

# LUNG TRANSPLANT

Vanderbilt Transplant Center



Cynthia Kear  
*Lung Transplant Patient*



## Cynthia's Story

Cynthia Kear is known by her friends as someone that is fast paced and high energy, with a keen sense of adventure. Lovingly known as "One-Speed Cynthia," even getting a lung transplant came quickly. As a partner with a travel agency, Kear turned her life-long passion for traveling the globe into a profession, visiting remote locations in over 50 countries. But it was during her travels back home in the United States when vague respiratory symptoms were diagnosed as interstitial lung disease and eventually progressed to the need for a double lung transplant. Cynthia was placed on the transplant waiting list in September at 12:20pm. She almost didn't answer the call at 12:40pm the same day. Twenty minutes after being added to the wait list, Cynthia was heading to Vanderbilt for her transplant. Cynthia's transplant got her back up-to-speed so she could return to her active lifestyle and helping others with their dream vacations across the globe.

You want the best  
for your patients.

You've come  
to the right place.

As one of the oldest lung transplant programs in the country and the only one in Tennessee, Vanderbilt Lung Transplant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center provides expert care for your patients with advanced lung disease.

Driven by our steadfast commitment to delivering successful transplant outcomes, our transplant team leverages proven innovations and cutting-edge technologies to offer a full spectrum of lung transplantation options, including heart-lung transplantation.

## **PATIENT REFERRAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Each patient referral represents a profound trust, and we will strive to meet or exceed your expectations. Treatment of advanced lung disease requires expertise from a variety of providers and ongoing communications with referring physicians. Vanderbilt Lung Transplant provides the highest quality referral service to assist you in caring for your patients' complex needs. Our experienced team of surgeons, physicians, nurses and administrative staff is dedicated to offering timely, compassionate and personalized care to ensure a successful transplant experience.

### **PATIENT HEALTH**

Patients may be considered appropriate for lung transplantation if they:

- Have severe, progressive lung disease that does not respond to medical treatment and expected odds of patient survival in the next two years without transplant is less than 50%
- Patient is ambulatory and actively enrolled in pulmonary rehabilitation
- Are not using any types of tobacco or nicotine products
- All other chronic medical problems are well-controlled and optimized

Vanderbilt offers dual listing for patients who have been evaluated at other transplant centers. Dual listing with two or more transplant centers may shorten the wait time of patients waiting for a lung by increasing the donor encatchment area.

## **EXPANDED PATIENT ELIGIBILITY**

Because we continually expand eligibility, Vanderbilt Lung Transplant is able to accept patients who previously would not have been eligible for lung transplantation, or who currently would not be considered eligible by other programs, such as patients:

- With coronary artery disease with adequate reperfusion, provided LV function is normal
- With connective disease, provided there is no significant extra-pulmonary disease
- On extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)
- Age 70 and older
- Body mass index (BMI) threshold of 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Patients in need of multi-organ transplantation (heart-lung, liver-lung, etc.)

## **EARLY REFERRAL IS CRITICAL**

Patient pre-transplantation health directly impacts their post-transplantation survival. Our clinical team reviews each referral with a goal of scheduling the initial consultation within four weeks. Receiving referrals early provides us with the extra time needed to ensure patients are as healthy as possible for transplant surgery months before they are placed on the waiting list.

## **PROXIMITY TO VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**

Patients do not need to relocate to the Nashville area when listed for transplantation; however, they must be able to reach Vanderbilt University Medical Center within four hours, whether by car or medical flight, upon receiving notification that an organ is available. Following transplantation, patients are required to live within 15 miles of the hospital for a minimum of 3 months, but possibly longer in some cases. We can assist patients and their families with locating accommodations.

## WHY CHOOSE VANDERBILT?

### EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt Lung Transplant, founded by James Loyd, MD, and former U.S. Senator William Frist, MD, completed the first lung transplant in Tennessee in 1990. Since the inception of our program, we have performed more than 600 lung transplants and 20 combined lung-heart transplants, and our patient survival rates exceed nationally established benchmarks. This experience translates into the best possible care and outcomes for your patients.

### SHORT WAITLIST TIMES

Vanderbilt is recognized as having one of the shortest waitlist times in the South, with an average wait time of 1.2 months (compared to a national average of over 2.3 months). We are able to achieve short waitlist times by maximizing the pool of optimal donor lungs, including:

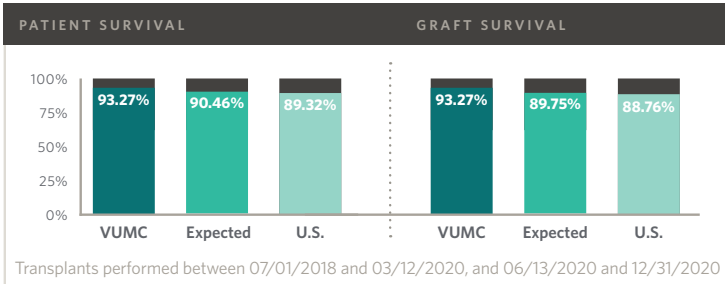
- Use of Ex-vivo Lung Perfusion (EVLP) platform to optimize gas exchange in donor lungs and provide an optimal environment to better assess donor lungs for usability
- Utilizing donors with Hepatitis C, which is then treated and cured in the recipient using novel direct-acting antiviral (DAA) medical therapies post-transplant
- Use of surgical techniques for better size-matching

### INNOVATION

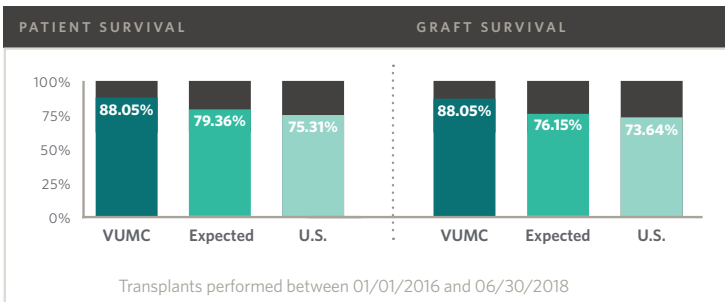
As part of an academic medical institute, our physicians, along with scientists, biomedical engineers and other research professionals, continually study, apply and pioneer the latest treatment options. As an example, we performed the world's first heart-lung transplant for a patient with COVID-19 in September 2020. Our surgeons are also among the world's experts in lung regeneration and extracorporeal support. Our patients have access to numerous clinical trials that are developing new and promising technologies and approaches to care. Many of these trials have been designed and implemented at Vanderbilt.

## UNPARALLELED SURVIVAL OUTCOMES IN THE REGION

### OUTCOMES (1-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE)



### OUTCOMES (3-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE)



## PATIENT SATISFACTION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Patient-reported outcomes are important measures of care effectiveness. Our patients state that their physical and mental quality of life improves significantly after lung transplantation and that they are very satisfied with their overall transplant care.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Vanderbilt Lung Transplant offers a variety of support services, from social workers to transplant pharmacists, to help guide patients through the transplant process. We also offer a unique Return-to-Work program led by a certified vocational evaluator to help patients return to work or school, which helps restore emotional and financial well-being.

## MULTISPECIALTY TEAM APPROACH

Caring for lung transplantation patients requires a team of healthcare professionals committed to providing compassionate, personalized care. Vanderbilt Lung Transplant assembles a multispecialty team, which has an exceptional history of successful transplants, focused on each patient's specific needs to ensure we deliver the highest quality care. Transplant teams consist of experienced specialists from various departments, such as:

- Cardiology
- Care Coordination
- Financial Counseling
- Infectious Disease
- Nursing/Advanced Practice Nursing
- Nutrition
- Psychiatry
- Social Work
- Specialty Pharmacy
- Thoracic Surgery
- Transplant Pulmonology

## CARE CLOSER TO HOME

Vanderbilt Lung Transplant performs surgery in Nashville, and we offer pre-surgery care at community-based locations across Tennessee. Additionally, we maintain clinics in Chattanooga, TN, Knoxville, TN, and Madison, AL, where we provide surgical consultations and services for heart, kidney, liver and lung transplant recipients who do not have easy access to Vanderbilt.

Through our app, VUMC Transplant, patients and providers have instant access to Tennessee's only full-service transplant center on their iOS and Android smartphones and mobile devices.

The Vanderbilt Lung Transplant team includes, but is not limited to, the following members:

## PULMONOLOGISTS



### **David Erasmus, MBChB, MD**

*Medical Director, Vanderbilt Lung Transplant Program  
Assistant Professor, Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

#### **Education**

MD – University of Pretoria (South Africa)  
Internship – Universitas Hospital (South Africa)  
Residency – St. Louis University  
Fellowship – St. Louis University Hospital



### **Anil Trindade, MD**

*Associate Medical Director, Vanderbilt Lung Transplant Program  
Assistant Professor, Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

#### **Education**

MD – Duke University School of Medicine  
Internship – Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Residency – Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Fellowship – Harvard University Medical School



### **Katie McPherson, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

#### **Education**

MD – Indiana University School of Medicine  
Internship – Indiana University School of Medicine  
Residency – Indiana University School of Medicine  
Fellowship – University of Colorado



### **Stephanie Norfolk, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

#### **Education**

MD – Case Western Reserve University  
Internship – University Hospitals of Cleveland  
Residency – University Hospitals of Cleveland  
Fellowship – Duke University



### **Ivan M. Robbins, MD**

*Professor, Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

#### **Education**

MD – Case Western Reserve University  
Internship – Metrohealth Medical Center  
Residency – Metrohealth Medical Center  
Fellowship – Vanderbilt University Medical Center



**Ciara Shaver, MD, PhD**

*Assistant Professor, Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

**Education**

MD - Northwestern University

Internship - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Residency - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Fellowship - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**THORACIC TRANSPLANT SURGEONS**



**Eric S. Lambright, MD**

*Surgical Director, Vanderbilt Lung Transplant Program*

*Associate Professor, Thoracic Surgery*

**Education**

MD - University of Pennsylvania

Internship - University of Pennsylvania

Residency - University of Pennsylvania



**Matthew Bacchetta, MD, MBA, MA**

*Surgical Director, Vanderbilt Lung Institute*

*Professor, Thoracic Surgery*

**Education**

MD - Cornell University Medical College

MBA, MA - University of Virginia

Residency - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Residency - New York Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center

Fellowship - Columbia University Medical Center



**Caitlin Demarest, MD, PhD**

*Assistant Director, Thoracic Surgery*

**Education**

MD - New York Medical College

PhD - Carnegie Mellon University

Residency - New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia

University Medical Center

Fellowship - University of Michigan



**Erin Gillaspie, MD, MPH**

*Assistant Professor of Surgery, Thoracic Surgery*

**Education**

MD - University of Miami, Florida

MPH - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Internship - Spartanburg Regional Medical Center

Residency - Bassett Medical Center

Fellowship - Mayo Clinic



**Eric L. Grogan, MD, MPH**

*Associate Professor, Thoracic Surgery*

**Education**

MD - Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
MPH - Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Residency - University of Virginia Health System  
Fellowship - University of Virginia Health System  
Fellowship - Vanderbilt University Medical Center



**Jonathan C. Nesbitt, MD**

*Associate Professor, Thoracic Surgery*

**Education**

MD - Georgetown University  
Internship - Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Residency - Albany Medical Center

**CARDIOLOGIST**



**Kelly Schlendorf, MD, MHS**

*Medical Director, Heart Transplant  
Assistant Professor, Medicine*

**Education**

MD - Emory University  
MHS - Johns Hopkins University  
Residency - Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System  
Fellowship - Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System  
Fellowship - Duke University Health System

**NURSE PRACTITIONERS**



**Dawn Eck, MSN, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, MMHC**

*Director, Thoracic Transplant and Organ Procurement*

**Education**

MSN - Vanderbilt University Medical Center



**Jean M. Barnes, MSN, ACNP-BC**

*Transplant Nurse Practitioner*

**Education**

MSN - Vanderbilt University Medical Center



**Kaitlyn Chapin, MSN, AGNP-C**

*Transplant Nurse Practitioner*

**Education**

MSN - Daemon College



**Haley Hoy, PhD, ACNP**

*Transplant Nurse Practitioner*

**Education**

PhD - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

MSN - University of Alabama



**Ashley Siedlecki, APRN**

*Transplant Nurse Practitioner*

**Education**

MSN - University of Alabama at Birmingham

## TRANSPLANT PATIENT CARE STAFF

**Joanne C. Ball,  
MST, CVE, ABVE**

*Return-to-Work  
Program Director*

**Sarah E. Carpenter,  
MSN, PMHNP-BC**

*Psychiatric Nurse  
Practitioner*

**Kim Copley, RN**

*Transplant Coordinator*

**Ursula Dean**

*Financial Coordinator*

**Kim Flack, MS, RD,  
CNSC, LDN**

*Dietitian*

**Elizabeth Gerstenfeld  
RN, BSN**

*Transplant Coordinator*

**Tracy Hepner, RN, BSN**

*Transplant Coordinator*

**Katherine Hinton,  
MS, RD, LDN**

*Dietician*

**Mary Grace Hurtado,  
RD, LDN**

*Dietitian*

**Laura Liftin, RN, BSN**

*Transplant Coordinator*

**Jean Markevich, RN**

*Transplant Coordinator*

**Lesley Omary, MD**

*Transplant Psychiatrist*

**Elizabeth Smyth, RN**

*Transplant Coordinator*

**Leslie Spence, LMSW**

*Lung Transplant Social Worker*

**Lori Russell**

*Financial Counselor*

### NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF LUNG TRANSPLANT ANNOUNCED

Please welcome David Erasmus, MD, as the new Medical Director of Lung Transplantation at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Erasmus joins the Vanderbilt team from the Mayo Clinic in Florida, where he served in a similar role as Medical Director of Lung Transplantation. As an internationally recognized clinician, Dr. Erasmus will help lead Vanderbilt's efforts to expand access to lung transplant through growth, translational research and personalized care.



## **Vanderbilt Lung Transplant**

1105 Oxford House  
1313 21st Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37232

11440 Parkside Drive, Suite 205  
Knoxville, TN 37924

901 Riverfront Parkway, Suite 208  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

44 Hughes Road, Suite 1200  
Madison, AL 35758

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For all your patients' needs, call:

**615- 936-0393**

**Toll-Free: 866-748-1493**

**Fax: 615-936-0396**

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Download the “**VUMC Transplant**” app in the  
Apple Store for iOS or in Google Play for Android

For online referrals, visit:

**[VanderbiltTransplant.com](http://VanderbiltTransplant.com)**