

September / October 2021

# STS National Database News INTERMACS



Do you have any colleagues who should be receiving *STS National Database News*? [Fill out this form](#), and they will be added to the mailing list for future issues.

## AQO Offerings Move to STS Learning Center after This Friday

Registrants can revisit the [AQO virtual platform](#) until Friday, October 29, to view recorded live sessions, on-demand sessions, and posters from the Advances in Quality & Outcomes conference, which was attended by a record-breaking 1,403 individuals. After Friday, AQO 2021 offerings can be found in the [STS Learning Center](#), where they'll remain available until AQO 2022. Take advantage of this opportunity to catch up on sessions you missed, hear important discussions among experts and colleagues, and see the latest Intermacs research findings and recommendations.

The Tuesday program was dedicated entirely to Intermacs and Pedimacs, and noteworthy presentations included **Current and Future Benchmarking Strategies**, a **Roundtable Discussion, Communication Strategies for Data Coordinators and the Clinical Team**, and **Pediatric Interagency Registry for Mechanical Circulatory Support (Pedimacs): Outcomes for Pediatric Patients with an LVAD**.

[See the full AQO program.](#)



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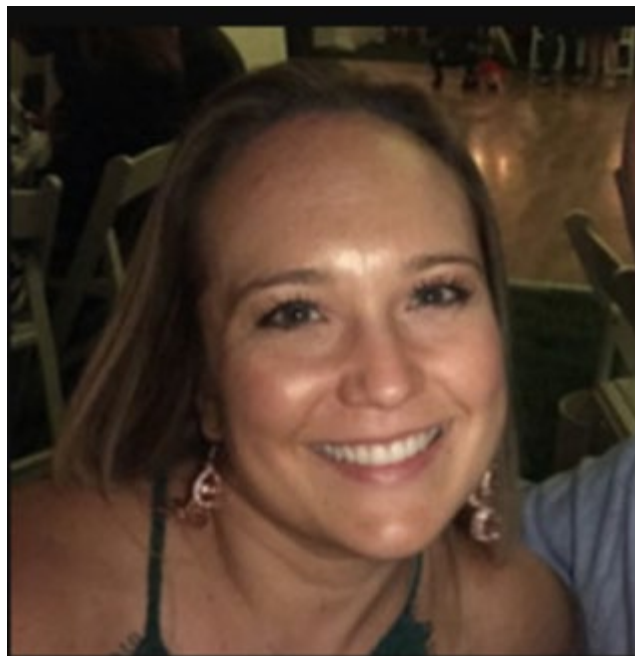
## Submit A&P Research Proposals by December 1

The Society is seeking new Access & Publications (A&P) clinical research proposals based on data available in the Intermacs Database. STS funding is available for a number of novel, well-conceived, and hypothesis-driven proposals. Collaborative projects involving multiple institutions and that can be completed within 9-12 months will receive extra consideration. Applying investigators should refer to the [A&P page](#) for more information regarding submissions due on Wednesday, December 1. Send questions and proposals to Kristin Mathis at [kmathis@sts.org](mailto:kmathis@sts.org).

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## Dinicola Honored as Outstanding VAD Coordinator

During the AQO meeting this month, Beth Dinicola, RN, BSN, from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in New Jersey, was presented with the Sherri Ann Wissman Memorial Excellence Award. "Beth is a leader in the industry and demonstrates her commitment daily to patients and the profession," wrote Dinicola's nominating colleagues. "Aside from day-to-day clinical and administrative duties, she serves as a liaison for the community and our hospital system." In addition, Dinicola developed a Zoom class for EMS personnel in New Jersey during the onset of COVID-19 lockdowns. The award is presented in memory of longtime Intermacs VAD coordinator Sherri Ann Wissman.



Dinicola takes her knowledge to rehab facilities and hemodialysis centers throughout the state of New Jersey.

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## New Pedimacs Report Details Trends in Circulatory Support

The use of ventricular assist devices continues to grow in the pediatric community. The “[Fifth Annual Pediatric Interagency Registry for Mechanical Circulatory Support \(Pedimacs\) Report](#),” published online in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, describes the number and types of devices in use in patients under the age of 19, the most common underlying etiology, and differences in survival by device.



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## Watch a Demo of the Updated Outcome Analytics Tool

Also unveiled at AQO were the latest updates to the Intermacs Outcome Analytics Tool, which allows users to replicate key exhibits from quality assurance reports and explore case scenarios for multiple report types. [See the demo](#).

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## Experienced Data Managers Wanted for Mentorship Program

Mentees are waiting to be paired with mentors through the STS National Database mentorship program, which gives them the opportunity to learn data abstraction techniques. If you're an experienced data manager able to lend your time and talent to mentorship, [learn more and apply](#) to be a mentor today.



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## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Live Webinars

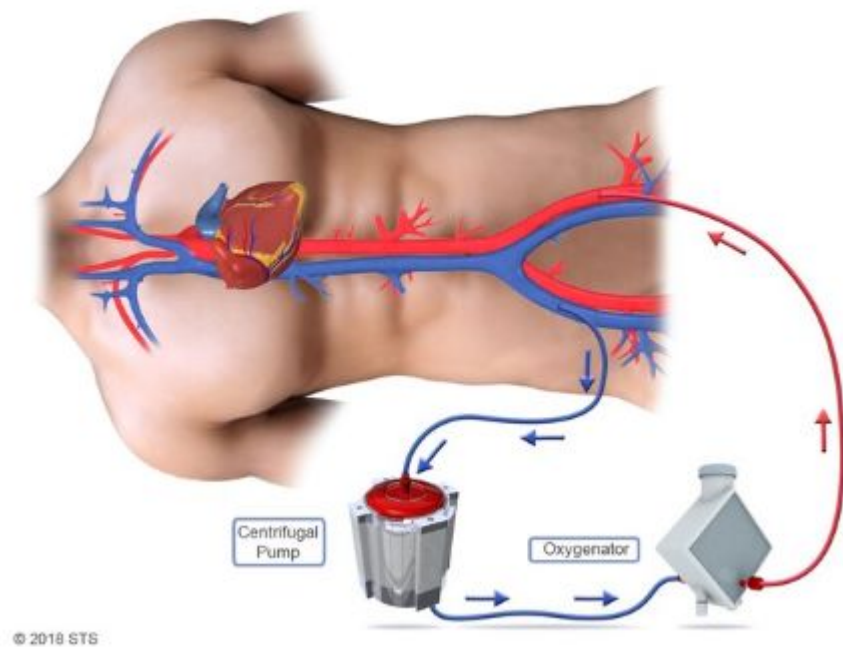
Intermacs webinars are best attended live to give you the opportunity to ask questions, present challenges, and stay connected with fellow data managers. Registration is not required for the webinars, but you will need to sign in with your name and email address to participate. Tomorrow's webinar, October 28, at 2:00 p.m. CT, will focus on the new interactive Intermacs Dashboard, which will be available next month. Add it to your calendar, [join the presentation, and see more upcoming live events](#).

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## Pump Up Patients' Understanding of VA ECMO

The STS patient information website, [ctsurgerypatients.org](http://ctsurgerypatients.org), offers animations, videos, and easy-to-understand language to explain various cardiothoracic conditions and procedures. In addition, the site helps patients and parents understand what to expect as they prepare for and recover from their operations. The [VA ECMO page](#) describes the procedure for being placed on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), explains how ECMO works, and introduces the critical care team who will provide support.

If you or your colleagues interact with patients at your institution, make sure to share this important resource—handouts are available for download in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Contact Jennifer Bagley at [jbagley@sts.org](mailto:jbagley@sts.org) with feedback or questions about the patient website.



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## Become an STS Member

Take advantage of the benefits that come with STS Membership. Find out [how to apply](#) today.

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