

ADVANCED HEART FAILURE,
CARDIAC TRANSPLANTATION AND
MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT



Jia Cade
Heart Transplant
Patient



VANDERBILT HEART



Jia's Story

Jia Cade, born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, endured multiple surgeries in infancy. But she and her family knew that someday she'd require a heart transplant. Now a 20-year-old community college student in Huntsville, Ala., Cade had felt "fine" for years - until suddenly in early 2020, she didn't. One day, in a restaurant with a friend, she felt that something was very wrong and called an ambulance before collapsing. At a local hospital, she had to be resuscitated five times. LifeFlight brought Cade to Vanderbilt, where doctors determined that she needed to be on the heart transplant waitlist. Amazingly, a heart became available in three days. Cade received a heart transplant on April 7. Despite recuperation during the pandemic, and experiencing organ rejection last fall, Cade entered 2021 with her usual high energy. "I have a struggle to not push myself too hard," she says. Before her transplant, she felt, "I just want to see where the wind blows me." The transplant has affected every part of her life. Now, she feels, "Where am I meant to be?"

You want the best for your patients.
You've come to the right place.



At Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute, we provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to patients with advanced heart failure, including the evaluation of a patient's candidacy for heart transplantation or mechanical circulatory support. Our team's experience and commitment to quality have made us a national leader in cardiovascular care.

When you partner with us, you remain an essential part of your patient's care. This collaboration becomes a conduit for the kind of communication necessary to provide your patients and their families with the personalized, compassionate care and comfort they deserve.

Programs

ADVANCED HEART FAILURE

With a team of experts trained in advanced heart failure, Vanderbilt seeks to improve quality of life and survival for patients in all stages of heart failure, whatever the etiology. In addition to providing care for a large population of patients with ischemic and idiopathic cardiomyopathies, we specialize in treatment of amyloid heart disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and other inherited heart disease, cardiac sarcoid, adult congenital heart disease and other disease processes for which experience and tailored treatments are critical to patient outcomes.

MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT

Vanderbilt offers mechanical circulatory support options for patients awaiting heart transplant as well as those for whom transplant is not an option. With more than 500 left ventricular assist devices implanted, we are one of the most experienced programs in the nation, with access to an ever-expanding inventory of the world's most sophisticated mechanical assist devices.

CARDIAC TRANSPLANTATION

Since 1985, Vanderbilt has assisted referring physicians in providing quality care to more than 1,000 adult heart transplant patients. In 2020 alone, our team performed 148 heart transplants, ranking us the highest volume transplant program in the nation. For select patients with multi-system organ dysfunction, we offer dual-organ transplantation, including heart-kidney, heart-liver and heart-lung. We are also one of only five programs to formally collaborate with the Veterans Administration to provide heart transplantation to our country's veterans.

As the nation's busiest heart transplant program, our team feels an obligation to advance the field of transplantation through innovation, research and technology. We are actively involved in delivering novel approaches that allow our program to serve more patients, including high-risk patients, who may not be candidates for transplantation at other medical centers.

"The rapid growth of our transplant program in recent years reflects our commitment to innovative, multidisciplinary patient care, including for many individuals who may not be candidates at other centers. Key to our program's success has been collaboration with the many thoughtful referring providers who send these patients our way."

*Kelly Schlendorf, MD
Medical Director, Adult Heart Transplant Program*

2020 Achievements

Here are highlights of our team's achievements and ongoing advances in heart transplantation:

- Largest heart transplant center in the country by volume
- World's largest single-center experience in transplantation of hearts from hepatitis C-infected donors; expanding the donor pool has significantly reduced expected wait times for many patients (recipients who become infected with hepatitis C are treated with antiviral medication, with a 100% cure rate)
- Ex vivo perfusion to preserve and recover donor hearts expands the donor pool by allowing us to consider transplanting hearts that may otherwise be discarded
- One of only a handful of medical centers offering transplantation to patients with complex adult congenital heart disease, including single-ventricle, Fontan-palliated anatomy
- Participation in clinical trials, investigating donation after cardiac death (DCD) hearts as yet another strategy to safely expand the donor pool
- Ability to perform multi-visceral transplants, including heart-kidney, heart-liver and heart-lung
- Transplant Patient and Family Advisory Board voices are instrumental in inspiring ongoing programmatic improvements at all stages of the transplantation process



Tim Lowell, pictured here with his wife, Ginger, was Tennessee's first total artificial heart patient. He has since undergone combined heart-kidney transplantation.

Tim Lowell, of Hernando, Mississippi, was the first total artificial heart recipient in Tennessee, at VUMC in September 2018. The device kept him alive until a donor heart was available for a permanent transplant, which occurred in December 2018, along with a kidney transplant.

Lowell had dealt with serious heart conditions for nearly 20 years by the time of his transplant. In March 2021, looking back, he described many months post-transplant when he dealt with complications that challenged his recovery. But this spring, he is feeling "pretty good!" He's planning a vegetable garden and has resumed hunting. Neither activity was possible pre-transplant.

Lowell credits his life today to his wife, Ginger, agreeing to the artificial heart transplant, in a moment when Lowell was incapacitated – and to the "phenomenal" care team.

"Even through the worst times, I was really glad of the decision my wife made. If I had to do it all again tomorrow, I'd do it."

Our Dedicated Team

Vanderbilt is ranked # 1 in Tennessee for heart care by *U.S. News & World Report*, and our team leads the region in treating advanced heart failure. We strive to provide the highest quality referral service to assist you in managing your patients' complicated needs. We know that optimal treatment of heart disease requires expertise from experienced providers and effective communication with referring physicians.

ADVANCED HEART FAILURE/TRANSPLANT CARDIOLOGISTS



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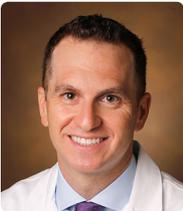
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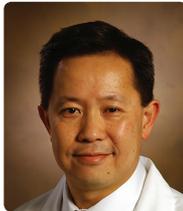
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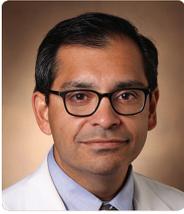


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Maura Webb, LCSW
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"The size and scope of our program allow us to offer heart transplants to increasingly complex patients. But it also creates new insights about the failing heart, which in turn helps us take care of all patients. I sincerely believe Vanderbilt is building the future of heart transplantation today."

Ashish S. Shah, MD
Chairman, Department of Cardiac Surgery
Surgical Director, Heart Transplant Program

Our Referral Process

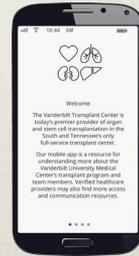
Early referral for advanced heart failure therapies, including ventricular assist devices and heart transplantation, is key for optimizing postsurgical outcomes — most significantly survival and quality of life — and avoiding increased risks for patients. We advise physicians to consider referral if a patient has experienced significant or progressive functional decline, recurring heart failure hospitalizations or is not tolerating optimization of medical therapy. We strive to see all new referrals within two weeks of referral receipt. If you feel that your patient's needs warrant an urgent visit, please contact our medical or surgical directors by email or phone.

TO MAKE AN ADULT HEART TRANSPLANT OR LVAD REFERRAL

- Fax Patient Face Sheet and medical records to (615) 936-3829, or
- Visit us at VanderbiltTransplant.com for easy online referrals, or
- Call (615) 936-3500 to make a referral by phone

IMPROVING ACCESS

Our mobile app provides direct contact with our physicians and access to our on-call physicians for urgent transfers and other urgent needs regarding a transplant patient. Download the VUMC Transplant app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.



Cardiac Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support

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