



# NewsLetter

## Message from the president



Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the January edition of the SWAAC ELSO newsletter and wishing you all a very happy new year.

As I approach the end of my term this spring, I will be handing over leadership to the incoming President of the SWAAC ELSO Chapter, Dr. Marlice Van Dyk from South Africa. Marlice is a dedicated clinician with a deep passion for ECMO, and I am confident that under her leadership the chapter will continue to grow, succeed, and expand its reach.

Looking at the past two years, it has been filled with achievements and meaningful progress within our chapter. The approval of the updated bylaws and the initiation of their implementation—including the election of new Steering Committee members and the establishment of additional committees—will help guide our vision of strengthening community connections and expanding ECLS services across the region.

We are pleased to welcome Pakistan as the newest country to join our chapter last month, and we look forward to connecting with and supporting their teams. We are also anticipating the inclusion of more countries in the near future, including Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. These nations have passionate and enthusiastic teams actively working to lay the foundations for ECLS services in their countries...





# NewsLetter

## Cont Message from the president



Education remains a cornerstone of our strength. We are proud to share that Qatar once again achieved endorsement for its fully comprehensive simulation course last November, having also been one of the first endorsed courses in our region during the previous endorsement cycle. This marks the seventh endorsed center within our chapter—a testament to our continued commitment to excellence in education. We are also excited about our upcoming Annual Conference, to be held next month in February in the vibrant city of Chennai. The scientific program promises to be rich and engaging, featuring pre-conference workshops, competitions such as the ECPR Premier League and ECMO Quiz, and innovative ECLS abstracts showcasing the best in research and practice.

The past year also brought sadness with the passing of Dr. Robert Bartlett, the godfather of ECMO. His legacy lives on through everything he taught us. As the saying goes, attitude is contagious—and his attitude of humility, persistence, and passion has spread across our community. He taught us to remain available to our colleagues, just as he was always available to us for guidance and support. With his passing, we enter a new phase—one that honors and sustains his legacy by ensuring that ECLS services around the globe continue to reflect the standards and values he so deeply believed in.

Warm regards,

Huda Alfoudri

President. SWAAC ELSO



# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



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# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



## Update on Committees/Subcommittees

We have recently announced the newly elected members including country representatives from Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, India, Iran, Egypt and South Africa. New chair of the education subcommittee also have been elected as well as 2 new subcommittees added ( conference and membership). We are currently awaiting the results of further elections including Research, Guidelines, and devices and technology subcommittee in addition to the treasurer, a new Saudi Arabia and UAE representative. The new members will move our chapter forward in-line with our mission.

Below are the current members:

### President

Huda Alfoudri – **Kuwait**  
[h\\_alfoudri@hotmail.com](mailto:h_alfoudri@hotmail.com)

### Past President

Poonam Kapoor - **India**  
[drpoonamaiims@gmail.com](mailto:drpoonamaiims@gmail.com)

### President Elect

Marlice van Dyk - **South Africa**  
[dr.marlice@icudoctor.co.za](mailto:dr.marlice@icudoctor.co.za)

### Chairman Standing Committee

#### Edu/ Simu/ Comm

Ahmad Labib – **Qatar**  
[ahmedlabeeb@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmedlabeeb@hotmail.com)

#### Research

Vivek Gupta- **India**  
[dr\\_vivekg@yahoo.com](mailto:dr_vivekg@yahoo.com)

#### Registry/ Protocols

Ibrahim Fawzy - **Qatar**  
[ihassan@hamad.qa](mailto:ihassan@hamad.qa)

#### Devices & Tech

Mohamed Azzam – **Saudi Arabia**  
[mohamed.azzam77@me.com](mailto:mohamed.azzam77@me.com)

#### Conference

Mohamed Azzam – **Saudi Arabia**  
[mohamed.azzam77@me.com](mailto:mohamed.azzam77@me.com)

#### Membership

Nazar Bukamel - **Bahrain**  
[nbukamal@mkcc.bh](mailto:nbukamal@mkcc.bh)

#### Treasurer

To be determined

#### Secretary

Pranay Oza - **India**  
[Drpranay.oza@gmail.com](mailto:Drpranay.oza@gmail.com)

### Members At Large

Vinod Singh	<b>India</b>	<a href="mailto:vinodksingh66@yahoo.co.in">vinodksingh66@yahoo.co.in</a>
Grace Van Leeuwen	<b>Qatar</b>	<a href="mailto:gvanleeuwe@sidra.org">gvanleeuwe@sidra.org</a>
Mohammed Shamsah	<b>Kuwait</b>	<a href="mailto:Mashamsa@yahoo.com">Mashamsa@yahoo.com</a>
Ala Al Lawati	<b>Oman</b>	<a href="mailto:Ala.allawati@icloud.com">Ala.allawati@icloud.com</a>
Mohamed Azzam	<b>KSA</b>	<a href="mailto:mohamed.azzam77@me.com">mohamed.azzam77@me.com</a>
Alia Abdulfattah	<b>Egypt</b>	<a href="mailto:dr.aliafattah@gmail.com">dr.aliafattah@gmail.com</a>
Brahim Housni	<b>Morocco</b>	<a href="mailto:Brahim.housni@ump.ac.ma">Brahim.housni@ump.ac.ma</a>
Timur Lesbekov	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<a href="mailto:lesbekov@mail.ru">lesbekov@mail.ru</a>
Mohamad Amin Gorji Mahlabani	<b>Iran</b>	<a href="mailto:mahlab92@gmail.com">mahlab92@gmail.com</a>
Jana Assy	<b>Lebanon</b>	<a href="mailto:jana.assy101@gmail.com">jana.assy101@gmail.com</a>
Norbert Welkovics	<b>South Africa</b>	<a href="mailto:Diewelk@mweb.co.za">Diewelk@mweb.co.za</a>
Vivek Kakar	<b>UAE</b>	<a href="mailto:KakarV@clevelandclinicabudhabi.ae">KakarV@clevelandclinicabudhabi.ae</a>
Nazar Abdulrahman Bukamal	<b>Bahrain</b>	<a href="mailto:nbukamal@mkcc.bh">nbukamal@mkcc.bh</a>
Bijoy Rajbanshi	<b>Nepal</b>	<a href="mailto:bijoy.rajbanshi@nepalmediciti.com">bijoy.rajbanshi@nepalmediciti.com</a>
Tolusha Harischandra	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<a href="mailto:tolushah@gmail.com">tolushah@gmail.com</a>



# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



## News and Updates



SWAAC ELSO 2024  
CROSSING BOUNDARIES

10<sup>th</sup> SWAAC ELSO 2024 lectures free access is available for the whole extracorporeal life support community. To access the lectures, register through this link [CLICK HERE](#) and you will receive a personalized access code that you can use to enter the material through the [SWAACELSO2024](#) website.



11<sup>th</sup> SWAAC ELSO 2025 scientific podcast playlist hosting global ECLS specialists. The collection of podcasts showcase important elements in the field within the chapter. Stay tuned and check the [playlist here](#)



SWAAC ELSO chapter application was launched in February 2025 during the 11<sup>th</sup> SWAAC ELSO Conference. You will find useful information about the chapter in the app. Download it on



Members of the SWAAC ELSO Chapter continue to make significant contributions to the medical and scientific community, serving as a source of pride for us all. Their efforts drive advancements in patient care and reinforce our commitment to delivering cutting-edge treatments. Go to [page 17](#) for the chapter member publications.



12<sup>th</sup> SWAAC ELSO Conference is inviting you to participate in the annual meeting taking place in Chennai, India. Visit [page 7](#) for more information for registration and conference events.



SWAAC ELSO Chapter bylaws have been approved and published in the ELSO website. [Click here](#) to view them.



[Click here to answer](#) the Survey on Designing and Building Optimized ECMO ICU Room: A Roadmap to Standardization and Innovation



Stay tuned for the upcoming SWAAC research webinar series organized by the Edu/Simm/Comm committee this year. Keep a close eye on the SWAAC ELSO social media for news on schedule and registration.



## ELSO Endorsed Courses

We are pleased to announce that one more course has been awarded ELSO endorsement which is the Qatar HMC course as fully comprehensive adult ECMO simulation course. This will strengthen our chapter educational front and provide more structured training opportunities to our community.

The following is the list of the **ELSO ENDORSED COURSES** in SWAAC ELSO region:

1. Mumbai, India - **ECMO Training Course**
2. Kuwait - **Al-Adan Comprehensive Adult ECMO Simulation Course**
3. Cairo, Egypt - **ECMO EXPERTS COMPREHENSIVE Made Easy Course**
4. Abu Dhabi, UAE. - **Adult ECMO Comprehensive Simulation Based Course**
5. Najran, Saudi Arabia - **Najran ECMO course**
6. Gurugram, India - **Fortis Memorial Research Institute: Adult ECMO Comprehensive Simulation Based Course**
7. Doha, Qatar – **Hamad Medical Corporation: Adult ECMO Comprehensive Simulation Based Course**

You can apply to any of these course and this will qualify as step 1 and 2 in the pathway to obtaining the ELSO Adult ECMO Practitioner Certification (E-AEC).

Please visit the ELSO website for more details : <https://www.elso.org/ecmo-education/certificationexam.aspx>

## Upcoming SWAAC region ECMO courses:

The following are ECMO courses within the SWAAC ELSO Chapter:

- Saudi ECMO Adult Course, **Dammam, KSA**
  - 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
**For registration, click [Confregform App – Login](#)**  
**For more information, Visit [www.saudiecmo.com](http://www.saudiecmo.com)**
- Adult ECMO Comprehensive Simulation Based Course, **Doha Qatar – ELSO Endorsed**
  - 19<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026  
**For more information contact [itqan@hamad.qa](mailto:itqan@hamad.qa)**
- Aladan comprehensive Adult ECMO Simulation Course, Aladan hospital, **Kuwait – ELSO Endorsed**
  - 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
**For information visit <https://ecmocenterkw.com/my>**



# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER

## SWAAC ELSO conference 2026



We're excited to share the upcoming **12<sup>th</sup> SWAAC ELSO Annual Conference 2026** with you, which will be held in **Chennai India**, from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2026. Mark your calendars and enjoy the Beauty, culture, and colors of Chennai. Contact information: **+91 72999 45044** <https://www.swaacelso26.com>



Chennai, a hub of cultural heritage and medical excellence, hosts the premier ECMO conference of 2026

SOUTH WEST ASIA & AFRICA CHAPTER

# SWAAC ELSO

## 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

&

## 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### ECMO SOCIETY OF INDIA 2026

**EDUCATE LIBERATE SUSTAIN OUTSHINE**

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February | Chennai | India

**EARLY BIRD**



**REGISTER NOW**



**Feb 5<sup>th</sup>**

- ECMO Cannulation,
- Advanced VA & VV ECMO
- Basic workshop for paramedics

**Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

- ECPR
- Paediatric ECMO

**Join the ECMO Revolution**

For more details, please get in touch  
**+91 99948 97275 | swaacindia2026@gmail.com**

**"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."**



SOUTH WEST ASIA & AFRICA CHAPTER

## SWAAC ELSO

### ESOI CONFERENCE 2026

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February | Chennai | India

## ADVANCED ADULT ECMO WORKSHOP

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## BASIC ECMO WORKSHOP

Hands-On Training for ECMO Beginners

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai

## ECMO CANNULATION WORKSHOP

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai

## ADVANCED PAEDIATRIC & NEONATAL ECMO SIMULATION WORKSHOP

Designed to prepare you for the toughest ECMO challenges in paediatric & neonatal care

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai



## ECPR & CIRCULATORY SHOCK WORKSHOP

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai

**REGISTER NOW**



**Incredible India Munnar**

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# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



## Qatar Comprehensive ECMO Course

Highlights from The Qatar's Comprehensive ECMO course conducted by Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha Qatar, Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025

The HMC ECMO courses were one of the first courses to get endorsement in our chapter in the previous endorsement cycle and have recently been combined to produce a fully comprehensive course covering both adult VV and VA as well as pediatric ECMO in a state-of-the-art ITQAN simulation center in Doha/ Qatar. Delegates included ECMO team members from Lebanon, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and China.





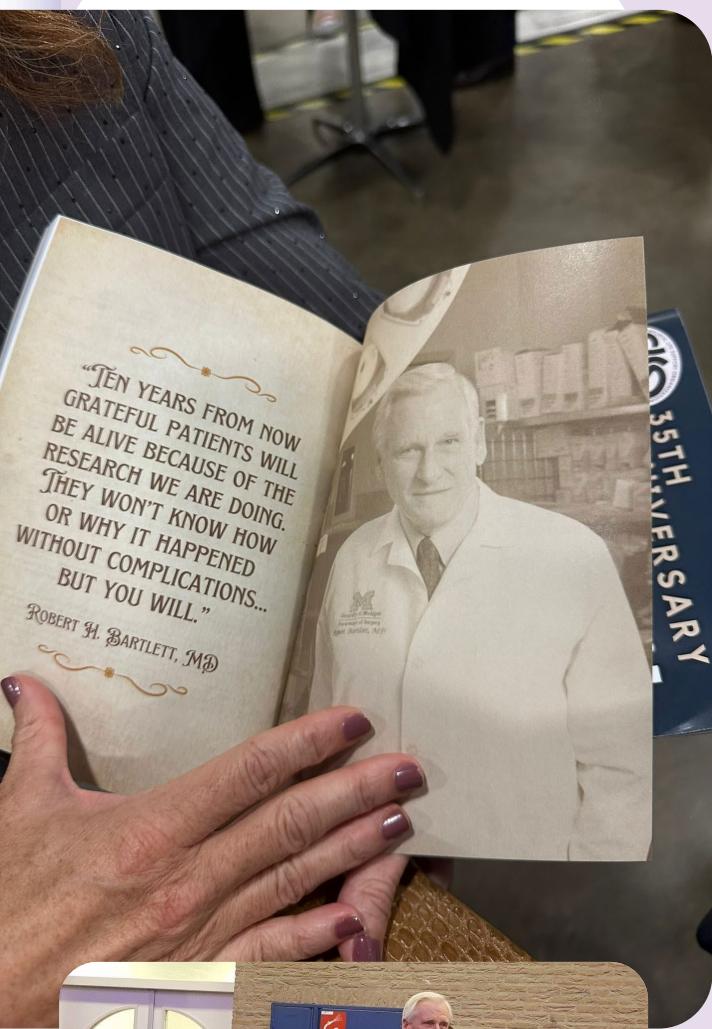
## Aladan Comprehensive ECMO Simulation Course

Highlights from Aladan comprehensive ECMO Simulation course held in Kuwait, training teams from Iraq and Pakistan. 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026





## Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)



With profound sorrow, the SWAAC ELSO community mourned the passing of Professor Robert Bartlett, the Father of ECMO last October. A visionary physician, scientist, and humanitarian, Dr. Bartlett's pioneering work in extracorporeal life support has saved countless lives and transformed critical care medicine worldwide. Beyond his groundbreaking contributions, he was known for his humility, kindness, and unwavering dedication to healing.

His legacy lives on in every life touched by ECMO, in every clinician he inspired, and in the spirit of collaboration he fostered across nations. Dr. Bartlett didn't just advance science—he embodied compassion, and he reminded us that medicine is ultimately about the preservation of life and dignity.

A true gentleman, a brilliant mind, and an eternal researcher. His impact will resonate for generations. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and to all who had the honor of learning from and working beside him.

Rest in peace, Dr. Bartlett.  
Your legacy is eternal.  
SWAAC ELSO



# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER

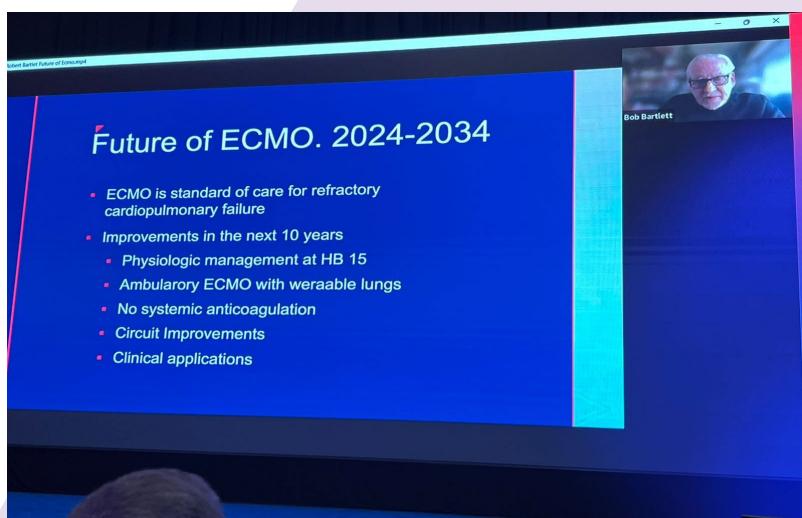


## Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)

### Dr Bartlett's continuous education talks:

As part of SWAAC ELSO initiative to provide free access to education, see below the link for 2 of Dr Bartlett's lectures that he gave during the SWAAC ELSO 10th annual conference held in Kuwait in February 2024.

- [Challenges in Establishing ECMO](#)
- [Where Is the Future Heading?](#)





# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER

## Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)



*Always there for us,*

*From  
the  
Start*



*Even when far*



# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER

## Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)



*Throughout*



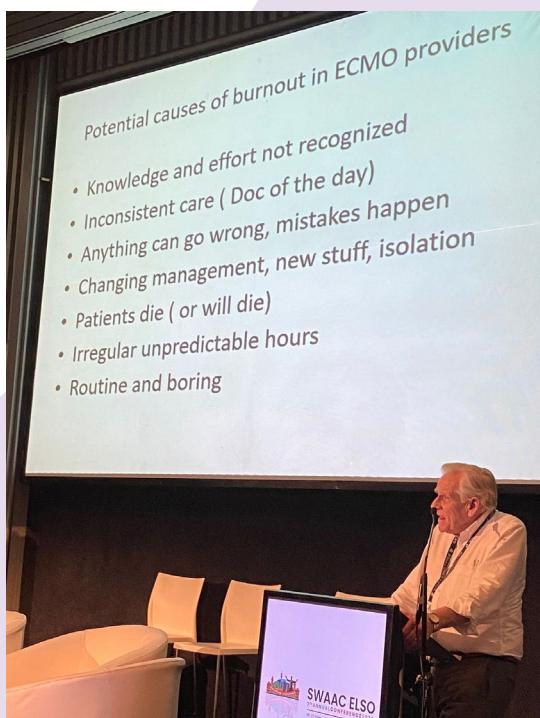


## Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)

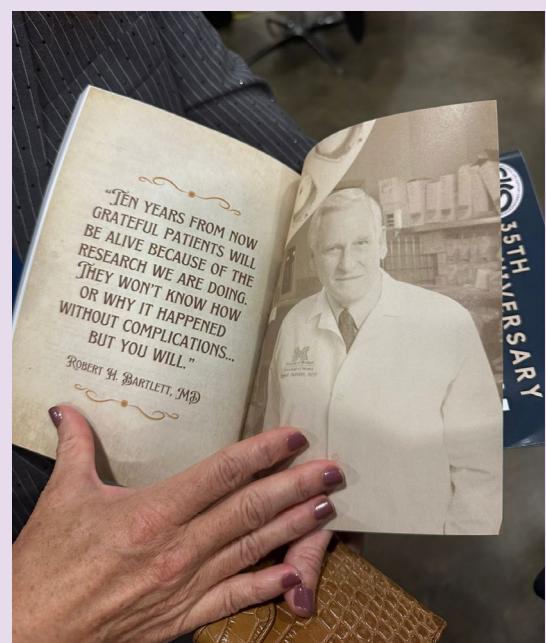
### Sustaining the Genius of Persistence:

"It's easy to look back and think that there was a brilliant plan. But it wasn't that at all...We started out to solve a problem, and then another, and then another. It was just persistence, sticking with a problem until it was solved, with a big team of people, with some phenomenal researchers, trying to keep people alive who were going to die."

Robert Hawes Bartlett, M.D.  
Professor of Surgery



*Great messages*





# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



## Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)



*Your legacy will live on through all of us*



*You will be  
remembered*



# SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



## Awards of excellence

We congratulate the new centres that have been awarded with ELSO's award of Excellence in the past two years:

### Platinum Award of Excellence:



- King Saud Medical City, member of Riyadh First Health Cluster  
*Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 2026*
- Riyadh Second Health Cluster – Ministry of Health  
*Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 2026 - 2028*

### Gold Award of Excellence:



- Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi  
*Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates – 2026*
- King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre  
*Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 2026*
- Kuwait Extracorporeal Life Support Program  
*Kuwait city , Kuwait – 2026*
- Riddhi Vinayak Critical Care and Cardiac Centre  
*Mumbai, India – 2027*
- Hamad Medical Corporation  
*Doha, Qatar – 2027*
- Sheikh Khalifa Medical Center  
*Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates – 2027*
- King Khalid Hospital  
*Najran, Saudi Arabia – 2026 - 2028*



### Silver Award of Excellence:

- Sidra Medicine  
*Doha, Qatar - 2025*

We look forward to more centers achieving the award in the near future.



## SWAAC ELSO Chapter Publications



The following are Guidelines and publications with contributions from SWAAC ELSO members:

- Thrush AH, Tylor S, Ghisulal PK, Kakar V. Development and application of a novel framework for mobility & rehabilitation under support of extracorporeal life support: The MUSECLS framework. *Perfusion*. 2025 Nov 10:2676591251394851. doi: [10.1177/02676591251394851](https://doi.org/10.1177/02676591251394851).
- Assy J, Di Nardo M, El Rassi I. Peripheral veno-arterial ECMO cannulation in children: Review of the relevant ELSO publications. *Perfusion*. 2025 Dec 8:2676591251407295. doi: [10.1177/02676591251407295](https://doi.org/10.1177/02676591251407295). Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41358522.
- Delta-P as an early indicator of oxygenator failure: the case for standardized manufacturer reference values Salman Pervaiz Butt, Salman Abdulaziz, Ashwaq Mahdaly, Nabeel Razzaq, Drisya Paul, Umer Darr and Gopal Bhatnagar *J Extra Corpor Technol*, 57 4 (2025) 292-293 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1051/ject/2025039>
- Evolution of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation: historical milestones and advanced developments Lajos Szentgyorgyi, Salman Pervaiz Butt and Bhuvaneswari Krishnamoorthy *J Extra Corpor Technol*, 57 4 (2025) 243-262 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1051/ject/2025033>
- Redefining the role of perfusionists in ECMO: from technical operators to clinical stakeholders Salman Pervaiz Butt, Salman Abdulaziz, Nabeel Razzaq, Arun Kumar, Fazil Ashiq, Umer Darr and Gopal Bhatnagar *J Extra Corpor Technol*, 57 4 (2025) 287-289 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1051/ject/2025046>
- Eltahir M, Fawzy I, Ibrahim AS, Ibrahim EA, Mazhar R, Shallik NAE, El-Menyar A, Shehata AL. Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support in patients with difficult airway management: Case series of 13 patients. *World J Crit Care Med* 2025; 14(4): 106027 [PMID: [41377551](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41377551/) DOI: [10.5492/wjccm.v14.i4.106027](https://doi.org/10.5492/wjccm.v14.i4.106027)]
- Diagnostic Pathways for Refractory Hypoxemia in ECMO: A Case-Based Troubleshooting Approach, Faten Farid Awdallah, Adel Amin Shehata, Akram Ibrahim Younes, Mohammed Habib Miny and Afnan Almalki DOI: [10.5772/intechopen.1014307](https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.1014307)
- Douflé G, O'Neil ER, Abreu S, Aljassim NA, Di Nardo M, Obonyo NG, Pinzon V, Price S, Ramanathan K, Balik M. Ultrasound in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation: An ELSO State-of-the-Art Review. *ASAIO J*. 2026 Feb;72(2):85–98. doi: [10.1097/MAT.0000000000002656](https://doi.org/10.1097/MAT.0000000000002656). Epub 2026 Jan 22. PMID: PMC12829505.



## ELSO Guidelines and publications

The following are ELSO Guidelines and publications with contributions from SWAAC ELSO members:

- Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO): 2020 Pediatric Respiratory ELSO Guideline
  - [ASAIO Journal](#) (Contributed as an Author: Dr van Leeuwen, Grace)
- Extracorporeal Life Support Organization Guidelines for the Provision and Assessment of Nutritional Support in the Neonatal and Pediatric ECMO Patient:
  - [https://journals.lww.com/asaiojournal/Fulltext/2022/07000/Extracorporeal\\_Life\\_Support\\_Organization.1.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/asaiojournal/Fulltext/2022/07000/Extracorporeal_Life_Support_Organization.1.aspx) (Contributed as an Author: Dr. Tala Al Dabbous)
- Extracorporeal Life Support Organization Guideline for Transport and Retrieval of Adult and Pediatric Patients with ECMO Support
  - [https://journals.lww.com/asaiojournal/Fulltext/2022/04000/Extracorporeal\\_Life\\_Support\\_Organization\\_Guideline.1.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/asaiojournal/Fulltext/2022/04000/Extracorporeal_Life_Support_Organization_Guideline.1.aspx) (Contributed as an Author: Dr. Ahmed Labib)
- Extracorporeal Life Support: The ELSO Red Book 6<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - <https://www.elso.org/Publications.aspx> (SWAAC ELSO contributors: Dr. Ahmed Labib, Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi)
- 10th SWAAC Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (SWAAC ELSO) 2024 Conference Abstracts, Kuwait City, Kuwait, February 15th–17th, 2024
  - [10th SWAAC Extracorporeal Life Support Organization \(SWAAC ELSO\) 2024 Conference Abstracts, Kuwait City, Kuwait, February 15th–17th, 2024 : ASAIO Journal \(lww.com\)](#)
- Blood transfusion during extracorporeal membrane oxygenation: An ELSO Position Statement
  - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39024410/> (Members from SWAAC ELSO region Contributed as an Authors)
- 35<sup>th</sup> Annual ELSO Conference supplemental abstracts publications – Oct 2024
  - [September-October 2024 - Volume 70 - Issue Supplement 4 : ASAIO Journal](#)
- Extracorporeal Life Support Organization 2024 Guideline for Early Rehabilitation or Mobilization of Adult Patients on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation
  - [Extracorporeal Life Support Organization 2024 Guideline for Early Rehabilitation or Mobilization of Adult Patients on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation – PubMed](#) (SWAAC ELSO contributors: Dr. Ahmed Labib)
- ELSO 2025 Narrative Guidelines on Pregnant and peripartum Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
  - [ELSO 2025 Narrative Guidelines on Pregnant and peripartum Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation in ASAIO journal](#)
  - (SWAAC ELSO contributors: Dr. Ahmed Labib)



## Cont ELSO Guidelines and publications

- 2025 ELSO Consensus Statement for the Provision and Management of Nutrition Therapy in Critically Ill Adult Patients Requiring Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation
  - [https://journals.lww.com/asaiojournal/fulltext/2026/02000/2025\\_elso\\_consensus\\_statement\\_for\\_the\\_provision.2.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/asaiojournal/fulltext/2026/02000/2025_elso_consensus_statement_for_the_provision.2.aspx) (Contributed as an Author: Dr. Tala Al Dabbous)
- 11<sup>th</sup> SWAAC Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (SWAAC ELSO) 2025 Conference Abstracts, Abu Dhabi, UAE, November 2025
  - [October 2025 - Volume 71 - Issue Supplement 6 : ASAIO Journal](#)

You can view all ELSO guidelines on the following link: <https://www.elso.org/ecmo-resources/elso-ecmo-guidelines.aspx>

You can view ELSO publications on the following link: <https://www.elso.org/Publications.aspx>

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