



NewsLetter

Message from the president



Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the January edition of the SWAACELSO 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 SWAACELSO 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



Highlights of this issue

Page 1 - 2:	Message from the president
Page 3:	Highlights of this issue
Page 4:	Updates on Committees and Subcommittees
Page 5:	News and Updates
Page 6:	ELSO Endorsed courses and upcoming SWAAC region ECMO courses
Page 7:	SWAAC ELSO Conference 2026
Page 8:	Highlights from Qatar's ECMO Course
Page 9:	Highlights from Aladan ECMO Course
Page 10 - 15:	Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett
Page 16:	Awards of Excellence
Page 17:	SWAAC ELSO Chapter Publications
Page 18 - 19:	ELSO Guidelines and publications



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

Past President

Poonam Kapoor - **India**
drpoonamaims@gmail.com

President Elect

Marlice van Dyk - **South Africa**
dr.marlice@icudoctor.co.za

Chairman Standing Committee

Edu/ Simu/ Comm

Ahmad Labib – **Qatar**
ahmedlabeeb@hotmail.com

Research

Vivek Gupta- **India**
dr_vivekg@yahoo.com

Registry/ Protocols

Ibrahim Fawzy - **Qatar**
ihassan@hamad.qa

Devices & Tech

Mohamed Azzam – **Saudi Arabia**
mohamed.azzam77@me.com

Conference

Mohamed Azzam – **Saudi Arabia**
mohamed.azzam77@me.com

Membership

Nazar Bukamel - **Bahrain**
nbukamal@mkcc.bh

Treasurer

To be determined

Secretary

Pranay Oza - **India**
Drpranay.oza@gmail.com

Members At Large

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



SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER



News and Updates



SWAAC ELSO 2024
CROSSING BOUNDARIES

10th 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.

SWAAC ELSO
11TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE **2025**
EMPOWER - DRIVE - INNOVATE - ADVANCE

11th 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 11th 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.



12th 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.else.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**
 - 16th – 18th April 2026
 - For registration, click [Confregform App – Login](#)**
 - For more information, Visit www.saudiecmo.com**
- Adult ECMO Comprehensive Simulation Based Course, **Doha Qatar** – ELSO Endorsed
 - 19th -23rd April 2026
 - For more information contact itqan@hamad.qa**
- Aladan comprehensive Adult ECMO Simulation Course, Aladan hospital, **Kuwait** – ELSO Endorsed
 - 24th – 26th May 2026
 - For information visit <https://ecmocenterkw.com/my>**



SWAAC ELSO NEWSLETTER

SWAAC ELSO conference 2026

We're excited to share the upcoming **12th SWAAC ELSO Annual Conference 2026** with you, which will be held in **Chennai India**, from the 5th – 8th 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

12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

&

15TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ECMO SOCIETY OF INDIA 2026

EDUCATE LIBERATE SUSTAIN OUTSHINE

5th - 8th February | Chennai | India



EARLY BIRD

REGISTER NOW



5th Feb

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

6th Feb

- ECPR
- Paediatric ECMO

WORKSHOP

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

5th - 8th February | Chennai | India

ADVANCED ADULT ECMO WORKSHOP

February 5th, 2026

BASIC ECMO WORKSHOP

Hands-On Training for ECMO Beginners

February 5th, 2026
MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai

ECMO CANNULATION WORKSHOP

February 5th, 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 6th, 2026
MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai

ECPR & CIRCULATORY SHOCK WORKSHOP

February 6th, 2026
MGM HEALTH CARE, Chennai

REGISTER NOW





Incredible India
Munnar

+91 99948 97275 / 94449 81797 | swaacindia2026@gmail.com



Qatar Comprehensive ECMO Course

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

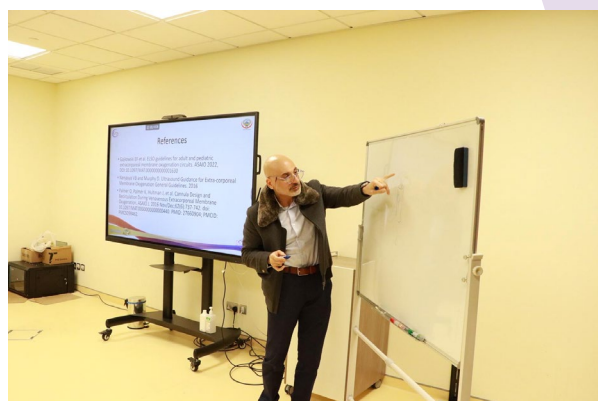
The HMC ECMO courses were one of the first courses to get endorsement in our chapter in the previous endorsement cycle and have recently been combined to produce a fully comprehensive course covering both adult VV and VA as well as pediatric ECMO in a state-of-the-art ITQAN simulation center in Doha/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





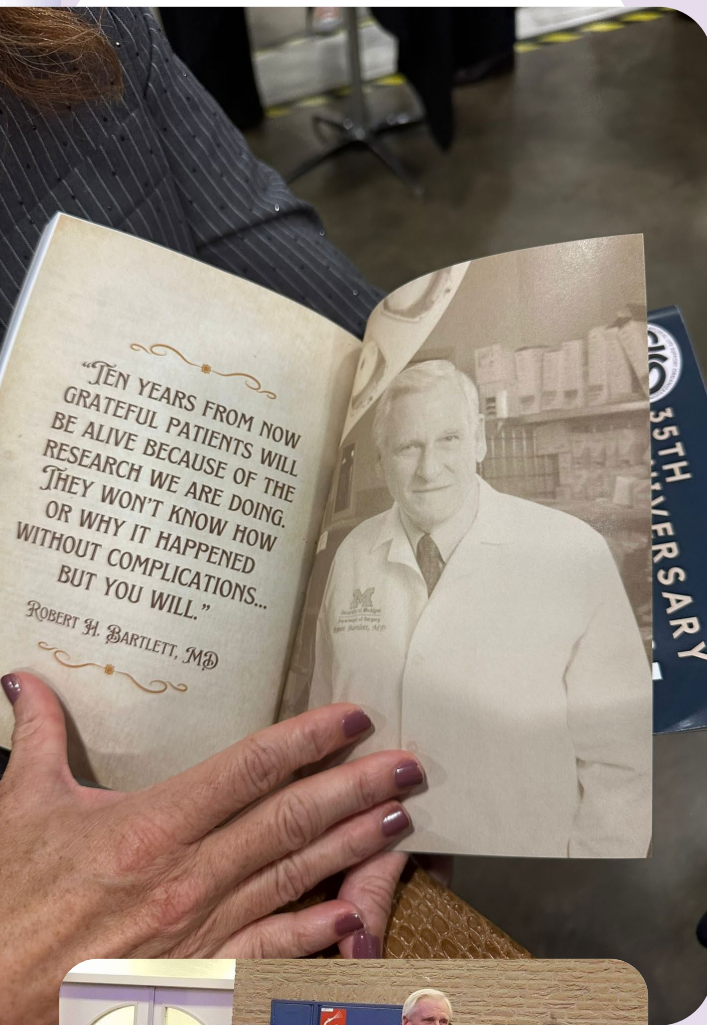
Aladan Comprehensive ECMO Simulation Course

Highlights from Aladan comprehensive ECMO Simulation course held in Kuwait, training teams from Iraq and Pakistan. 18th – 20th 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



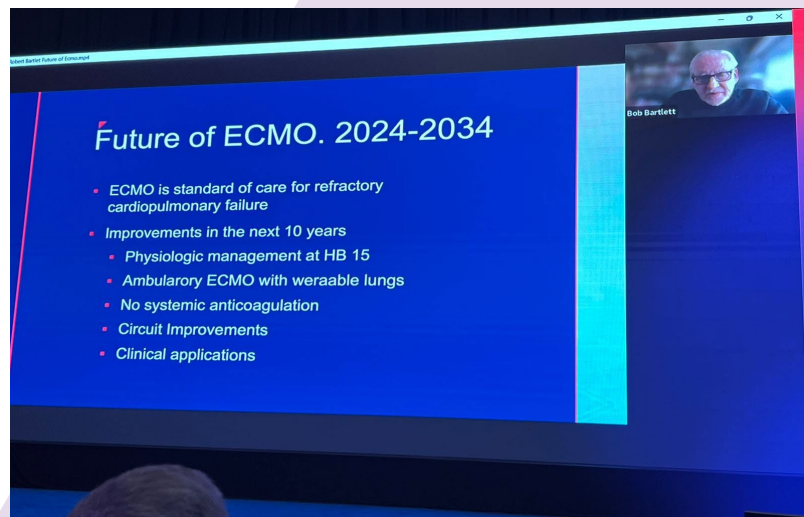


Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)

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?](#)



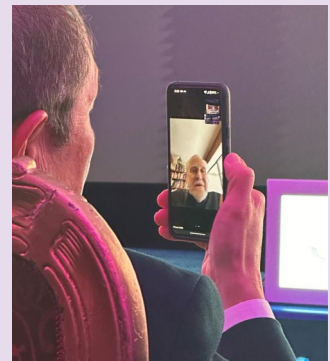


Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)



Always there for us,

*From
the
Start*



Even when far



Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)



Throughout



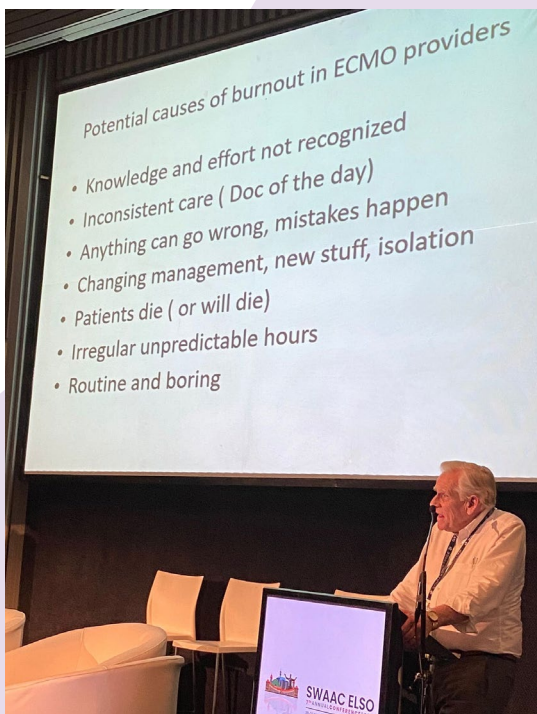


Memoriam: Professor Robert Bartlett (1939 – 2025)

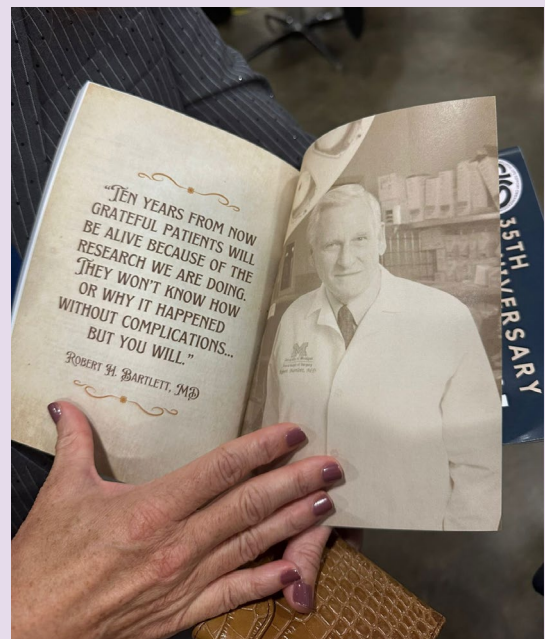
Sustaining the Genius of Persistence:

"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





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 Bhuvanewari 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, Shehatta 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. PMCID: 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 (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 (Contributed as an Author: Dr. Ahmed Labib)
- Extracorporeal Life Support: The ELSO Red Book 6th Edition
 - <https://www.else.org/Publications.aspx> (SWAAC ELSO contributors: Dr. Ahmed Labib, Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi)
- 10th SWAAC Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (SWAACELSO) 2024 Conference Abstracts, Kuwait City, Kuwait, February 15th–17th, 2024
 - [10th SWAAC Extracorporeal Life Support Organization \(SWAACELSO\) : 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)
- 35th 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 (Contributed as an Author: Dr. Tala Al Dabbous)
- 11th SWAAC Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (SWAACELSO) 2025 Conference Abstracts, Abudhabi, 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>

Please email swaacelsonnewsletter@gmail.com for any courses, publications, or events to be added in future newsletters.