



**News Release
For Immediate Release**

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New Guidelines Will Help Standardize the Care of Heart Transplant Patients Worldwide

Naperville, Illinois, August 13, 2010 - For more than four decades, clinicians have been treating their heart transplant patients based on their experience at their own medical centers because there were few randomized controlled clinical trials clinicians could rely on.

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) recently announced new practice guidelines to standardize care for heart transplant patients worldwide.

Maria Rosa Costanzo, MD, Medical Director of Midwest Heart Specialists Heart Failure and Pulmonary Hypertension Programs and Edward Hospital Center for Advanced Heart Failure chaired the committee of forty writers that developed the new guidelines.

“Experts from nine countries generously committed their time and expertise for three years to help prepare these guidelines,” said Dr. Costanzo. “This is the first time an in-depth review of all available literature has been conducted and a group collectively issued recommendations based on international expert consensus.”

Dr. Costanzo commented that the literature review revealed gaps in evidence related to many areas of the care of heart transplant recipients, which should encourage young investigators to direct their efforts to fill these gaps.

“With the evolution and changes in healthcare worldwide, fewer heart transplant patients have the opportunity to go back to their transplant centers for ongoing treatment. The guidelines provide physicians a thorough resource to manage part of their patients’ care locally,” said Dr. Costanzo. “Our hope is that these guidelines provide a common framework that leads to more uniformity in the care of these patients, which will translate to improved outcomes for heart transplant recipients.”

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) will have the entire document available online. For more information visit www.ISHLT.org.

About Midwest Heart Specialists

Midwest Heart Specialists (MHS) is a nationally recognized group of over 50 physicians including board certified cardiologists, electrophysiologists and heart failure specialists making us one of the largest cardiovascular practices in Illinois. In addition to being board-certified in cardiovascular disease, many MHS physicians are also certified in critical care medicine, internal medicine and emergency medicine. Midwest Heart Specialists provides easy access for patients at multiple locations throughout the western and northwest suburbs of Chicago, Rockford, Illinois and surrounding areas.

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