

# SRTR Review Committee Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

December 15, 2025, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CDT

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**Voting Members:**

Emily Perito, MD, MAS (Co-Chair) ('26)  
Sean Van Slyck (Co-Chair) ('25)  
Carli Lehr, MD, PhD ('26)  
Deborah Mauer ('25)  
Joseph Hillenburg (PFAS) ('26)  
Scott McPhee (HCDS) ('26)  
William Parker MD, PhD (AMS) ('27)

**Voting Members Not Present:**

Amit Mathur, MD ('27)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Shannon Dunne, JD (HRSA)  
Carlos Martinez, MS (OPTN)  
Jesse Schold, PhD, MStat, MEd (OPTN-DAC)

**HRSA Guests:**

Marilyn Levi  
Annie Tor

**Ex-Officio Members Not Present:**

Adriana Alvarez, MS (HRSA)  
Brianna Doby, MPH (HRSA)  
Jonah Odum, MD (ARPA-H)  
Erika Lease, MD (OPTN-POC)

**SRTR Staff:**

Avery Cook, MPH, MSW  
Earnest Davis, PhD, MHSA  
Tonya Eberhard  
Allyson Hart, MD, MS  
Amy Ketterer  
Grace Lyden, PhD  
Warren McKinney, PhD  
Jon Miller, PhD  
Cory Schaffhausen, PhD  
Sydney Kletter Sharma  
Mona Shater, MA  
Katie Siegert, MPH  
Jon Snyder, PhD, MS  
Bryn Thompson, MPH  
David Zaun, MS

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**Introductions and welcomes**

Mr. Sean Van Slyck and Dr. Emily Perito called the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Review Committee (SRC) meeting to order. Roll call for voting members was taken, with quorum met. Dr. Jon Snyder reviewed the need for updated conflict-of-Interest attestations and disclosures before the end of 2025. Mr. Van Slyck called for approval of the minutes from the prior SRC meeting on July 8, 2025. The motion was put forward by Mr. Scott McPhee and seconded by Dr. Carli Lehr. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**SRC Nominations Committee**

Dr. Perito reviewed that the SRC Nominations Committee comprises her, Dr. Lehr, and Dr. Amit Mathur (who was unable to attend this approval session) from the SRC; Dr. Snyder and Dr. Allyson Hart from SRTR; and subcommittee chair members Dr. Grace Lyden and Dr. Will Parker from the Analytical Methods Subcommittee (AMS), Dr. Cory Schaffhausen and Mr. McPhee from the Human Centered Design Subcommittee (HCDS), and Dr. Earnest Davis and Mr. Marcus Simon from the Patient and Family Affairs Subcommittee (PFAS). As Mr. Joseph Hillenburg is volunteering to fill, and applied for, the open co-chair position, he was asked to recuse himself from the nominating process. Dr. Perito reviewed that the SRC received a record number of nominations and would be adding those not invited to SRTR contact lists for future endeavors. She confirmed that due to the

government shutdown from October 1 through November 12, 2025, the original voting session, which was to be held at the October 16 SRC meeting, was cancelled. Current members with terms expiring will roll off following the end of 2025, and new members will start their terms in 2026, which meant that this present meeting needed to be held before the end of the year to give new members a chance to accept their invitations.

Dr. Perito highlighted the members finishing their SRC terms in 2025, including two member positions and one co-chair position, which would be open for filling by new members. She reviewed that the Nominations Committee aimed to fill positions with broad representation, including organ procurement organization (OPO) and patient representation, as well as geographic representation. Special consideration was given to those with transplant administrator experience due to Ms. Deb Maurer's departure. Dr. Perito reviewed that the Nominations Committee discussed whether to nominate the new co-chair from new members over the existing members, and it was decided that existing members would be better set up to succeed in the co-chair position given their knowledge of how the SRC is run and operates. For this reason, Dr. Lehr was nominated to step into the co-chair position following Mr. Van Slyck's departure. She recused herself while the committee discussed the nomination. No concerns were raised.

For the other SRC members, Dr. Perito reviewed the three members proposed based on the applications received, including an additional open position due to Dr. Lehr's promotion from member to co-chair of the SRC. The new members proposed were:

- Mr. Christopher Curran, an OPO professional with most recent experience at New England Donor Services and previous experience in organ utilization at Texas LifeGift, as well as prior involvement on Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN) committees and working alongside SRTR.
- Ms. Nicole McGarrah Johnson, a transplant administrator with experience in transplant quality and experience interfacing and interacting with outside organizations, such as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the OPTN.
- Dr. Anil Paramesh, a liver, kidney, and pancreas transplant surgeon with OPO experience.

Dr. Perito reviewed the scoring rubric that was used to rank applicants and that each applicant's personal statement and curriculum vitae had been reviewed. She also detailed the discussions among the Nominations Committee members in sharing their personal connections and experiences with the applicants. Specific consideration was given to those with OPO experience to fill gaps with Mr. Van Slyck's departure. A vote was called for by Dr. Perito to approve the members following the discussions. Mr. Van Slyck motioned to approve Dr. Lehr as co-chair and the three new members, with Ms. Deb Maurer seconding. With Dr. Lehr abstaining from voting, all others present voted to approve the proposed members.

**AMS:** Dr. Lyden reviewed that the AMS currently is chartered to operate with five to eight members including the co-chair position, but that part of the nomination process includes a request to increase the upper limit to nine voting members including the co-chair. She reviewed that this would not change the lower limit, but that by increasing the upper limit, there would be less likelihood of a tie vote due to the odd number of votes. Dr. Lyden called for a vote to amend the charter. Dr. Perito motioned to amend the charter and increase the number of voting members, which was seconded by Mr. Hillenburg. The vote passed unanimously.

Given the increase in voting members, Dr. Lyden and Dr. Parker reviewed the committee members rolling off, including Dr. Bill Irish, Dr. Erika Hegleson, and Dr. Megan Neely, all of whom are professors—two in biostatistics and one in epidemiology. Given the approval to increase the number of voting members, Dr. Lyden proposed four new members to fill the open seats:

- Dr. Nick Hartman: Michigan faculty in biostatistics who leads the Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (KECC), with experience with CMS evaluation of dialysis centers and hospital profiling.
- Dr. Kyle Jackson: abdominal transplant surgeon and epidemiologist at Penn.
- Dr. Brian Wayda: heart failure cardiologist, transplant medicine professional and professor at NYU, with expertise in match-run analysis.
- Dr. Wenbo Wu: biostatistician at Johns Hopkins, with expertise in kidney disease.

Dr. Parker shared that the proposed candidates would meet the biostatistical need of the AMS to help weigh in on complex statistical issues such as Bayesian priors, as well as provide expertise in clinical care while also understanding the statistical side to interpret the data sets correctly. Dr. Lyden called for a vote to approve the proposed candidates. The approval was motioned by Dr. Perito and seconded by Dr. Parker. All members present voted in favor, and the approvals passed unanimously.

**HCDS:** Dr. Schaffhausen shared that the HCDS is looking to fill at least two open positions but is proposing three nominees. Like many of the committees, a number of beneficial applications were received. Even though there are only two members rolling off, one of the existing members is unable to attend many of the meetings and may be asked to step away, but three nominations still fall within the guidelines of the charter. The nominees were:

- Dr. Keren Ladin: health services researcher who has contributed to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is involved with engaging stakeholders.
- Ms. Melissa McQueen: parent of a pediatric recipient and involved in patient advocacy; software development professional.
- Ms. Rebecca Weimer: design professional at Accenture with caregiver experience for a recent lung transplant recipient family member; referred by another current HCDS member.

Dr. Schaffhausen called for a vote to confirm the proposed nominees. Mr. McPhee motioned for the vote to approve, and Dr. Perito seconded the motion. All present members voted to approve the proposed nominees, with no abstention or opposition.

**PFAS:** Dr. Davis reviewed that three PFAS positions are open, as well as one co-chair position. Mr. Hillenburg was asked to recuse himself from the discussion and voting due to his own position being open for filling, so decisions were made with the help of Mr. Simon, another PFAS member. Thirteen applications were received, and further work has been done to retain interested parties for future endeavors. Four nominees were put forward for consideration, including one co-chair:

- Dr. Sejal Patel, co-chair nominee: Mayo physician and transplant recipient (2-time kidney, 1-time pancreas); experience as transplant professional and patient uniquely positions him for the co-chair role, especially to head up initiatives for publications by the PFAS.
- Ms. Kathleen Anderson: parent of heart recipient, with experience with data analysis and health literacy, based in Oregon.

- Mr. Sean Eiles: donor to adopted daughter for liver transplant located in Wisconsin, with professional experience in Human Resources.
- Ms. Aissatou Sidime-Blanton: already a current PFAS member, with living donation experience, located in southwest US.

Drs. Perito and Davis thanked Mr. Hillenburg for his contribution of time and effort throughout the last year serving as interim co-chair. Dr. Davis called for a vote to approve the proposed nominees, which was motioned by Dr. Perito and seconded by Mr. Van Slyck. With Mr. Hillenburg abstaining, all others present voted to approve the nominees.

### **Closing business**

All members were thanked for participating and voting on nominees for the SRC and subcommittees. Dr. Snyder thanked Mr. Van Slyck for his leadership and expertise, as well as the members rolling off for their contributions. The next meeting is not yet scheduled, due to the nominees needing a chance to accept their invitations prior to scheduling. Dr. Snyder adjourned the meeting.