest member; **Sidni Brown, MSW, LCSW, CCTSW**. Sidni has been a medical social worker since 2012 and a member of the transplant community since 2015. Sidni worked primarily as a pre-transplant social worker prior to joining the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) in March 2020 as their Senior Program Coordinator. Sidni has a passion for education, and while working as a transplant social worker at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, she assisted in the development and delivery of several educational programs to

promote living donation and transplant within the state of Indiana and the midwestern region.

She also worked to develop and deliver pre-transplant education to transplant candidates and their support teams. Sidni has led the operations team at NLDAC through a period of rapid expansion, as the program grew to include reimbursement of lost wages and dependent care expenses incurred by living donors, in addition to the travel expenses NLDAC has reimbursed since 2008.

The Living Donor committee continues to monitor the online forum and have quarterly meetings where we discuss a variety of topics related to living donation. The committee continues to collaborate and help each other work through unique and difficult cases. We are always looking for new members to join our committee. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Chrissi at Christine.white@adventhealth.com.

SPOTLIGHT CORNER

For this issue of *Society Pages*, we have chosen to spotlight our **STSW Mentor Program**. The following interview was held with **Alex Radomsky**, chair of our Mentor Program.

How long has the STSW Mentor Program been active? How did it come about?

The STSW Mentor Program was devised by a group of members who recognized the inherent importance of facilitating mentorship in the highly specialized field of transplant social work. As practitioners with a genuine interest in developing our shared clinical practice & advancing our field, **Nancy Arnold, Darshit Bakhai, Pat Dennis, & Anne LaFleur** convened the first "Mentor Program Training Committee" circa 2016 and created the original education and application materials. These materials have been updated over the years to ensure their contemporaneity.

What are the goals of the program?

The overarching goal of the Mentor Program is to reinforce the mission of STSW, “to inspire and support our members as we: make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families; connect with and motivate each other; promote professional growth; collaborate to advance social work in our field.” The STSW Mentor Program hopes to provide a formalized framework for experienced transplant & MCS social workers to assist and advance the clinical practice of social workers coming into our field.

Who is eligible to be mentored?

Any STSW member in good standing, who is looking for guidance, motivation, or support, may apply for participation as a mentee. A successful mentee has an interest in learning, is open to feedback, and can conceptualize their mentorship goals.

We have found that the opportunity to engage in a mentoring relationship is especially helpful to social workers who are new to the field of solid organ transplant, and/or may work as the sole social worker at their transplant center. In addition to submitting their application materials, prospective mentees must achieve a score of 80% or higher on the Training Quiz to be accepted into the program.

Who is eligible to be a mentor?

We are seeking dependable, engaged, experienced, authentic transplant/MCS social workers, with an interest in guiding others! Successful mentors have excellent listening, coaching, & feedback skills, as well as empathy, tact, and the bandwidth to commit to their partnership.

STSW members in good standing who have at least two years' transplant experience - and who are licensed at the highest [clinical] level in their respective jurisdiction - may apply to join our

program as a mentor. A CCTSW credential is not required to become a mentor, however a score of 80% or higher on the Mentor Training quiz is required. A mentor must also complete a Mentor Profile and submit a headshot for inclusion on the STSW website. Mentors choose how many mentees they have the capacity for, and this is generally one to three.

How long does the mentor / mentee partnership go on?

Generally, a Mentor-Mentee partnership will last for about one year, as research has found the positive benefits are more likely to be felt over this length of time. However, there are also times when a mentee-mentor relationship will end prior to one year, such as if the mentee's goals have been met, or if the mentee should feel they would like a new match - sometimes the first match isn't quite the right fit! A partnership can also be extended beyond one year if mutually agreed upon by both parties.

How many mentors and mentees are currently involved in our program?

At present, we have six active mentees, and thirteen total mentors. We have the current capacity to match sixteen more mentees. We are always interested in welcoming additional mentor and mentee applicants.

What is the function of the committee?

The Mentor Committee is made up of STSW members who assist with:

- Maintaining and updating mentor profiles
- Monitoring the mentor/mentee matching process
- Monitoring mentor/mentee relationships, as needed
- Updating the mentor/mentee application process as needed
- Subscribing to the forum to monitor/participate in relevant discussion threads
- Promoting the Mentor Program

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- Recruiting new mentors, mentees, and committee members

Mentor Committee members do not have to be active mentors, nor mentees. We are currently seeking new voices to join the Mentor Committee and help us continue the important work of maintaining the Mentor Program. Please reach out if you are interested!

How do mentors and mentees sign up?

Both the Mentor & Mentee application materials can be found on the STSW website at: <https://stsw.wildapricot.org/Mentor-Program>.

Because this is considered Members-Only content, you will need to be logged-in to view Mentor Profiles and/or submit an application.

Can you share a brief success story or two?

I'm happy to report that I accepted my first mentee assignment last fall; I am currently matched with a social worker who is helping to establish a new transplant program and is therefore the only social worker at her center. It has been a truly rewarding - and humbling - experience listening to her experiences and sharing my insights. While I believe wholeheartedly in the power of mentorship, I still had doubts about whether I could really be effective or make a difference as a Mentor (sneaky imposter syndrome alert!). We have a standing phone call each month when we discuss best practices, strategies for meeting regulatory requirements, psychosocial recommendations, and relevant successes & challenges in these areas.

Imagine my delight when, during our most recent call, my mentor expressed how much she has appreciated the opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship, and how vitally important it has been to her. In fact, her team is in the process of interviewing social workers to join their growing program, and she plans to encourage all future team members to not only join STSW, but to apply for an

STSW Mentor. On this same call, my mentee also asked what keeps me interested in our field: in addition to patient successes, I can confidently say the opportunity to participate as a Mentor is one of the most closely held joys I have had during my career.

As I reflect on my recent experience as a formal STSW Mentor, and the informal mentoring I often provide for new social workers at my transplant center, I also realize that mentoring carries with it an oral tradition of sorts - I find myself calling back to conversations I've had with my previous mentor and continuing many of the practices & pieces of advice I have been fortunate to learn & receive throughout my years in the field. Without mentoring, much of this first-hand expertise might not be carried forward.

What else would you like to share about the program?

Mentor & Mentee applicants receive 1 [FREE] NASW-approved CEU clock hour for completing our Mentor Program training as a part of the application process.

We'd love to ensure all transplant social workers have knowledge of & access to our program. If you are a social worker at a transplant center who would like more information about our program, we'd love to connect with you! Our committee members would be happy to schedule a virtual 'meet & greet' or Q&A with your social work staff.

Please email mentor@stsw.org with questions, or to relay your interest in the program/as a committee member.

KIDNEY DONOR ATHLETES

On March 10, World Kidney Day 2022, 22 kidney donor athletes, representing the [Kidney Donor Athlete](#) group (KDA), climbed to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro on their "One Kidney Kili Climb". "The purpose of this climb is to show people around

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the world that it's possible to thrive on one kidney," said Tracey Hulick, founder of Kidney Donor Athletes. "Something that's important to all of us is to normalize kidney donations," Patty Graham, said. "We're not heroes, we're normal people. We lead normal lives."

UPDATED RESOURCE PAGE ON STSW WEBSITE

We have cleaned up and updated the resources on the Resource page that have been there for many years! Resources are now organized by category. A helpful "Quick Links" column to the right will quickly get you to the category you need. We have formed a new committee to vet requests for listings that come in from outside sources. Take some time to check out the page [[Resources \(wildapricot.org\)](https://www.wildapricot.org)] and you are invited to suggest edits or new resources. We want this page to be a current and valuable resource to our membership. Comments and suggestions should be directed to help@stsw.org.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN TRANSPLANTATION JOURNAL

After many years of receiving the journal *Progress in Transplantation* as a benefit of our STSW membership, the publishers of the journal decided to discontinue publishing it in hard copy, and instead opted to go with an online subscription only. The registration process for the online journal was cumbersome, there were long-standing issues with customer service, and it seemed that utilization of the journal, particularly online, was limited. Taking all of these issues into consideration – including the limited use of the journal when compared to the cost for each member, the Executive Committee of the STSW Board elected to cancel our subscription to the PIT Journal effective 12/31/2021.

UPDATE ON SIPAT

For those trained in using the SIPAT (Stanford Integrated Psychosocial Assessment for Transplantation), a 2022 update is now available. Contact Dr. Maldonado at Stanford for the update.

COMMUNICATING WITH STSW

For questions related to membership, the conference, credentialing, or other concerns, here are the emails to communicate with appropriate STSW members:

- membership@stsw.org - Membership benefits questions and membership fee issues
- conference@stsw.org - Questions about present or past conference details, including code for power point downloads
- credentialing@stsw.org - Credentialing questions, such as eligibility and application processes for CCTSW, CCTSW-MCS and CCSW-MCS.
- mentor@stsw.org – Questions about mentorship
- help@stsw.org – all other general questions, issues for "Society Pages"



THE TIME IS RIGHT
FOR SOCIAL WORK

STSW wishes you
Happy Social Work Month!
March 2022

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37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 10, 2022 through

October 13, 2022

Orlando, FL

REMINDER!

We are accepting Abstracts for
2022 Presentations and Posters
(*Deadline: March 28, 2022*)

Please consider the following topic suggestions:

Diversity
Health Literacy
Social Determinants of Health
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Transplant Recipients with Guardians
Social Support
Relapse Risk Assessment
Supervision

Abstract Applications to be submitted
on the STSW website
<http://stsw.wildapricot.org/Abstract-2022>

Watch the [STSW Conference Page](#) for updates.