

Special Issue

Current Advances and Future Challenges in Heart Transplantation

Message from the Guest Editor

Since the first heart transplantation was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard in South Africa in 1967, steady progress has been made in recipient selection, donor selection and management, surgical techniques, preoperative care, immunosuppressive regimens, and mechanical circulatory support for patients awaiting transplantation. These advances have been associated with consistent improvements in outcomes both before and after transplantation. The number of heart transplants has steadily increased, but the shortage of suitable donors remains critical. Consequently, numerous efforts to expand donor availability—such as improved donor assessment and management, cardiac donation after circulatory death, ex vivo machine perfusion, normothermic regional perfusion, and cardiac xenotransplantation—have continued to the present day. Therefore, researchers working in various aspects of heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, and technologies to increase donor heart availability, including xenotransplantation, are encouraged to submit their findings as original articles or reviews to this Special Issue.

Guest Editor

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