



Editor: Kennethia Banks

# NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the President

Welcome to the first ELSO newsletter of 2024.



Here in Asia, the Lunar New Year is upon us, prompting the Chūn yùn ('Spring Transport') period in China, famously described as the largest annual human migration on the planet. The beginning of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on what we would like to achieve, which in turn is framed by where we've come from.

When I was in my final year of adult intensive care training, I looked after a young man who was dying of staphylococcal septic shock. As he lay there comatose, with progressively severe acidosis and episodic ventricular tachycardia, I knew he was not going to survive for long. Then my boss (Warwick Butt) saw the patient and put him on venoarterial ECMO. I had never seen anything like this and thought he was completely and utterly mad. Why prolong the poor man's suffering? He was going to die for sure, with or without ECMO. What I didn't know at the time was that Warwick had established the first ECMO program in Australia back when I was still in high school and was *the* pioneer of using ECMO for sepsis.

Oh, but I was ever so surprised when the patient didn't die. He was off ECMO in a week and went home well a month later. It was then I realized that I still had a lot to learn, prompting me to retrain in pediatric intensive care to get more ECMO experience (this was over 20 years ago when any adult ECMO, let alone for septic shock, was generally regarded as outlandish). It also prompted me to begin research into ECMO and sepsis under Warwick's supervision, which then led to an invitation to lecture on the topic at a regional conference. The session chair happened to be Dr Bartlett. He invited me to Ann Arbor and my academic career began.

Little details matter. Sometimes these are serendipitous opportunities which propel us in new directions if we capture them in time, sometimes it's the degree of attention that we pay to these little details, those that separate the amateur from the professional, the casual practitioner from the expert. When I was learning echocardiography, another mentor (Lara Shekerdeman, now at Texas Children's) taught me all about congenital heart disease and gave me some great advice: "Learn echo properly and thoroughly from someone who is obsessive about it." I think this is true for ECMO as well.

I hope we use the new year to reflect on how our careers were shaped by our mentors and how best we can give attention to the little details that often prove disproportionately important in hindsight. This may shepherd us toward something new, inspired, and unexpected.

Xīn nián kuài lè ('Happy New Year'),

Graeme MacLaren, President, ELSO





## COMMITTEE ROUNDUP

### Conference Committee

Preparations for the 35th Annual ELSO Conference are well underway! Our incredible international committee is working on every detail to make this anniversary meeting exceptional. This year's conference will be located in Detroit, MI at the Huntington's Place Convention Center.

Registration is scheduled to open in mid-March.

The ELSO 34th Annual Pre-Conference and Conference are now available on our website for all members to review. [Conference Presentations](#)

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### ELSO & Chapter Meetings

**Event:** 12th Annual EUROELSO Conference

Location: Krakow, Poland

Dates: April 24th -27th, 2024

Registration Information: <https://euroelso-congress.com/>

**Event:** 34th Specialist Education in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (SEECMO) Conference

Location: Marina Del Rey, California

Dates: June 1st - 2nd, 2024

Registration Information: <https://ucla.cloud-cme.com/course/courseoverview?P=5&EID=6162>

**Event:** 10th Annual AP ELSO Conference

Location: Beijing, China

Dates: June 20th - 23rd, 2024

**Event:** 35th Annual ELSO Conference

Location: Huntington Place, Detroit, MI

Dates: September 28th - October 1st, 2024

**Event:** 6th LATAM Conference

Location: Buenos Aires Argentina

11/14/2024 - 11/16/2024

Registration Information: <http://www.elsolatam2024.org>

*The latest information on ELSO & Collaborative Meetings can be found [here](#).*

**35TH ANNUAL ELSO CONFERENCE  
DETROIT, MI  
SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 1ST, 2024**



↑  
**Detroit Institute of Art**



**Greenfield Village**

Images are provided by Visit Detroit,  
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Panels



## Education Committee/ELSO Academy

ELSO wrapped up its first Adult ECMO Simulation Course for 2024 in conjunction with SCCM from January 19th – 20th in Phoenix, AZ. The course was a huge success. It was ELSO’s first time executing an ECMO course in a convention center. One of many first for ELSO this year. Thank you to our simulation staff, lead by Simulation Director, Tammy Friedrich , Education Director, Elizabeth Moore and Course Director Dr. Mike Baram.



### ELSO – Adult ECMO Certification (E-AEC) Exam

ELSO has outlined standardized educational criteria and launched an online application process via ELSO Academy for ECMO clinicians who have demonstrated satisfactory completion of criteria listed on our website. This journey is designed to be inclusive of the entire ECMO interprofessional team. Certification is valid for three years; upon which time a renewal can be pursued to maintain certification. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.else.org/Education/certificationexam.aspx>

### ELSO Foundations

ELSO Foundations: Adult ECMO Training Course is a self-paced ECMO course consisting of 53 modules, covering over 80 learning objectives which are anchored in the foundational concepts that will allow practitioners to develop, strengthen, and refine clinical skills related to ECMO patient care skills. More than 1600 people have taken the ELSO Foundations Course.

ELSO Foundations: Neo/Peds ECMO Training Course is under development.



## UPCOMING COURSES

ELSO Extracorporeal Membranous Oxygenation (ECMO) Adult Simulation Course

Dates: April 2nd-3rd, 2024 (Session 1) April 4th-5th, 2024 (Session 2)

Location: ELSO Headquarters

Address: 3001 Miller Road Ann Arbor, MI, USA



ECMO Cannulation Workshop (1-Day Workshop)

Dates: April 6th and April 7th, 2024

Location: ELSO Headquarters

Address: 3001 Miller Road Ann Arbor, MI, USA

ELSO Extracorporeal Membranous Oxygenation (ECMO) Adult Simulation Course

Dates: May 8th-9th, 2024 (Session 1) May 10th-11th, 2024 (Session 2)

Location: ELSO Headquarters

Address: 3001 Miller Road Ann Arbor, MI, USA

ELSO Neonatal and Pediatric ECMO Training Course

Date: June 3rd, 2024

Location: Virtual

Time: 2:00PM - 4:00PM EST

ECMO Cannulation Workshop (1-Day Workshop)

Dates: June 21st, June 22nd and June 23rd, 2024

Location: ELSO Headquarters

Address: 3001 Miller Road Ann Arbor, MI, USA

ELSO Extracorporeal Membranous Oxygenation (ECMO) Neo/Peds Simulation Course

Dates: October 17th - 18th, 2024 (Session 1) October 19th - 20th, 2024 (Session 2)

Location: ELSO Headquarters

Address: 3001 Miller Road Ann Arbor, MI, USA

ELSO Extracorporeal Membranous Oxygenation (ECMO) Adult Simulation Course

Dates: November 7th-8th, 2024 (Session 1) November 9th-10th, 2024 (Session 2)

Location: ELSO Headquarters

Address: 3001 Miller Road Ann Arbor, MI, USA

All non-ELSO courses/events can be found [HERE](#).



## Quality Committee - Award of Excellence



Applications for the Center for Excellence in Life Support and the Path for Excellence in Life Support is now live. The Application portal will remain open for application submission until the deadline of March 1, 2024. The application worksheet can be downloaded from the ELSO website under "[Before you apply](#)".

We have developed a tool that should help any center review their program and how they may answer specific questions. Click [HERE](#) to find the "Award Evaluation and Improvement Tool".

The updated list of Centers of Excellence is currently posted on the website.

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## Publications Committee

ELSO has a growing list of publications available.

- The ELSO Red Book - 6th Edition
- ECMO Specialist Training Manual - 4th Edition (5th Edition in development)
- ECPR and Resuscitative ECMO
- Post-Cardiotomy ECLS and other Temporary Mechanical Circulatory Supports in Adult Patients, with Roberto Lorusso as Senior Editor and a robust team of international authors.
- Neonatal and Pediatric ECMO Simulation Scenarios - developed in partnership with IPSS
- A Korean translation of the ELSO Red Book - 5th Edition
- Spanish translations of the ELSO Red Book - 4th Edition and ECMO Specialist Training Manual - 4th Edition

Visit our website for the full list of available [HERE](#).



## Registry Committee

Big changes are coming to the Registry! The look and feel of entering data in the registry will be greatly enhanced. ELSO has invested in upgrades to the Registry infrastructure which will improve the data entry process. This update is scheduled to be rolled out in April 2024. Updated instructions and xml examples can be found on the website under the registry tab.

Improvements in the International Summary Report will be released soon. ELSO leadership and staff have been working on changes to make this a more informative and improved data visualization report.

The next deadline for data entry is April 10th, 2024. The registry will be closed starting April 15th for report generation and updates to the system.

Due to the amount of changes being implemented the registry is anticipated to be closed for a total of 3-4 business days.

## Data Use Agreements

All center signed Data Use Agreements can be found within the manage center details, located under the manage tab for all ELSO center administrators. If you have not submitted your center's Data Use Agreement, please do so as soon as possible.

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## Research Committee

Research initiatives are forming now! Please contact [research@elso.org](mailto:research@elso.org) for any suggestions you might have for the committee.





## **Nominations & Membership Committee (N&M)**

Nominations for upcoming Standing Committee Chairs and a Liaison role are upon us. Please be on the lookout for a mass email soon for nominees to serve on the ELSO Steering Committee - a global leadership body. A mass email will be coming soon soliciting candidates. This is a nice opportunity to consider the role you might want to have at ELSO. With many initiatives going on, there might be a good fit for you.

### **FELSO Award Nominations**

Do you know someone who has a lifetime of achievement in delivering ECMO care to patients, educating about ECMO, researching ECMO, developing ECMO technology or contributing to ELSO's mission? If so you may want to nominate the ECMOlogist in your life for the Fellowship of The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization "FELSO"

FELSO nominations are now being accepted. Application can be found [HERE](#).

Remember, that self nominations are not accepted. Please do not inform those being nominated that they are up for consideration.

### **ELSO Communities**

As a global nonprofit organization, we wanted to be able to provide a communication tool that was accessible on cell phones, an app that was globally available (or close), free, and had encryption technology for secure messaging. We selected WhatsApp as the platform for ELSO Communities for these reasons. To join a community visit the [ELSO website](#). You will be required to download WhatsApp on your phone. Communities are designed to be a support for our members that want to connect, collaborate, and support each other on a topic.

## BEDSIDE WITH BARTLETT



**Robert Bartlett, MD**

*Founder, Board of Directors Emeritus*

*ELSO Professor Emeritus of Surgery University of Michigan*

### Case Study

A 55-year-old man has an extensive myocardial infarction and is in cardiogenic shock. He is transferred to the Cath Lab at midnight for a PCI (percutaneous cardiac intervention). In the Cath Lab, he is in shock and has runs of VF/VT. He is urgently cannulated for VA bypass via the right femoral vein and left femoral artery. Systemic perfusion is good and the PCI continues after the procedure. It is noted that his left foot is cool. What should be done?

Ischemia to the left leg is a concern, but the patient is transferred to the ICU. His foot is still cool hours later. During morning rounds sedation is discontinued and he cannot move his toes or feel anything on the left foot. After unsuccessful attempts at percutaneous cannulation of the superficial femoral artery, a vascular surgeon gets access by cut down and leg blood flow is restored at noon. This results in extensive painful edema, fasciotomies, and three months of operations to try to restore his left leg muscles. One year later he undergoes a left above knee amputation because of intractable painful neuropathy. His heart is fine.

### What should have been done?

Because of cases like this, it is very important to establish blood flow to the leg as soon as proximal femoral artery access is in place. Because of the urgency to restore systemic perfusion, all the attention is paid to cardiac and brain perfusion and leg perfusion is often ignored until ischemic damage has occurred. The simplest way to establish leg perfusion is retrograde perfusion via the posterior tibial artery, which requires a cut down. Any surgical resident can do this. Another option is to cannulate the superficial femoral artery in the groin for prograde perfusion. This is difficult to do percutaneously after the common femoral is occluded with the cannula. Cut down access is usually required, which needs a surgeon familiar with that technique. The important message is do not leave the cannulation bedside until the leg is well perfused



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## SURVEY ALLEY

Surveys may include survey-based research questionnaires and related activities; they may also appear on ELSO's WhatsApp communities. Items do not infer ELSO endorsement. Please participate in surveys you find interesting.

### LIMB ISCHEMIA ON VA ECMO

Hello! We are senior students at Thomas Jefferson University's Cardiovascular Perfusion program. As a part of our capstone, we are looking at limb ischemia on VA ECMO and have included a very short 1-minute survey to fill out. This survey aims to understand the current landscape of limb ischemia detection practices employed during VA ECMO, identify limitations and potential areas for improvement, and inform the development of more effective and standardized approaches for limb ischemia detection and management in ECMO patients.

[https://jefferson.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_agez8vwCObSxdjg](https://jefferson.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_agez8vwCObSxdjg)

Thank you for your participation!

Woodrow Moore, Doug Stephens, and Madisen Harvey

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### PERCEPTIONS OF SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE ENGAGEMENT IN VV-ECMO PATIENTS

This is a brief survey for attending physicians working with ECMO patients regarding their perceptions on the appropriate integration of specialist palliative care into the care of patients requiring ECMO support and perceptions thereof. This survey is approved by the IRB at Baylor College of Medicine and is expected to take less than 5 minutes to complete.

The link is here: <https://redcap.link/palliativeECMOperceptions>

[Astrid Grouls, MD - Baylor College of Medicine & St. Luke's Hospital](#)



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## SURVEY ALLEY

CALLING ALL ECMO COORDINATORS AND MEDICAL DIRECTORS!

We are a group of coordinators and medical directors from ECMO centers interested in organizing a week of recognition for ECMO Specialists at the institutional, national, and international levels. We convened after the 2023 ELSO Meeting and are planning our first multicenter ECMO Specialists' Appreciation week this year from April 29 to May 3, 2024. Our goal is to generate a formalized recognition week across the world, but first we would like to know if other centers, such as yours, support the idea. With that question in mind, we put together a brief 15-question survey to help us gauge what support we might have among our colleagues and if you have done something similar in your own institutions that we might learn from. It should take no longer than 3-5 minutes to complete but will provide us with a wealth of information and experience that we would be delighted to share and will better guide our efforts.

You may access the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/7KtQ3W2ZTS>

Alternatively, you can scan the following QR code to take the survey on your phone or tablet

Thank you in advance for helping us recognize the amazing work our ECMO specialists do every day across the world!

The ECMO Specialists' Appreciation Workgroup





## ELSO CHAPTER UPDATES: ECMO AROUND THE WORLD

### SWAAC ELSO UPDATES

A successful SWAAC ELSO Conference was held in Kuwait in February. Over 800 attendees participated - a big success for the chapter. Congratulations to Huda Alfoudri for chairing the conference and robust support from the Ministry of Health.



Within the SWAACELSO website motto of "We Unite, We Work Together", the year begins on a positive and optimistic note. We congratulate the new centres that have been awarded with ELSO's award of Excellence in the past two years: One platinum, four gold awards and two silver award centres, awarded in Seattle ELSO Conference in September 2023. The boom in ECMO centres also brought about more academic and scientific progress in the SWAACELSO region.



Crossing Boundaries Conference: Lifetime Achievement Awards for Dr. Bartlett & Gattinoni. Luciano Gattinoni finally gets his copy of RB6 in Kuwait after contributing the Foreword.

### APELSO Updates

APELSO is currently planning for its 10th Annual Conference held in Beijing, China June 20th - 23rd, 2024.





## EUROELSO Updates

We welcome all with an interest in adult or pediatric ECMO to join us for EuroELSO ECMO to join us for EuroELSO in Krakow, Poland from April 24th -27th, 2024. Krakow is a city renowned for its beautiful medieval architecture including Wawel Castle and the central market place.

The congress itself will be held in the far more modern ICE center just across the river and will encompass the full breadth of ECMO support and the latest in research. For more information, click [HERE!](#) See you soon!



## LAELSO Updates

The 6th LAELSO Congress is scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires November 14 to 16, 2024. Hope to see you there!



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REMARKS

*New Year, New Opportunities*

We are off to an exciting start in the New Year across the globe! The annual Society of Critical Care Medicine conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona where ELSO trained 64 learners in ECMO Simulation. The SWAAC ELSO Chapter convened a beautiful, engaging, and inspiring conference in Kuwait with approximately 800 attendees – led by a gracious Huda Alfoudri, incoming Chair of SWAAC ELSO. The warmth, energy, and enthusiasm from this conference will carry us for a while!

2024 marks ELSO's 35th anniversary as an organization. The Conference Committee is planning an incredible scientific agenda and celebratory events taking us all on a walk of technology through the years. Much has happened in 35 years, thanks to the persistence of our brave and tenacious leaders in the field, led by Dr. Bartlett and a global community that has grown substantially. The recent [ELSO Registry publication](#) summarizes the magnitude of lives impacted. The stories and growth in ECLS centers throughout the world add a story, knowledge, and experience with each and every patient. We hope to see you in Detroit, Michigan and Ann Arbor, Michigan this Fall to celebrate what 35 years of working together has accomplished.

In the US, February is Black History month. We embrace and celebrate the history, progress, and authentic contributions to the field that we see and foster in our communities. Diversity in representation at all levels moves us forward; it is essential for progress. Thank you to everyone that is part of making opportunity and authentic representation happen in our field, especially our Black community that is contributing so much to what we know and what we have yet to learn.

To an inspiring 2024,

Christine



Esteemed faculty at ELSO conferences, learners in Simulation and Cannulation courses



# The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization

## Our Mission

Providing global leadership in extracorporeal life support through innovation, advocacy, and advancing knowledge.

## Our Vision

ELSO will be the premier organization for the advancement of extracorporeal life support throughout the world.

## Guiding Principles

### Innovation

Seeking to identify and promote advances for the application of extracorporeal therapies.

### Expertise

Bringing together world leaders in the care of critically ill patients for collaboration to advance quality of care through education and publication.

### Clinical Support

Maintaining a comprehensive registry of data to assist in reducing morbidity and improving survival of patients requiring extracorporeal therapies.

### Community

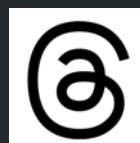
Fostering communication and collaboration among professionals who apply advanced technologies in the treatment of refractory organ failure.



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For editorial concerns related to this newsletter, please contact [newsletter@elso.org](mailto:newsletter@elso.org).

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