

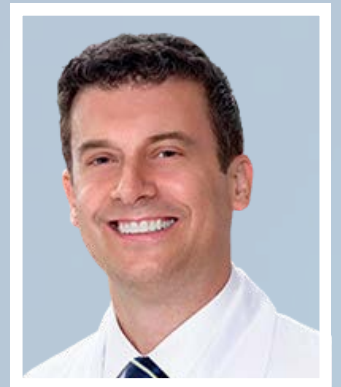


NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many of you know, ELSO hosted the **Bartlett Legacy 24-Hour Summit** on March 16th and 17th, an extraordinary tribute to the life and lasting impact of our founder, Bob Bartlett. Experts from across our chapters created a continuous 24-hour conference, bringing together voices from every corner of the world to share knowledge and innovation, making abundantly clear that Dr. Bartlett's legacy lives on through a global community that continues to push the field of ECMO forward.



We are deeply grateful to the speakers, contributors, and behind-the-scenes team who made this summit such a powerful experience. A special thank you to Nick Barrett, whose vision and leadership brought this event to life.

As we look ahead, we also want to highlight the first annual **ECMO Team Day** on May 8th (Dr. Bartlett's birthday), a day dedicated to recognizing each and every member of the ECMO team who contributes to ECMO care around the world. This year, ECMO Team Day coincides with the EuroELSO conference, and we hope many of you will join us in Dublin as we celebrate across the world. We encourage you to share the highlights of those celebrations with us on social media.

We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to the community of friends and colleagues around the world that is ELSO. We're excited for the work ahead and look forward to building on Dr. Bartlett's legacy in the years to come.

Dan Brodie, President, ELSO

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark your calendars - ECMO Team Day is May 8th!

From the bedside care team, to engineers and device developers, to researchers, innovators, and beyond, we want to celebrate *everyone* who makes ECMO happen.

ECMO is truly a team effort, and this day recognizes the incredibly diverse community that makes this lifesaving work possible. This date was chosen in honor of Dr. Bartlett's birthday, May 8th, 1939. His pioneering vision and dedication laid the foundation for the ECMO programs and innovations that continue to change lives around the world.

We're grateful for every member of the ECMO team - those delivering direct patient care, those advancing and maintaining the technology, and those driving research, education, and innovation. We also recognize the wide network of professionals who support patients and families throughout their journey, contributing expertise, coordination, and compassion at every step.

ECMO Team Day is a moment to celebrate this remarkable multidisciplinary community - and to honor Dr. Bartlett's enduring legacy that continues to shape ECMO today. Please share your plans with us via social media or email at support@elso.org. We will showcase some of the ways you and your team celebrate in the next edition of the newsletter!



CHAPTER CONFERENCES



14th Annual EuroELSO Conference

Location: Dublin, Ireland

Dates: May 6 - May 9, 2026

Website: <https://euroelso-congress.com/>



8th Annual APELSO Conference

Location: Tokyo, Japan

Dates: June 11th - June 13th, 2026

Website: <https://apelso2026.jp/>



7th Annual LATAM Conference

Location: San Jose, Costa Rica

Dates: November 5th- November 7th, 2026

Website: <https://congresosusp.com/congreso-elso/>

SWAAC ELSO
13TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE **2027**
Najran | Saudi Arabia

SWAAC ELSO Conference 2027

Location: Najran, Saudi Arabia

Dates: January 28 - February 1, 2027

Contact: info@imedidea.com



COMMITTEE ROUNDUP

ELSO Conference Committee

Registration is now open for our 2026 Annual Conference, happening September 28–October 1 at the iconic Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Planning is well underway, and our Conference Committee is crafting a dynamic scientific program designed to inform, inspire, and bring our community together.

In addition to an engaging conference experience, we're thrilled to offer a special attendee event at the world-famous Grand Ole Opry. This unforgettable evening is available as an add-on during registration, and tickets are limited, so early purchase is highly encouraged.

Join us for cutting-edge sessions, collaborative discussions, and meaningful networking—all set against the energy and charm of Music City. Don't miss your chance to be part of this exceptional event and secure your spot for a truly memorable Nashville experience.



REGISTER HERE!





Education Committee/ELSO Academy

ELSO Surveyor Training Workshop at EuroELSO 2026 – Dublin

We're pleased to announce that the ELSO Surveyor Training Workshop will be offered in conjunction with EuroELSO on May 8th in Dublin, Ireland. This in-person workshop is designed to prepare ELSO surveyors to conduct standardized, objective evaluations as part of the ELSO endorsement process. Participants will review endorsement pathways, surveyor roles/boundaries, conflict-of-interest considerations, and effective pre-survey preparation.

Seating is limited, and while registration capacity is small, we are collecting expressions of interest. If you would like to be considered for participation, please complete this interest form: <https://forms.gle/ooWrVni8p6ZH99WCA>

Upcoming Course Dates

Our Fall 2026 ELSO Simulation Center Education activities are live on ELSO Academy. We are offering a variety of Adult Simulation, Neo/Peds Simulation, and Cannulation courses. Our Spring 2027 dates will be announced in Summer 2026. Please keep an eye on the [ELSO Website](#) as well as ELSO Academy to check course dates & availability!

ELSO Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Adult Simulation Course

Ann Arbor Fall 2026 Dates: November 9-10 & November 11-12
NEXT COURSES ANTICIPATED SPRING 2027

ELSO Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Neo/Peds Simulation Course

Ann Arbor Fall 2026 Dates: October 13-14
NEXT COURSE ANTICIPATED FALL 2027

ELSO Adult ECMO Cannulation Workshop (ELSO Office - Ann Arbor MI)

Fall 2026 Dates: October 10, October 11, November 13, November 14, November 15
NEXT COURSE ANTICIPATED SPRING 2027

All Endorsed courses can be found [HERE](#)
All non-ELSO courses/events can be found [HERE](#).



Registry

ELSO Registry Updates & Upcoming Deadlines

Recent updates to the ELSO Registry went into effect on April 15, 2026, following the latest freeze. The next registry freeze is scheduled for July 15, 2026, with a data submission deadline of July 10, 2026 for inclusion in that freeze.

Updated data definitions, forms, and registry documents are available on the ELSO website [here](#).

Key [highlights from the recent update](#) include:

- Discharge information is now in the new "Hospitalizations" section
- New device type: Console devices
- Complication Failure has moved to the Equipment ML and BP sections
- Updates to the XML import structure for membrane lungs, pumps, and consoles

For registry questions, please email registrysupport@elso.org or attend the next Registry Q&A session!

Data Requests & Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC)

Updated Data Request Forms are now available! Please review and use the updated version(s) on our [website](#) for future data requests.

We are pleased to welcome our new **Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC) Co-Chairs**, Aniket Rali, Hitesh Sandhu, and Jamel Ortoleva, who will provide leadership and oversight for data requests using the ELSO Registry.

ELSO Registry Q&A Corner

The ELSO Registry Development Subcommittee held its first Registry Q&A session on March 18, 2026, with the next session scheduled for May 13, 2026. Below are a few highlights from the initial discussion. Link for the next Q&A session will be posted on ELSO's social media channels.

Q: Does every circuit exchange count as a complication?

A: No. Circuit exchange is considered a complication only when associated with a clinical issue (e.g., clot burden, mechanical failure, infection). Prophylactic exchanges are generally not classified as complications.

Q: What is the correct time of death to enter in the registry (including brain death)?

A: Always enter the official legal/medical declaration of death. For brain death, the declaration time is the time of death, even if ECMO continues or physiologic support is maintained. (Note: brain death must be entered as a complication for the ECMO run time to be entered after time of death).

Q: Is cannula repositioning considered a complication?

A: If it occurs during initial cannulation, then no repositioning would be considered part of the procedure. If repositioning is required after stabilization due to dysfunction, then it is considered a complication.



Quality Committee - Award of Excellence

The AOE Scoring Team met in Ann Arbor in early April to review submitted applications, and it was a great opportunity for our team to spend time together and engage in thoughtful, collaborative discussion.

Applicants whose centers are selected for a site visit can expect to receive communication from the AOE team at least two weeks prior to their chosen visit date with additional details and next steps. Award notifications will be sent in mid-July, and the AOE Award Ceremony will take place during the ELSO Annual Conference in September.

If you have any questions at any point in the process, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at awards@elso.org.



Tracy Morrison, Quality Chair

Publications Committee

We're excited to announce the publication of the 2025 ELSO Education Guideline in ASAIO, a major achievement for the global ECMO community. This landmark, international consensus document establishes a comprehensive framework for ECMO education, outlining best practices in curriculum design, simulation-based training, team-based learning, and ongoing competency assessment. Developed through more than a decade of collaboration among international experts, the guideline places strong emphasis on patient safety, interprofessional collaboration, and continuous quality improvement.

Read the full guideline in [ASAIO](#) to explore how it can support high-quality, standardized ECMO training programs worldwide



Visit our website for the full list of publications available [HERE](#).

Technology & Innovation Committee

Introducing the First ELSO Technology & Innovation Webinar!

Join ELSO for the inaugural Technology & Innovation Webinar on April 28th at 1PM EDT focused on Innovative Monitoring in the ICU and ECMO. This live session will spotlight how clinicians are developing and applying advanced monitoring systems and algorithms to enhance ECLS decision-making and improve patient outcomes. The webinar will feature live presentations followed by interactive Q&A.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4mDc7Sz>

Can't attend live? A recording will be available on the ELSO YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@TheELSO

Tim Maul, Technology & Innovation Chair



FELSO

FELSO is an honorary designation recognizing extraordinary contributions to the art and science of ECLS. Applications are reviewed by the FELSO Nominations Committee.

The FELSO application is currently open on our [website](#) and will remain available through June 30th. Self-nominations are not accepted.

For additional information, please contact FELSO@elso.org.

SURVEY ALLEY



Have a survey that would benefit from insight from the global ELSO community?

Share it in Survey Alley, our newsletter feature highlighting active surveys from ELSO members around the world. To submit, please have your ELSO Center's Medical Director or Coordinator send a brief 2–3 sentence summary of the survey, the primary contact and email, and a link to the survey. Email submissions to newsletter@elso.org, we look forward to showcasing your work in an upcoming issue!



LIAISON CORNER

Coordinators

Be part of the conversation! Join the Coordinators WhatsApp Group. To sign up for the group and find out more information on ELSO's WhatsApp resources, visit our [website](#). Please share what ideas and opportunities you have or would like to see what others have to share.

Coordinators play an important role in making the ECMO team work at each center. If you have topics that you would like to discuss at the annual ELSO meeting in Nashville, the Coordinators' Breakfast can be a great place to do that. Please send suggestions to: eaugust@elso.org.

Erin August, Coordinator Liaison

Perfusionists

ELSO was represented at the 2026 ABCP Liaison Panel Meeting held during the AACP Annual Meeting. Continuing education experiences from the 2025 ELSO Conference were reviewed, highlighting challenges perfusionists face in accessing CEUs beyond in-person attendance. ELSO continues to advocate for improved accessibility and value of continuing education amid declining travel and professional development funding and will continue these discussions at the next ABCP Liaison Meeting in May.

The 64th Annual AmSECT International Conference in Austin, TX was a great success. Looking ahead:

- The [AmSECT Pediatric and Congenital Perfusion Conference](#) will take place in Columbus, OH.
- The [65th AmSECT International Conference](#) will be held next year in Nashville, TN.

Perfusionists are also preparing to celebrate [Perfusion Week](#), May 1–7, 2026.

Desiree Bonadonna, Perfusion Liaison

Respiratory Therapists

The Respiratory Therapist Working Group supports and advances the role of respiratory therapists in extracorporeal life support by promoting collaboration, best practices, and evidence-based care across ECMO programs. The group meets periodically throughout the year; those interested in participating may contact John Priest at JPriest@elso.org and connect with peers through the ECMO Community Group on AARC Connect.

Upcoming AARC Meetings:

- Summer Forum: July 13–15, Bonita Springs, FL
- AARC Congress: November 14–17, New Orleans, LA

John Priest, Respiratory Therapy Liaison

CIRCUIT CHATTER

EDITION 6

EDITED BY DR. GRAEME MACLAREN & DR. GILES PEEK

WRITTEN & SUBMITTED BY:

GILES PEEK
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FL, USA

A 23-year-old patient with a single ventricle (HLHS), status-post Fontan procedure as a child, presented to the ER complaining of shortness of breath. He suffers a cardiac arrest and is successfully cannulated for ECPR with bicaval drainage and return to the femoral artery (with a distal perfusion cannula). A few days later he is awake, extubated and mobilizing around the intensive care unit. His chest X-ray is normal and his heart is ejecting, albeit with impaired systemic ventricular function. He has a left radial arterial line and seems comfortable on 3.5L/min of flow (index 1.7 L/min/m²) and 1L/min of sweep, FsO₂ 70%. His right-hand saturation monitor reads 94%. His right radial blood gas is pH 7.48, PaCO₂ 41, PaO₂ 89, BE +2, Bic 27. The night shift attending examines the patient and is concerned. He instructs the experienced ECMO specialist to reduce the sweep to 0.6l/min and add 75ml/min of CO₂ bleed in. The specialist asks the Dr if he is sure that he really wants to do this, the Dr insists and explains that he wants to stop the patient getting any more alkalotic. Over the next few hours, the patient becomes mildly distressed and tachypneic and the very slight alkalosis worsens! The radial blood gas is now pH 7.51, PaCO₂ 37, PaO₂ 95, BE +6 and Bic 29. The specialist understands the situation perfectly and draws a post membrane lung blood gas which shows pH7.27, PaCO₂ 68, PaO₂ 268, BE+5 and Bic 32.

Q: What is going on? What is this physiological conundrum? How do we fix it?

A: The patient has dual circulation. The blood ejected from the heart has been through the lungs and is perfusing the aortic arch and its branches. This is what we measure in the radial artery. The blood from the ECMO circuit is reaching the descending thoracic aorta. Reducing the sweep and adding CO₂ makes the ECMO circuit blood acidotic (respiratory acidosis). The kidneys receive this blood and try to compensate by retaining bicarbonate (compensatory metabolic alkalosis). That blood then returns to the heart and is ejected and reaches the brain which identifies the bicarbonate, and



tries to compensate by stimulating respiration to blow off more CO₂ in the lungs, which makes the alkalosis worse. The solution is to ensure that the post membrane lung blood gas has a normal pH 7.35-7.45. The kidneys will then stop compensating and then the brain will stop compensating for the kidneys. Stopping the CO₂ bleed into the sweep gas and increasing the sweep back to 1L/min fixed the problem over the next few hours. The ECMO specialist is in a difficult position when ordered to do something they know is physiologically unsound. Involving the ECMO coordinator or Director can sometimes diffuse the situation and restore normal physiology.



ELSO CHAPTER UPDATES: ECMO AROUND THE WORLD

APELSO

8th AP ELSO Annual Conference: Join us in Tokyo, June 11th-13th, 2026, for the 8th AP ELSO Conference. This meeting will bring together clinicians and researchers from across the Asia-Pacific region for scientific exchange and collaboration. Early bird registration is open until April 14th. Learn more at <https://apelso2026.jp/>



2026 AP ELSO Steering Committee: AP ELSO has transitioned to a new role-based governance structure to enhance diversity, transparency, and regional engagement. Under the leadership of President Dr. Pranya Sakiyalak and the Nomination committee leadership, over 30 colleagues from across the AP region have already expressed strong interest in participating in various committees. We look forward to working together with them and advancing AP ELSO's activities in the near future.

LATAM ELSO

Please join us for the 7th Annual LATAM Conference, being held in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2026. Up to date news and event information can be found on our website: elsolatam.net.

Fernando Antoniali, LATAM ELSO Chair





ELSO CHAPTER UPDATES: ECMO AROUND THE WORLD

SWAAC ELSO

Upcoming Webinars: SWAAC ELSO chapter is starting a series of webinars on Research Foundations starting this April. Registration is free (link below). Follow more details on our social media platforms.

<https://medconfworld.com/swaacelso-webinar-2026/>

2027 SWAAC ELSO Annual Meeting: Mark your calendar for the next annual meeting which will be held in Najran, Saudi Arabia. Pre-conference workshop will take place January 28-29, 2027 and Main conference will be held from January 30-February 1, 2027.

Huda Alfoudri, MD, SWAAC ELSO Chair

EuroELSO

2026 EuroELSO Congress: The wider faculty and EuroELSO team are delighted to invite you to join us at the next EuroELSO Congress which will be held in Dublin between 6th – 9th May 2026 with the pre-Congress meeting being held on 6th and 7th May. More information can be found on the congress website [here](#).



Mirko Belliato, EuroELSO Chair

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REMARKS

Conference Season is Upon Us

Spring is a great time for scientists, clinicians, and teams to share what they are working on and generate new ideas. For our community, EuroELSO is coming up soon with their conference in Dublin this year. SWAAC ELSO set a high bar for conference gatherings.

Bartlett Legacy 24 Hour Summit

3,225 people joined us for the virtual summit that showcased the impact of Dr. Bartlett's work: 115 speakers and moderators that followed the latest and greatest in ECMO research around the world. It was a powerful statement on the seeds Dr. Bartlett planted and the growth that lies ahead. Each chapter moderated the speakers from their region. It was truly a privilege to help support this effort. As Dan mentioned in the opening - a huge thank you to Nick Barrett for the idea and making it happen.

Webinars - Women in ECMO, Innovation & Technology, Research

Several webinars have been offered of late that bring people together in a convenient way. Thank you to those launching this work, supporting the programs, and for the many that show up and participate.

Our Future

The Global ECMO Team Day on May 8th (Dr. Bartlett's birthday) is a strong signal about what makes ELSO unique and important in the world. The patient is at the center of our work, with a collaborative, multidisciplinary team around them. Around that team are the engineers, scientists, and clinicians that continue to advance extracorporeal life support. Much work lies ahead!

The future is bright when we solve the next problem together. And we will.

Thanks for all you do and for being part of ELSO.

Christine Stead, CEO



The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization

Our Mission

Providing global leadership in extracorporeal life support through innovation, advocacy, and advancing knowledge.

Our Vision

ELSO will be the premier organization for the advancement of extracorporeal life support throughout the world.

Guiding Principles

Innovation

Seeking to identify and promote advances for the application of extracorporeal therapies.

Expertise

Bringing together world leaders in the care of critically ill patients for collaboration to advance quality of care through education and publication.

Clinical Support

Maintaining a comprehensive registry of data to assist in reducing morbidity and improving survival of patients requiring extracorporeal therapies.

Community

Fostering communication and collaboration among professionals who apply advanced technologies in the treatment of refractory organ failure.



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The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO)
3001 Miller Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103, USA

www.elseo.org

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