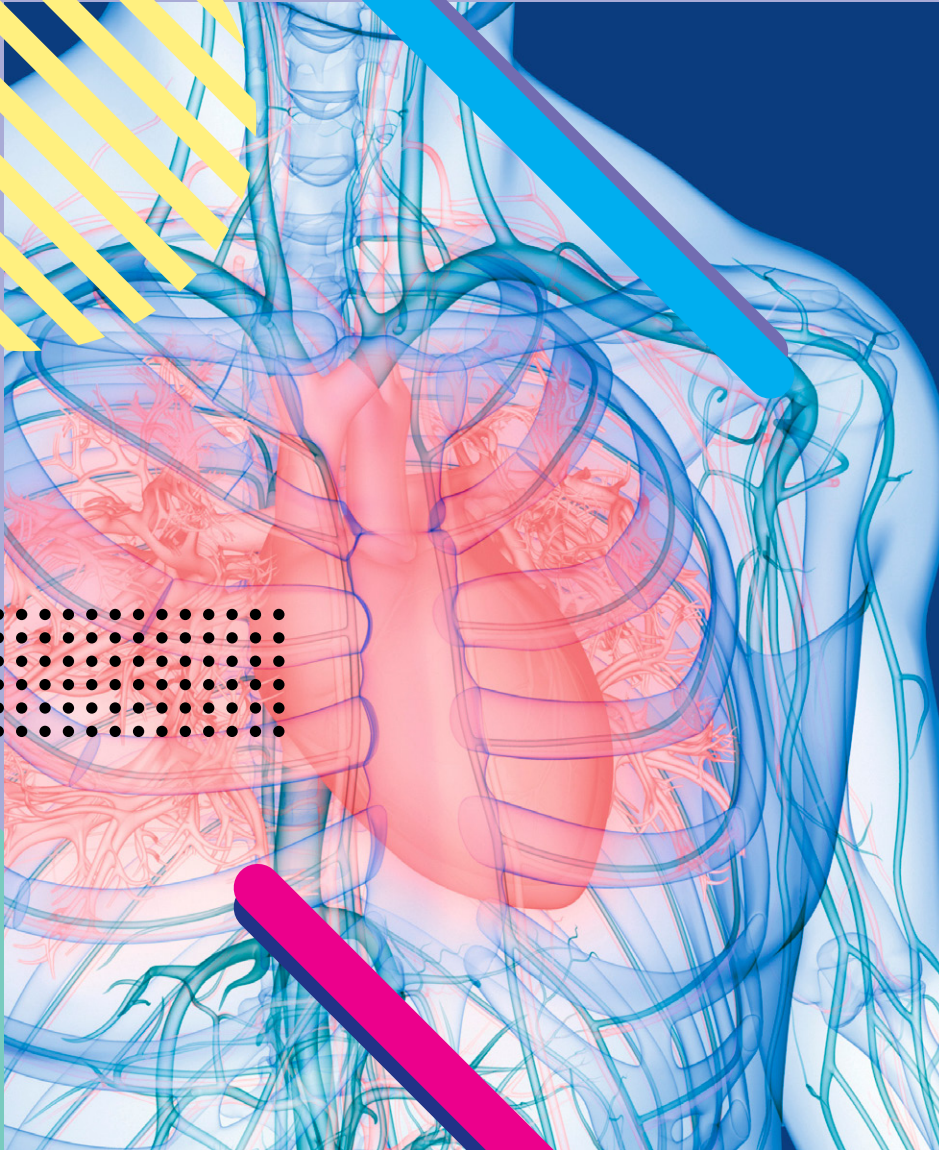


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ASMA 2026



**Forging Future Masters:
Cultivating Knowledge, Technique
and Resilience in Cardiothoracic Surgery**

**Wednesday 4 – Saturday 7
November 2026**

**JW Marriott Gold Coast,
QLD, Australia**



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Wednesday 4 – Saturday 7 November 2026
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Invited Speakers



Dr David Barron
Canada

David Barron is the Division Head of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, and came to Canada in June 2019 having been staff at Birmingham Childrens Hospital, UK since 1999. He is Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto and also the Director of the Adult Congenital Heart Surgery Program at Toronto General Hospital. He graduated from St. Thomas Hospital medical school in London, and did his cardiothoracic training at Papworth Hospital, Southampton, the Royal Brompton Hospital and Great Ormond Street, London. He has a doctorate (MD) from Imperial College, London in biomechanical cardiac assist and is dual qualified in both internal medicine (FRCP) and in cardiothoracic surgery (FRCS CT). He is on the editorial board of five cardiology/cardiothoracic journals and has sat on the council of British and European professional societies. His research interests include Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, Congenitally Corrected Transposition and Complex Pulmonary Atresia. There is a strong programme in 3D imaging as well as 3D printing in Toronto including the use of 3D printed models for surgical training and education. Dr Barron leads the Hands on Surgical Training (HOST) courses that are run for international delegates every year.



Dr Marion Durand
France

Marion Durand M.D Ph.D is a French thoracic surgeon working in Paris, France. She started her robotic program in 2014 and has performed more than 1500 procedures so far. She has also developed a pediatric robotic thoracic program with pediatric French university centers since 2017. Involved in anatomical lung resection she has special interest in sub-lobar resection, neo adjuvant treatment, 3D pre op planning and new technologies. She has developed a specific 4-arm closed chest staple less approach, favoring technical skills over devices use, for surgeon hard skills, safety, economic and ecologic benefit. She is involved in training and teaching programs and masterclass for robotic thoracic surgery in Europe and Internationally. In 2024, she started the first French endobronchial robotic navigation program.



Dr Konrad Hoetzenecker
United States of America

Konrad Hoetzenecker, MD PhD is an appointed Professor for Thoracic Surgery at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee and serves as the Surgical Director of the Vanderbilt Lung Transplant Program. His research focuses on donor lung preservation and the opportunities arising from organ storage at 10°C, ex-vivo lung perfusion, and normothermic regional perfusion.

Another major area of his work is the development of new surgical techniques, including minimally invasive lung transplantation. Vanderbilt is one of the few centers worldwide currently offering minimally invasive lung transplantation.

Dr Hoetzenecker has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and is an editorial board member of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation. He has been awarded several prizes and grants including the Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship from the American Association of Thoracic Surgery.



Prof Utz Kappert
Germany

Prof. Dr. med. Utz Kappert is a distinguished cardiovascular surgeon and leading expert in minimally invasive cardiac surgery (MICS). Currently serving as a Senior Consultant and Vice Director at the Department of Cardiac Surgery, Technical University Heart Center Dresden/ Germany, he has dedicated his career to advancing surgical techniques that prioritize patient recovery and clinical precision.

With over 30 years of medical experience, Prof. Kappert has pioneered specialized procedures, including the transaxillary minimally invasive cardiac lateral surgery (MICALAT-S) approach for aortic and mitral valve repairs (one access), allowing for complex heart surgeries without visible scarring or extensive chest trauma. In 2019, he founded the Center for Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery in Dresden/ Germany, reinforcing his commitment to "keyhole" surgery for valve diseases and heart failure treatments.

Beyond the operating room, Prof. Kappert is a prolific researcher with over 260 scientific publications focusing on aortic valve innovation and transcatheter therapies. He is also a passionate educator, training surgeons globally and serving as an associate professor at the TU Dresden. His dedication to the field is further highlighted by his role in establishing the Dresden Artificial Heart Valve Museum, which preserves the history and evolution of cardiovascular implants.