



CHANGING & IMPROVING  
SOUTH AFRICA'S TRANSPLANT FUTURE

**28<sup>th</sup> SATS & 5<sup>th</sup> SATiBA**

CONGRESS

6 - 8 September 2019



# **Optimum lung allocation:**

Can it be done without looking  
at outcome?

**Greg Calligaro**



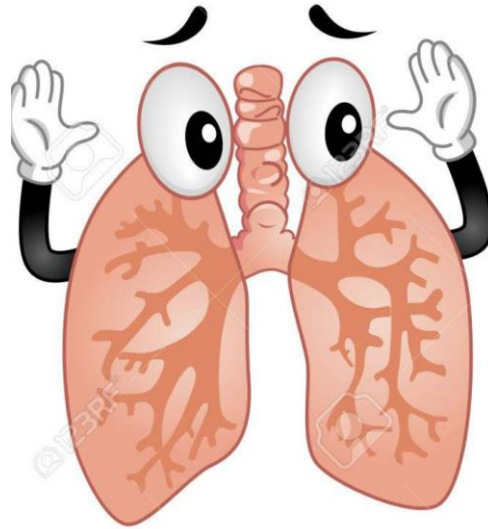
GROOTE SCHUUR HOSPITAL  
**HEART AND LUNG  
TRANSPLANT UNIT**

**No relevant disclosures or conflicts of interest.**

Demand is greater  
than supply



# Why allocate lungs?



Ethics of  
distributive justice



Optimise transplant  
outcomes

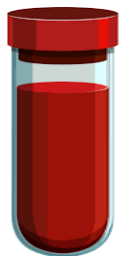


LTX is risky and  
expensive



Minimise waitlist  
mortality

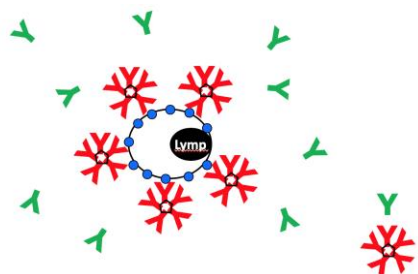




ABO group



Sizing

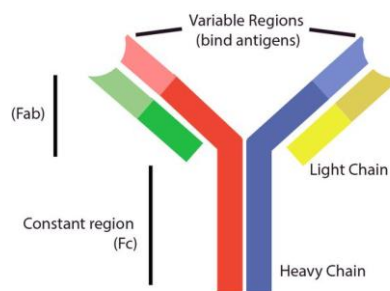


Compatible  
crossmatch

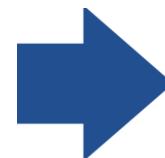
+



Clinical urgency



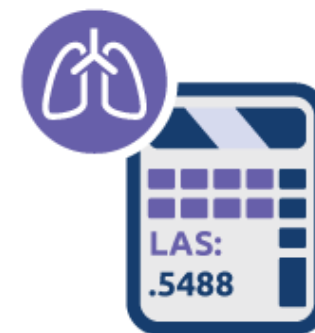
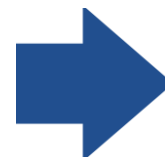
Degree of allo-  
sensitisation  
(PRAs)



Waiting time




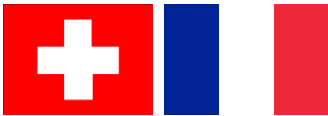

Centre decision



Scoring system

# Allocation models

**Table 1** Comparison of different allocation models

Principle	Center decision	Waiting time plus urgency	Allocation score
Equity	(+)	+	++
Justice	(+)	+	(+)
Beneficence	(+)	(+)	++
Utility	(+)	(+)	++
Survival	(+)	+	++
Quality of life	(+)	–	–
Countries			

(+), variably influenced; +, influenced; ++, strongly influenced; –, not influenced.

Can it be done without looking  
at outcome?

**URGENCY**

**VS.**

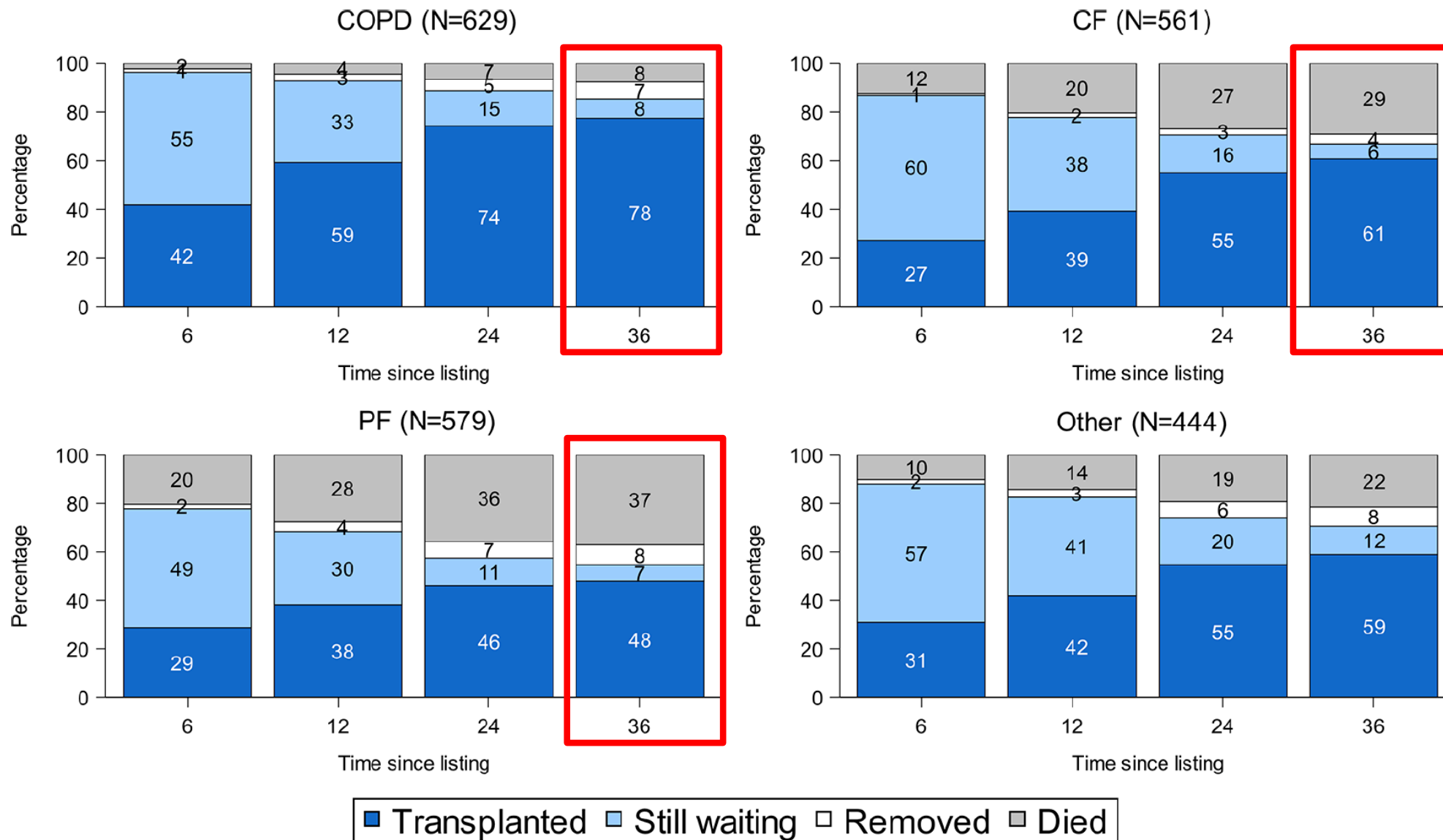
**BENEFIT**

Outcome without  
lung transplant

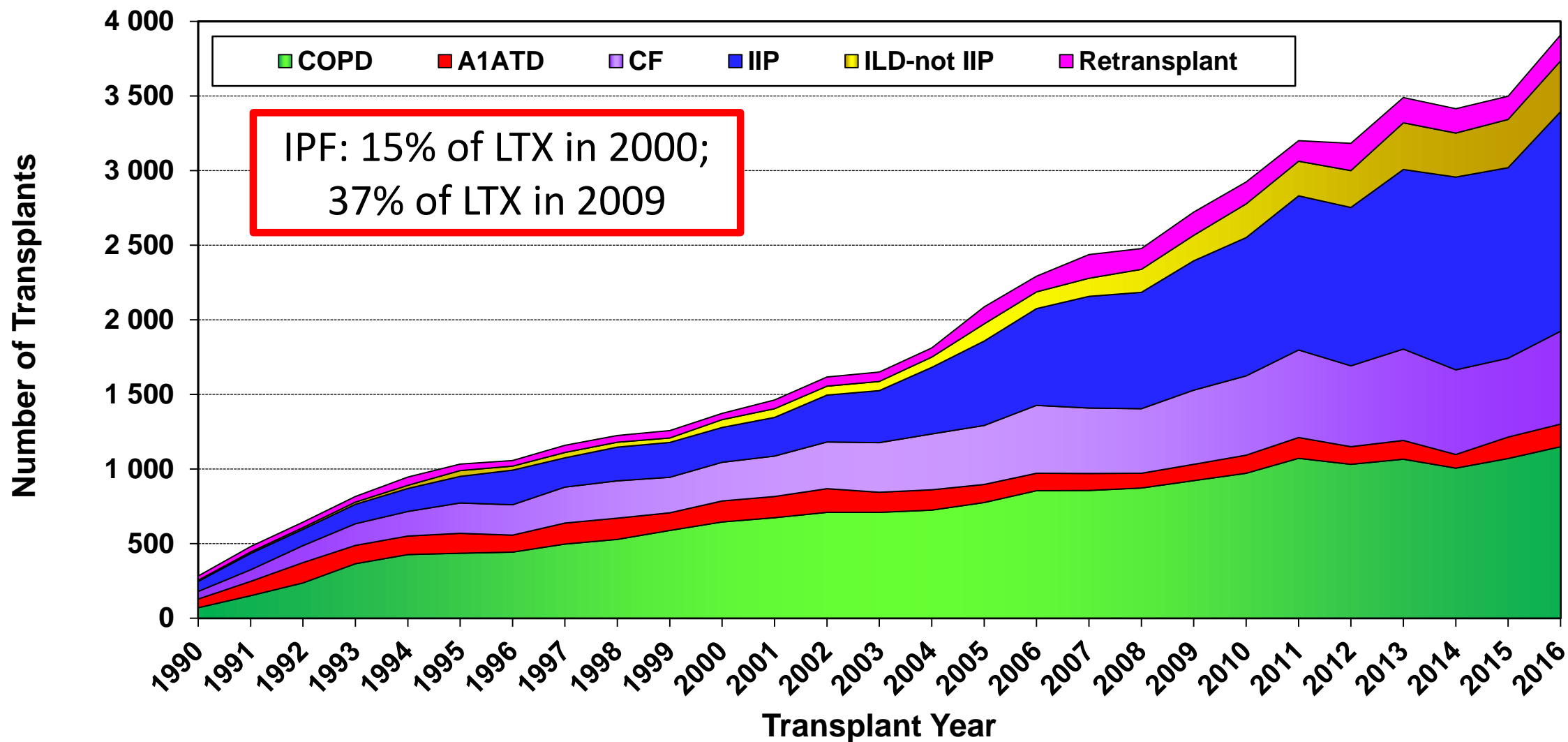
Outcome with a  
lung transplant

# Urgency

## Waitlist outcomes by diagnosis



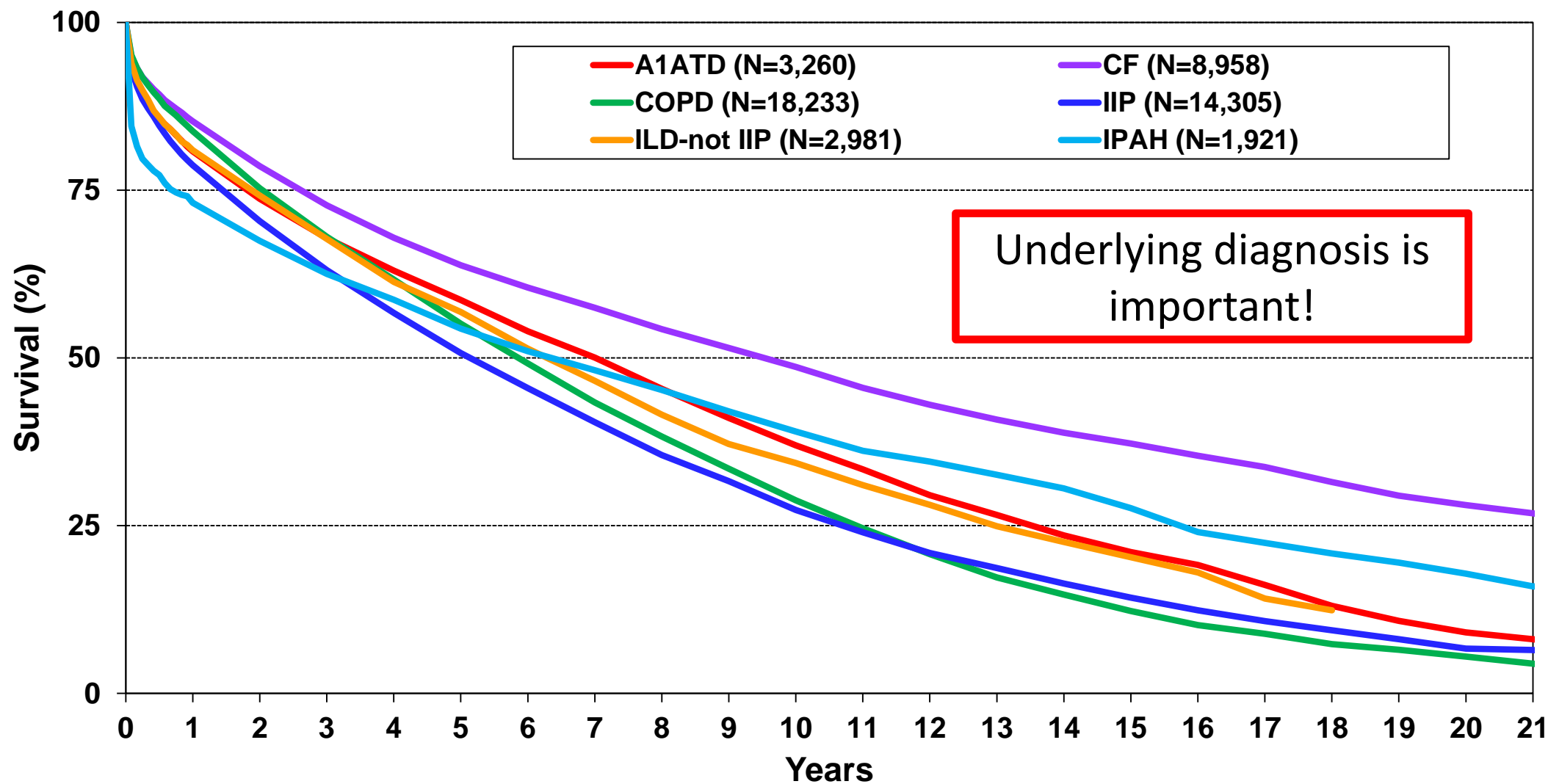
# International indications for lung transplantation





Benefit

# Post-transplant outcomes by diagnosis



# URGENCY prioritised over BENEFIT



## Priority 1

“Rule of rescue”

Top priority should be given to the patients with the least time to live



## Priority 2

Post-transplant outcomes

# Lung allocation score (LAS)

CHARACTERISTIC (X)		$\beta$ and conditions
Age at offer		
Bilirubin (mg/dL)		-0.001, if bilirubin $\geq 1$
Bilirubin increase of at least 50% <sup>1</sup>		-0.001, if diagnosis group B
Body mass index (BMI) (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )		-0.001, if BMI $< 20$ kg/m <sup>2</sup>
Cardiac index prior to any exercise (L/min/m <sup>2</sup> )		0.5435, if cardiac index $< 2$ L/min/m <sup>2</sup>
Central venous pressure (CVP) (mmHg) at rest, prior to any exercise		0.0174*(CVP - 7), if CVP $> 7$ mmHg and diagnosis group B
Continuous mechanical ventilation, if candidate is hospitalized		1.6771
Creatinine (serum) (mg/dL)		0.5034*creatinine, if candidate at least 18 years old at time of offer
Diabetes (regardless of insulin dependency)		0.4680
Diagnosis <sup>2</sup>	Group A	0
	Group B	1.5774
	Group C	1.2314
	Group D	0.6260
Diagnosis detailed	Bronchiectasis (in Group A)	0.6681
	Eisenmenger's syndrome (in Group B)	-0.6279
	Lymphangioleiomyomatosis (in Group A)	
	Obliterative bronchiolitis (in Group B)	
	Group C	
	Group D	
Forced vital capacity (L)		0.001, if diagnosis group D
Functional status		-0.4471, if no assistance needed with activities of daily living
Oxygen need to maintain adequate oxygen saturation (88% or greater) at rest (L/min)		0.0213*O <sub>2</sub> , if diagnosis group B; 0.1188*O <sub>2</sub> , if diagnosis groups A, C or D
pCO <sub>2</sub>		0.1105*pCO <sub>2</sub> /10, if pCO <sub>2</sub> $\geq 40$
pCO <sub>2</sub> increase of at least 15% <sup>3</sup>		0.2331
Pulmonary artery (PA) systolic pressure at rest, prior to any exercise (mmHg)		0.4155*(PA systolic - 40)/10, if PA systolic $> 40$ mmHg and group A; 0.0462*PA systolic/10, if diagnosis groups B, C or D
Six-minute walk distance (feet) obtained while the candidate was receiving supplemental oxygen required to maintain an oxygen saturation of 88% or greater at rest.		-0.0845*six-minute walk distance/100

Pre-transplant

Disease-specific factors have a significant effect on wait list mortality

CHARACTERISTIC (Y)		$\alpha$ and conditions
Age at transplant (years)		-0.001, if candidate age $\geq 60$
Cardiac index prior to any exercise (L/min/m <sup>2</sup> )		-0.001, if cardiac index $< 2$ L/min/m <sup>2</sup>
Continuous mechanical ventilation, if candidate is hospitalized		0.0094
Creatinine at transplant (mg/dl)		0.0896*creatinine, if candidate age $\geq 18$ years
Creatinine increase $\geq 150\%$ <sup>4</sup>		0.7709
Diagnosis <sup>5</sup>	Group A	0
	Group B	0.6116
	Group C	0.3627
	Group D	0.4641
Diagnosis detailed	Bronchiectasis (in Group A)	0.1889
	Eisenmenger's syndrome (in Group B)	0.9147
	Lymphangioleiomyomatosis (in Group A)	-1.5194
	Obliterative bronchiolitis (not retransplant) (in Group D)	-1.2051
	Pulmonary fibrosis, not idiopathic (in Group D)	-0.0724
	Sarcoidosis with PA mean pressure $> 30$ mmHg (in group D)	-0.0438
	Sarcoidosis with PA mean pressure $\leq 30$ mmHg (in group A)	-0.1389
Functional status: If no assistance needed to perform activities of daily living		-0.1900
Oxygen need to maintain adequate oxygen saturation (88% or greater) at rest (L/min)		0.0748*O <sub>2</sub> , if diagnosis group A; 0.0164*O <sub>2</sub> , if diagnosis groups B, C or D
Six-minute walk distance (feet) obtained while the candidate was receiving supplemental oxygen required to maintain an oxygen saturation of 88% or greater at rest.		0.0005*(1200 - six-minute walk distance)

Post-transplant

Multivariate Cox proportional (regression) analysis of a derivation cohort of LTX recipients from UNOS 1997-1998 (but introduced in 2005)

Egan TM, et. al., Am J Transplant, 2006.

## Step 1. Calculate the expected waiting list survival probability during the next year:

$$S_{WL,i}(t) = S_{WL,0}(t) e^{\beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \dots + \beta_p X_{pi}}$$

Computing a candidate's expected waiting list survival probability during the next year involves three calculations:

- (i) Sum the product of parameter estimates and characteristic values for candidate i:  $\beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \dots + \beta_p X_{pi}$  (For  $\beta$  values see Table 1.)
- (ii) Exponentiate this sum:  $e^{\beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \dots + \beta_p X_{pi}}$
- (iii) Apply the exponent to the baseline survival at all time points during the next year:

The waiting list urgency measure ( $WL_i$ ), the area under the waiting list survival probability curve during the next 1 year, can be written mathematically as:

$$WL_i = \sum_{k=1}^{365} Height_k * Width_k = \sum_{k=1}^{365} S_{WL,i}(k-1) * 1 \text{ day, for candidate } i$$

Age (years)

Height (cm)

Weight (kg)

Diagnosis of lung disease

Functional status (without support, mild support, full support)

Diabetes status (unknown, insulin-dependent, no diabetes, non-insulin-dependent)

Mechanical ventilation  
intermittent invasive

Oxygen treatment

Oxygen requirement

Forced vital capacity

Systolic pulmonary

Mean pulmonary

Mean pulmonary

Current carbon dioxide partial pressure (mmHg or kPa)

Rise in carbon dioxide partial pressure (%) in relation to minimal carbon dioxide partial pressure

6-min walking test (m)

Serum creatinine ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$  or  $\text{mg/dL}$ )

# Lung allocation score (LAS) – 2010 model



## What about ECMO?



Assigned a value between 0 – 100 with a higher number meaning a higher urgency

# UNOS<sup>SM</sup>

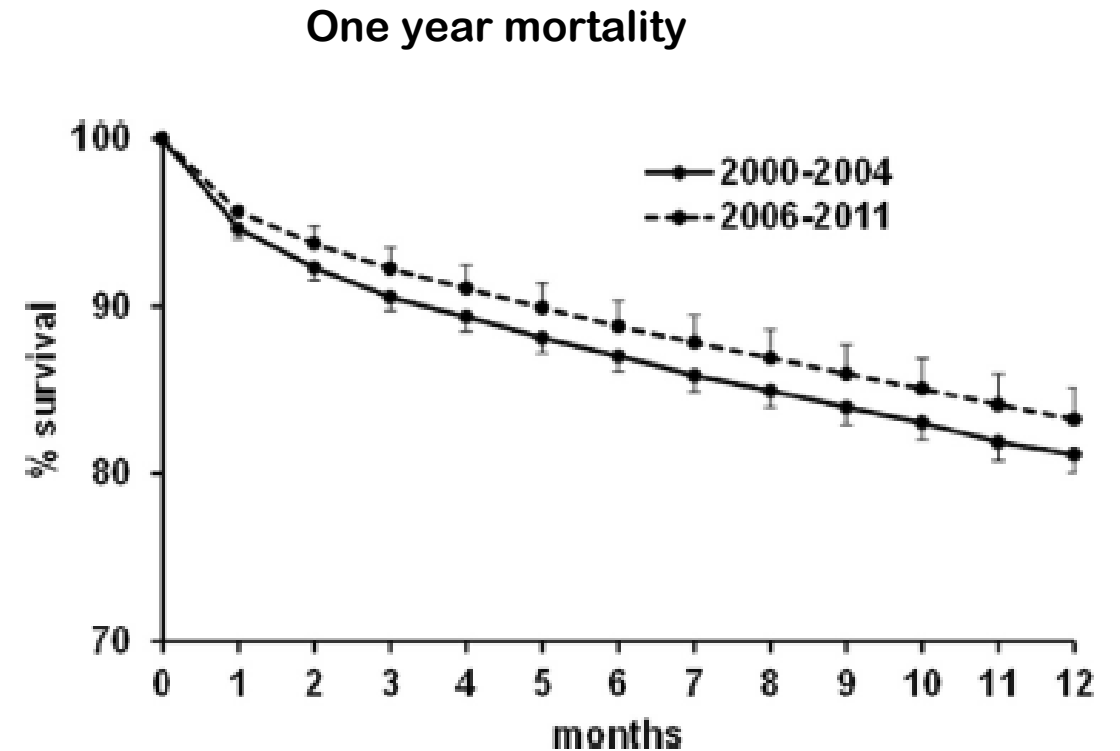
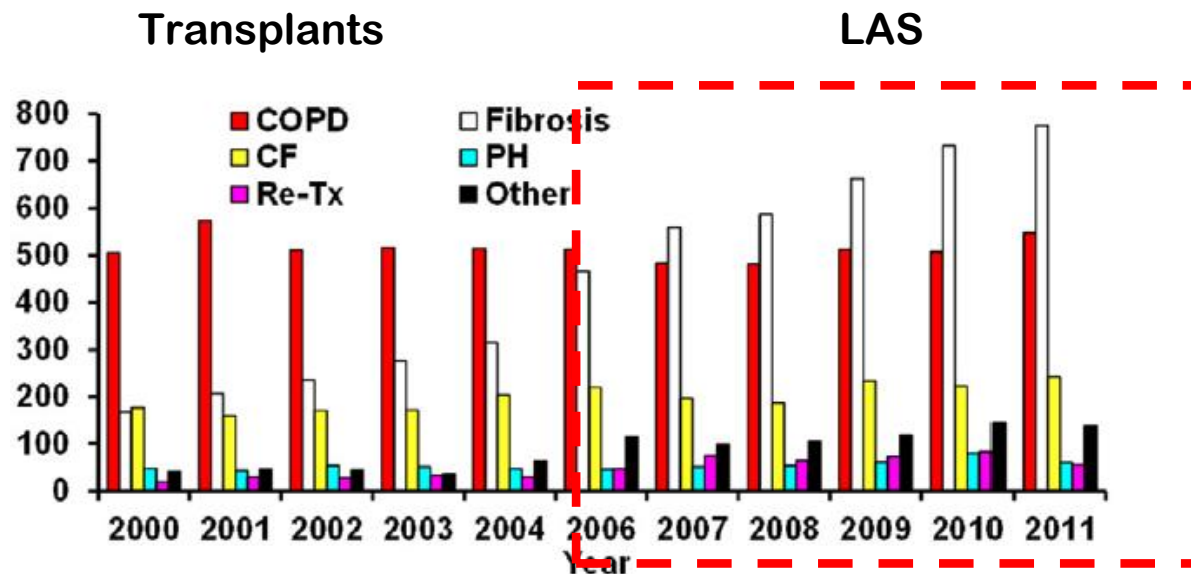
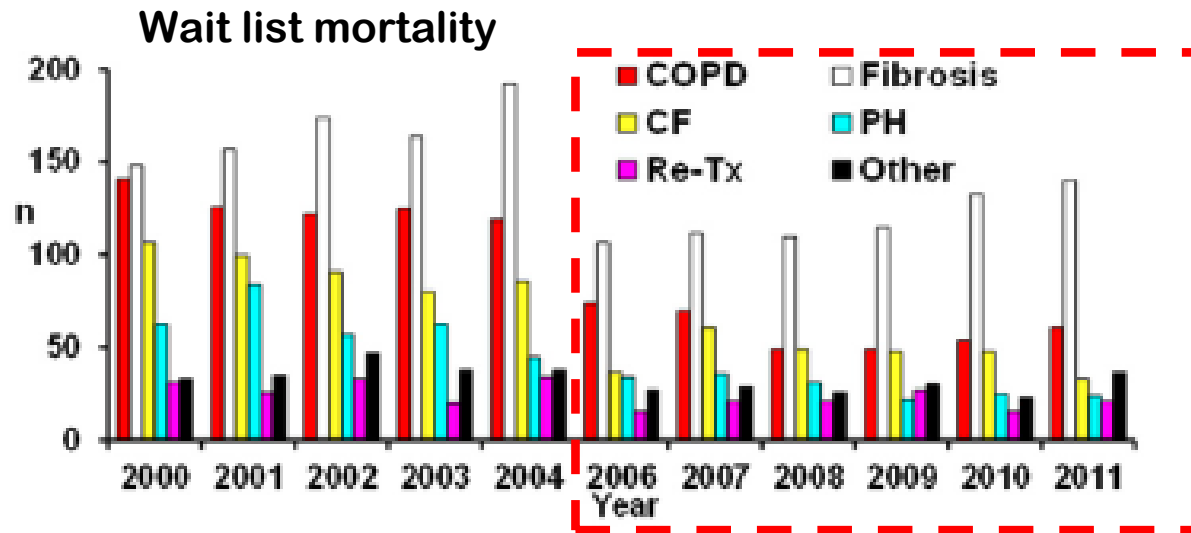
Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
**HRSA**  
Health Resources and Services Administration

<https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/resources/allocation-calculators/las-calculator/>

# Effect of LAS on transplantation in the USA



20% increase in CF LTX  
~8 lives saved per 100 transplants



# Can lung allocation scores work in South Africa?

**Probably not!**

## High emergency organ allocation rule in lung transplantation: a simulation study

Julien Riou<sup>1</sup>, Pierre-Yves Boëlle<sup>1</sup>, Jason D. Christie<sup>2</sup> and Gabriel Thabut<sup>3,4</sup>

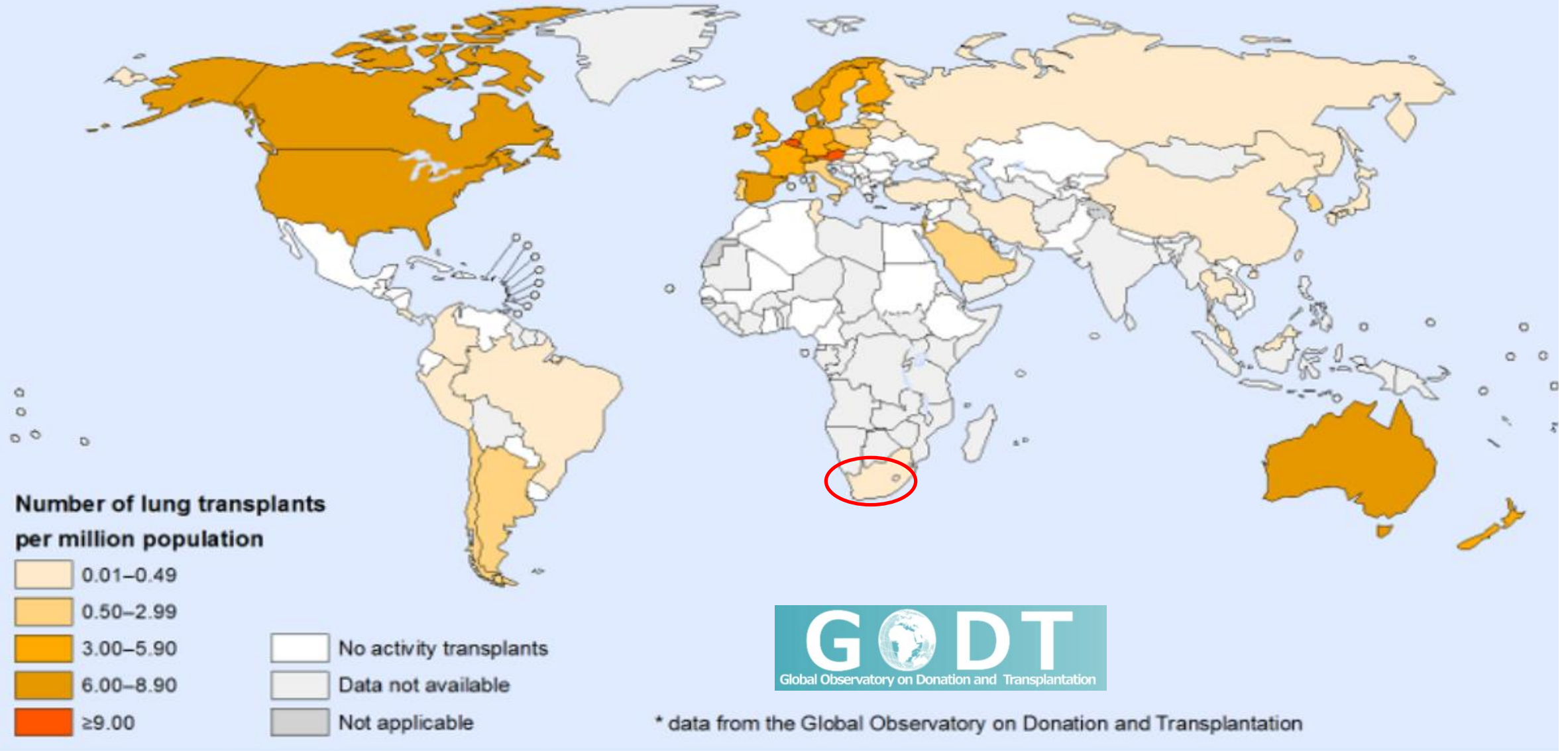
**Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>Sorbonne Universités, UPMC Université Paris 6, INSERM, Institut Pierre Louis d'Epidémiologie et de Santé Publique (UMRS 1136), Paris, France. <sup>2</sup>Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Dept of Medicine, Center for Translational Lung Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA. <sup>3</sup>Service de Pneumologie B et Transplantation Pulmonaire, Hôpital Bichat et Université Paris 7, Paris, France. <sup>4</sup>INSERM, UMR\_S 1152, Université Paris Diderot-Paris 7, Paris, France.

Impact of a high urgency allocation strategy depends on organ supply

When organ/recipient ratio is low, the benefits in early mortality are high – but counterbalanced by a dramatic increase in size of waiting list

A progressive increase in mortality on the waiting list develops over time, deterioration of patients' condition at the time of transplant, and a decrease in post-survival outcomes

~4000 lung transplants globally annually



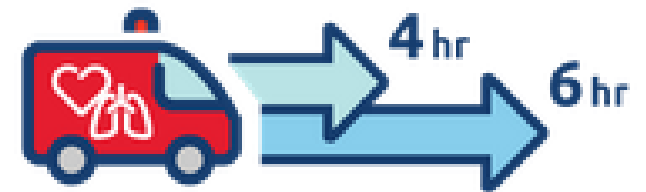
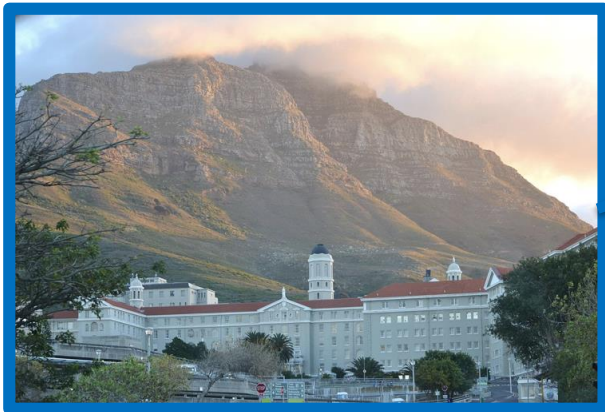
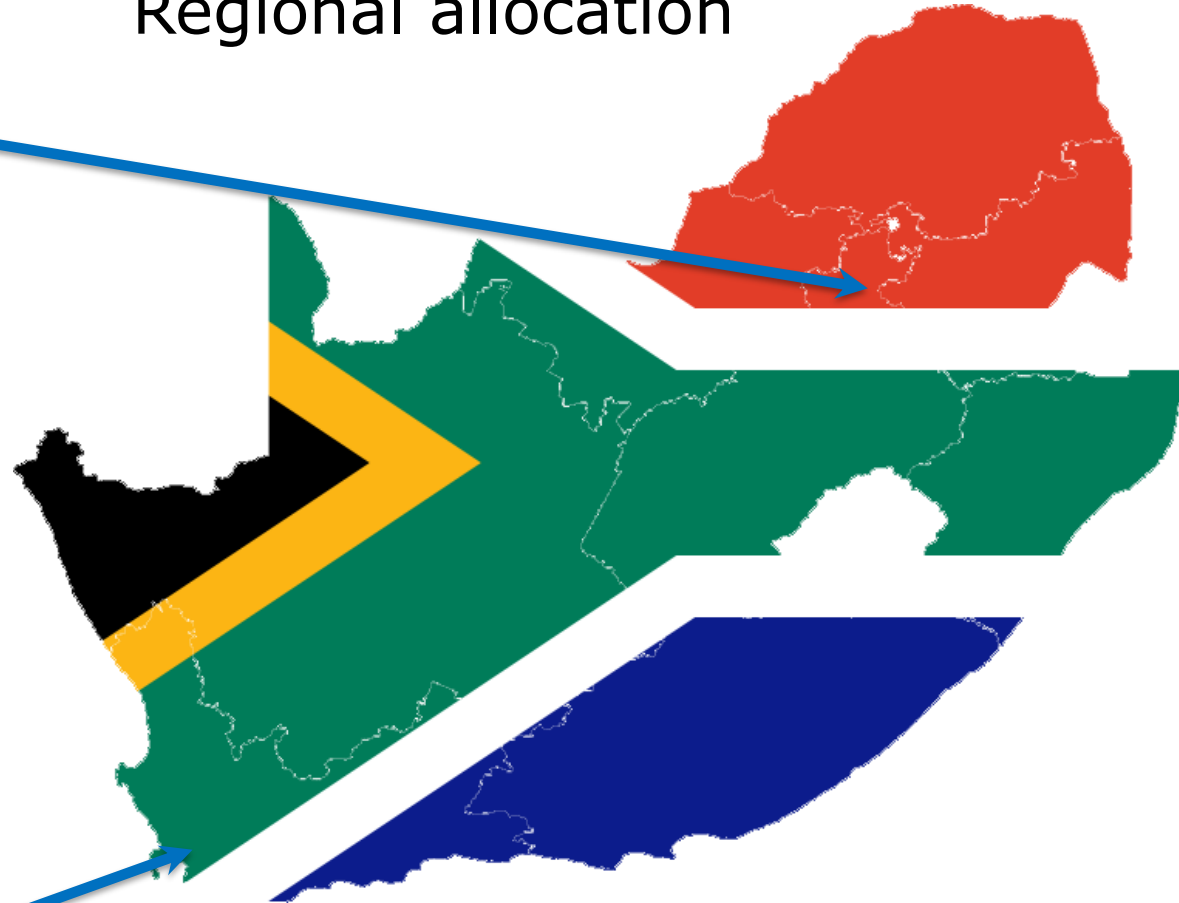




~1400km apart  
Regional allocation

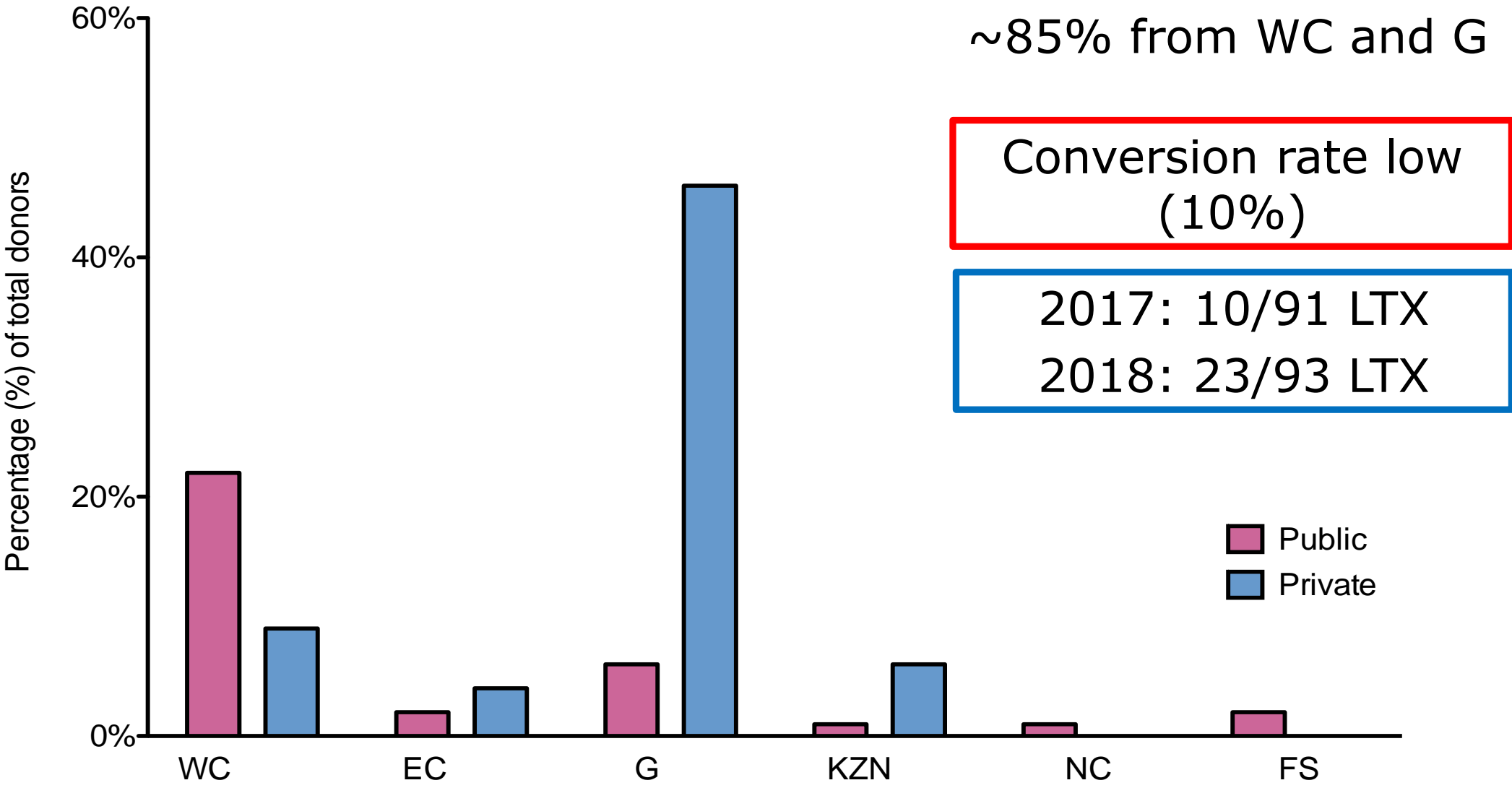


Geography  
plays a part



Transport considerations

# South African LTX data 2017

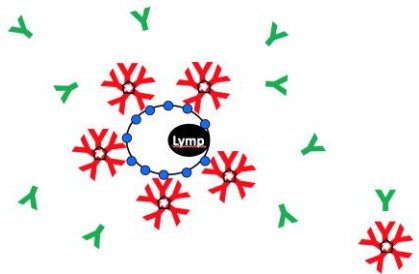




ABO group



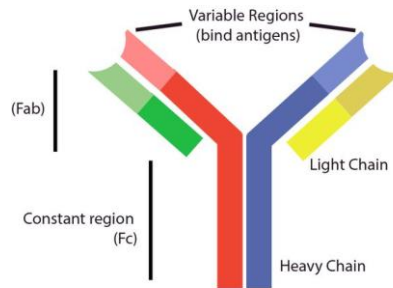
Sizing



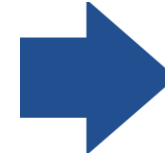
Compatible  
crossmatch



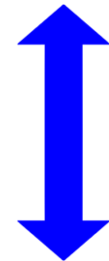
Clinical urgency



Degree of allo-  
sensitisation  
(PRAs)



Centre decision



Collaboration with  
other centre

# What about ECMO as a marker of urgency in South Africa?

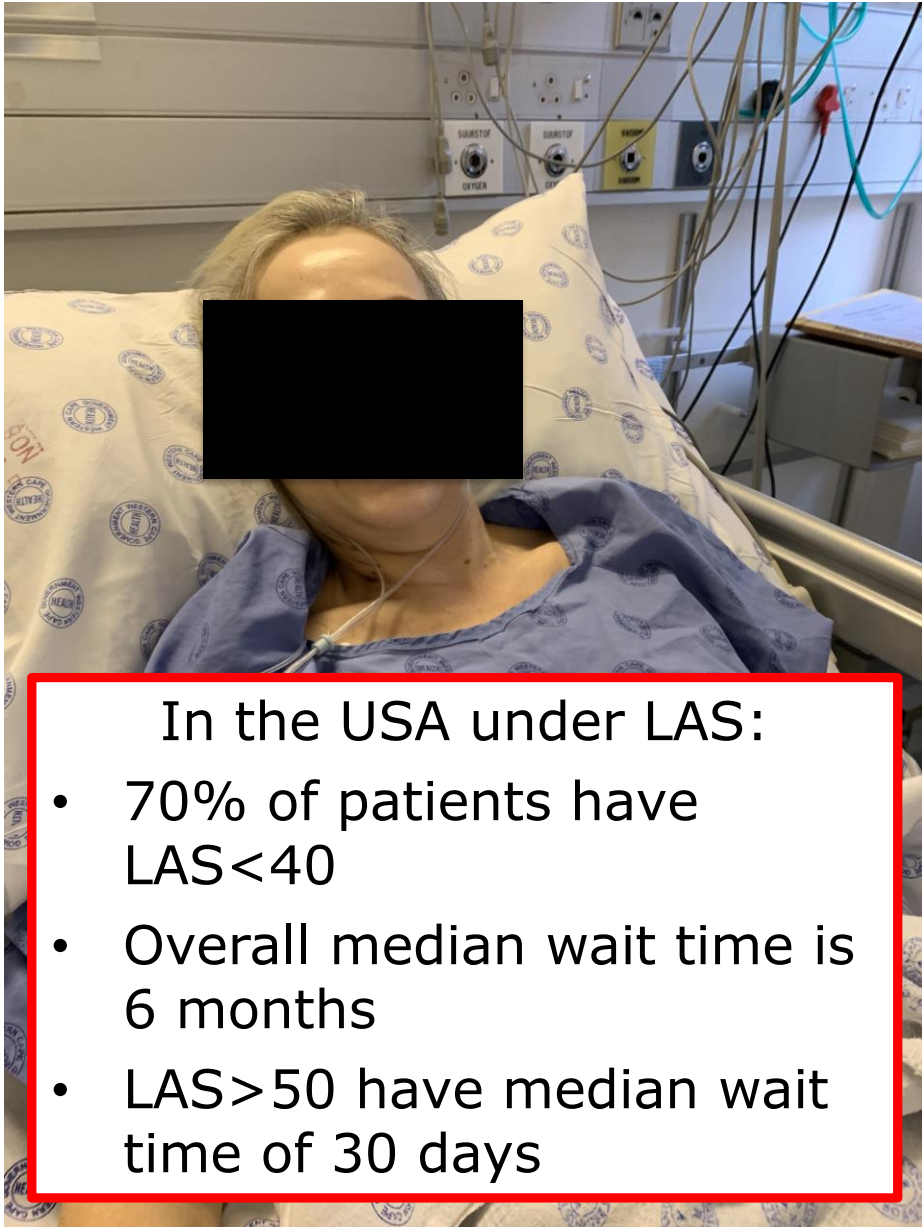


Pre-operative ECMO  
“Bridge to Tx” or BTT

Intraoperative  
support

Postoperative  
support (PGD)





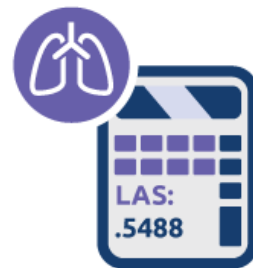
In the USA under LAS:

- 70% of patients have LAS<40
- Overall median wait time is 6 months
- LAS>50 have median wait time of 30 days

## 51-year-old woman with advanced ILD:

- Mixed fibrotic/cellular NSIP
- Failed multiple immunosuppressants
- In respiratory failure for 4 years
- Blood group O, 0% PRAs
- Multiple admissions, with progressive increase in O<sub>2</sub> requirement (now 8L/min at rest)
- Rapidly deconditioning (↓BMI and 6MWT)

No criteria for urgent LTX listing in SA



**LUNG ALLOCATION SCORE (LAS): 43.1342**

**? WAITLIST URGENCY MEASURE: 292 day(s)**

**POST-TRANSPLANT SURVIVAL MEASURE: 327 day(s)**



# Summary

- Organ allocation in LTX is a subjective or objective evaluation that includes measures of pre- and post-transplant survival
- Donor and transplant numbers in SA do not justify an LAS-type system (and would require a statistical model including local outcome data)
- Measures of “urgency” in our setting differ from high-volume countries
- Organ allocation (outside of geographical location) requires clinical judgement and a collaborative approach between centres



# Acknowledgements

- **Cardiothoracic surgeons:** Tim Pennel, Chima Ofoegbu, Rodgers Manganyi, Johan Brink
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- **Pulmonologists:** Keertan Dheda, Greg Symons
- **Intensivists:** Ivan Joubert, Dave Thomson, Malcolm Miller, Jenna Piercy
- **Anaesthetists:** Justiaan Swanevelder, Adriaan Myburgh, Adri Vorster
- **Heart and Lung Transplant Clinic:** Karen Seele, Hannelte Church
- **ICU staff:** D22 ICU nurses, technologists
- **Physiotherapists:** Marchelle Lake, Jacques Erasmus, Sameega Salie, Carolyn Davids



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