

President Elect (unopposed)

Christiane Kugler RN, PhD

Associate Professor

University of Witten, Faculty for Health, Witten, Germany

Division of Cardiac, Thoracic, Transplantation and

Vascular Surgery, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany

In 2001, I joined the field of transplant nursing at the Hannover Transplant Program, Hannover, Germany. Since transplantation is a unique experience for the individual and its family members we developed a structure for psychosocial counselling and support, and continuing patient education for patients within all stages of the transplant process. One of my first steps was to join the ITNS for continuing education and experience exchange: so I became an active ITNS member. On my professional path I finalized my PhD in 2006, spent a part of my post-doc at UCSF, and became an active member of the Integrated Research and Treatment Center Transplantation at the Hannover Medical School in 2008. Since 2010 I became appointed as an Associate Professor. During this period, I met with many nurses from other countries and learned from their expertise, served as co-author for the recently published Core Curriculum for Transplant Nurses, and became an ITNS board member in 2007.

Serving as an ITNS board member I feel deeply dedicated to the mission and goals of the society to promote excellence in the clinical field of transplant nursing by providing educational and professional growth opportunities, interdisciplinary networking and collaborative activities and transplant nursing research. To expand the international transplant nurses network, we initiated and will continue to provide regular educational offerings for the European membership, support interdisciplinary networking and collaborative activities, and contribute in transplant nursing research. My interest in serving as the ITNS president elect is my special dedication to the society, its members and its goals.

Director - Chapter Development (2 candidates)

Judy Gierlach RN, BSN, CCTN

Clinical Transplant Coordinator

University of Rochester, Rochester, New York USA

Judy obtained her diploma in Nursing from St. Joseph's Health Center in Syracuse, NY in 1987. In 1989 she graduated with her Bachelor's of Science from SUNY Institute of Technology, Utica, NY.

In 1997 Judy started her transplant career at University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY. While there she worked in an acute care setting as a nurse leader caring for patients and families going through liver, kidney and kidney pancreas transplants. In 2007 Judy transitioned to the outpatient setting as a clinical research coordinator and is now a clinical transplant coordinator. Judy was the first acute care nurse at University of Rochester to take the CCTN exam and became certified in Transplant Nursing.

Judy became president of the Upstate NY Chapter in 2008 and is still involved at that level. Judy has assisted in re-developing the Upstate New Chapter of ITNS in the past couple of years. Prior to this time the membership had dropped and within the past few years membership has increased. Judy has assisted in coordinating an Annual Symposium for Transplant Nurses, with this year being the third Annual event. Judy has also helped in reaching out to the neighboring transplant centers and this year is planning events in both Buffalo and Syracuse to help reach new members.

Judy is interested in serving on the ITNS Board of Directors to continue her active participation in ITNS and to further promote transplant nursing.

Mary L. Herster MS, BA, RN

Manager Patient Care Services

University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland USA

With the diversified workforce in health care today, new strategies are needed to engage transplant nurses in the benefits of ITNS membership and participation at the local chapter level. As evidenced in small business development, the challenges of forming a new chapter and sustaining a new chapter through the first 5 years are critical to the long term success. Local Chapters need resources to help identify best strategies for leadership development, and problem solving strategies to address the issues and concerns of sustaining participatory members in a challenged economic environment.

As a member of ITNS since 2002, I have served as the Organizational Chair for the Greater Chesapeake Chapter located in Baltimore, Maryland. I have held the President-Elect and President role in the chapter's four year existence and am currently serving in an extended President Emeritus role. I have been an active member attending and presenting at ITNS symposiums, and serving on the ITNS Research Council. I have been the Manager of Patient Care Services for the abdominal transplantation IMC unit at the University of Maryland Medical Center for 14 years. I am clinically active at the bedside teaching and mentoring students as well as new transplant nurses. I will be returning to school part-time for my PhD in the fall, 2012.

As the Director of Chapter Development for ITNS, I would like to develop a more personal relationship with local ITNS leadership teams. My goals would include; to assist local chapters to identify a strategic plan that is data driven; to plan for chapter growth and development based on the specific chapter's learning needs, member dynamics and type of transplant center services offered to that geographic region; assist local chapters in the use of technology to provide more diversified communication and interactive forums for members; to share successful strategies with the larger International membership through the current website and newsletter forums; and finally to facilitate the timely submission of the semi-annual report that celebrates the growth and successes of the local chapters.

International Director (2 Candidates)

Joanna Routledge-Gajadhar, RGN PG Dip

Liver Transplant Coordinator
King's College Hospital, London United Kingdom

My current position is at King's College Hospital, London as Liver Transplant Coordinator and over the last 17 years, I have accumulated a wealth of experience in transplantation working on this unit.

In addition to initially qualifying as a Registered Nurse in 1992, I have completed various clinical courses, a Management Course and Diploma in Critical Care Nursing. In 2009 I was awarded a Master of Science in Advanced Nursing Practice.

In my current role, I have developed the service to reflect the advancing nature of Nursing and have set up a Nurse Led Health Promotion clinic for liver transplant patients. I have also contributed to various national nursing training courses in areas such as post transplantation care, adherence and management of immunosuppression.

I have observed the importance of ITNS over the years and the impact some of the educational initiatives have made on practice and knowledge, both on my practice as a transplant nurse and on others around me.

In 2009 I was appointed onto the Committee for the ITNS UK and Ireland chapter and since then have been involved in the planning and running of our educational meetings. I have also contributed to the production of a newsletter for our chapter members.

I believe transplant nursing is a distinct specialty requiring special skills and experience, it is important to recognize that our patient needs are unique. ITNS is a distinct organization which reflects my ethos and vision for transplantation and has provided so far at an individual level a platform for incredible professional development and immense job satisfaction.

I have substantial experience in the field of transplantation and would like to offer my wealth of experience on an international level to act as a resource, whilst continuing the excellent work done to date by others in building international relations and contributing to the overall educational programme for nurses.

Colleen Shelton RN, BAAN, MHSc

Nurse Manager, Multi Organ Transplant Unit
Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario Canada

I consider it a great honour to have been nominated to the position of International Director on the ITNS Board of Directors. I have worked in the field of transplantation for almost 20 years, transitioning from a critical care nurse and educator, to a Clinical Nurse Specialist, to my current role as Nurse Manager for Canada's largest organ transplant centre. My career path has included positions in Clinical Trials, Organ Donation, and academic appointments. Along the way, ITNS has provided a strong collegial and educational network.

I am a longtime supporter of ITNS, recently serving on the 2009 Annual ITNS Symposium in Montreal as Chair of the local planning committee. In addition, I have presented at numerous local, national and international conferences on issues in clinical practice, transplantation, research and leadership. I have been involved in starting a local chapter and held positions on national boards within Canada, providing me with a strong understanding of the teamwork, skills and dedication necessary to successfully serve the membership of ITNS. I want to contribute to the growth of the organization and work towards the realization of its goals. I am committed to effective local membership and want to foster strong ties between local chapters and the ITNS Board. I hope to represent and attend to the issues and needs of the international members and their chapters.

Director Marketing (5 candidates)

Jeffrey W. Arnovitz RN, MSN, CNP, CCTC

Certified Nurse Practitioner

Small Bowel Transplant, Cleveland Clinic Health Systems, Cleveland, Ohio USA

As the current Marketing Director, the highlights of my position are:

- It was ITNS' first time as a financial sponsor of a movie on donor awareness titled "The Power of Two"
- Another first was the article and ad in the Chicago Tribune explaining the Role of Transplant Coordinators. It was the largest published advertisement and readership for ITNS to date.
- National Transplant Nurses Day under my term has increased participation to record numbers and recognition.
- Membership during my term has increased to 1860 members from 32+ countries worldwide.

As an Advanced Practice Nurse, I have 12 years of Transplant experience as a Clinical Nurse Practitioner with multiple transplant organ groups from two Transplant Centers in Cleveland, Ohio. My latest accomplishment is with the Small Bowel Transplant Program at the Cleveland Clinic.

Highlights of my professional transplant experience have included participation on the Board of Directors with ABTC for 5 years and active membership with my local ITNS chapter since chartership.

I support the ITNS mission statement and commitment to the promotion of excellence in transplant clinical nursing.

With your support, I will continue to service the membership and advance the mission of ITNS.

Debra H. Boswell MSN, RN, CCTC

Compliance Coordinator

Mayo Clinic Florida, Jacksonville, Florida USA

Thank you for considering my nomination as the Marketing Director for the International Transplant Nurses Society.

In conjunction with a Masters degree in Nursing I have twenty years of nursing experience with the last eight years in the field of transplantation. I began in transplant as a staff nurse on a Heart/Lung Transplant unit and have also worked as a Transplant Coordinator, a Procurement Coordinator, Nursing Supervisor, and am currently in the role of Compliance Coordinator. I have attained and maintained certification as a CCTC since 2006.

In addition to my practical experience, I have been involved as a member on the Board of Directors and past President for my local chapter of the International Transplant Nurses Society. My experience on the board included working to put together educational symposiums to aid in the advancement of transplant nursing knowledge.

I believe ITNS offers opportunities for transplant professionals to network and learn from each other. Also, as the field of transplantation continues to evolve, the dedicated nurses and allied health professionals will seek a community that fosters their potential for professional growth and development and ITNS can and will continue to meet those needs.

I look forward to working with the ITNS Board of Directors and the dedicated professionals that comprise the field of transplantation. Thank You.

Linda G. Merrick RN, ANPBC, MS, CCTC

Nurse Practitioner Solid Organ and Hepatobiliary Surgery
University of Rochester, Rochester, New York USA

Linda received her Bachelors and Masters Degree at the University of Rochester. Linda began her career in transplantation as a nurse coordinator in 2000 working with pre and post liver, kidney and pancreas patients. In 2006 Linda completed her Masters Degree as an Adult Nurse Practitioner and began providing outpatient care to transplant patients. Linda holds a faculty appointment with the UR School of Nursing and is a preceptor for NP students. She has been a member of ITNS since 2000, and treasurer of the local chapter of ITNS from 2002 – 2005 and 2008 to current. In 2004, Linda was successful in chartering the Upstate New York Chapter of ITNS. As a local chapter officer she has helped to organize bi-monthly educational dinners and assisted in implementing the first annual teaching symposium held last fall. She encourages transplant nurses to obtain CCTN certification by participating in monthly educational offerings on the transplant unit using the ITNS IQ Series. Linda strongly believes that bringing quality educational opportunities to our colleagues promotes interest and enthusiasm in the profession and encourages growth of transplant nursing activities. Linda looks forward to bringing her passion and enthusiasm to the ITNS board as the Marketing Director.

Patrice Pfeiffenberger RN, BSN, CCTC

Liver Transplant Coordinator PENN Transplant Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA
President: Delaware Valley ITNS

I am truly honored and privileged to receive this nomination. My transplant career started nearly 12 years ago, it seems like only yesterday when I embarked on this journey which I quickly grew to love. When I first started as a floor nurse on the transplant unit I wasn't quite sure what to expect but I soon realized that the field of transplant nursing was unique, challenging, and exceptionally rewarding. Since my days as a staff nurse I've worked in different areas of transplant, and now I've been a Liver Transplant Coordinator for the past several years. I fell in love with transplant and transplant nursing all those years ago and I can't imagine doing anything else. Since my early days in transplant I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by amazing transplant nursing colleagues and mentors who have encouraged me to grow, not only as a nurse and transplant coordinator. They have taught me to embrace what makes us (as transplant nurses) unique and so highly specialized. I wish to continue the great tradition and mission of ITNS and I would be honored to on the Board of Directors. Thank you once again for this privilege.

Rose Rodriguez RN, MS, CPNP, CCTC

Senior Transplant Nurse Practitioner
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian, New York, New York USA

I am a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with over twenty years of nursing experience in heart failure and transplantation at a large volume transplant center, serving a culturally diverse patient population. As the Senior Coordinator, my duties include overseeing clinical and clerical staff, serving as the compliance specialist for the program, and providing multidisciplinary care to families during the pre and post transplant phase. Additionally, I am involved in several national and international research studies, considering both clinical and behavioral outcomes in patients with end-stage heart disease and transplantation. I have published numerous papers and have spoken at various international conferences on topics including pediatric and young adults with high-risk profiles, culturally sensitive transplant care, and developed a methodology for improving post-transplant medical adherence. Living and working in New York City with my sons is a source of inspiration. I have been a member of ITNS since 2001 and am passionate about the field of transplantation and promoting the society's mission and vision. My desire is to collaborate with ITNS Board of Directors, continue membership recruitment, and advocate for all transplant nurses.

Director Research (2 Candidates)

Sandra A. Cupples PhD, RN

National Director of Clinical Services

National Surgery Office, Veterans Health Administration Central Office, Washington DC

Education: PhD (The Catholic University of America); MSN (Boston University); BSN (Duquesne University). Heart Transplant Coordinator: 13.5 years.

Qualifications: Doctorate (nursing); funded transplant research studies; data-based publications; member: National Institute of Nursing Research Advisory Council (4 years); Associate Editor, *Progress in Transplantation* (10+ years); prior member: ITNS Board.

Professional activities: numerous national/international presentations (e.g., on research methods, evidence based practice, publishing); reviewer for *Transplant Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*.

My dedication to transplantation is perhaps best exemplified by the ITNS Clinical Excellence Award that I was honored to receive (2008) and the three transplant books that I have published (including *Transplantation Nursing Secrets; Core Curriculum for Transplant Nurses*).

I believe that ITNS is the penultimate society for transplant nurses because it fosters excellence across the entire spectrum of transplant nursing by providing educational opportunities, mentoring clinicians, promoting research, and supporting collaborative, interdisciplinary initiatives around the globe.

If elected, my goal would be to increase opportunities for ITNS members to become funded "generators" of nursing research, discerning "consumers" of research, and knowledgeable evidence-based practitioners. More specifically, I would enlarge the research toolkit on the ITNS website and expand the number of EBP topic guidelines.

My interest in serving on the Board stems from my desire to "give back" to the Society that has so enhanced my transplant nursing practice.

Annette DeVito Dabbs RN, PhD, FAAN, ACNS-BC

Associate Professor, Vice Chair for Research, Acute & Tertiary Care Department

University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing Pittsburgh Pennsylvania USA

I received my BSN from Kent State University (1975), MN from the University of Washington's CNS program (1982), and PhD from the University Pittsburgh (2003). My professional contributions reflect the duality of my career as a pulmonary clinical nurse specialist and more recently as an academic researcher. While research was always a dimension of my CNS role, since 1998 I have received over \$3.5 million in funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research and other specialty organizations to design and test interventions to promote self-care behaviors after transplant and active partnerships between transplant patients and clinical providers. My research has informed nursing practice in areas such as adherence to complex regimens, active involvement of patients in their care and health related quality of life. I view ITNS and its members as leaders in the field who are committed to promoting the best clinical outcomes for transplant patients and their families. If I were to be elected as the Researcher Director I would consider it an honor to lead efforts to enhance nurses' involvement in the conduct, dissemination and application of research evidence into practice. I would continue to support and strengthen the international research collaborations initiated by my predecessors.