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Education Core Director  
Transplant Surgery Fellowship  
Program Director



**Akansha Agrawal, MD**  
Transplant Nephrology  
Fellowship  
Program Director



**Christopher Moore, MD**  
Transplant Hepatology  
Fellowship  
Program Director



**Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH**  
T32 and T35  
Program Director



**Richard M. Green, MD**  
T32 Program Director



**Zachary Dietch, MD, MBA**  
CTCSSIP Program Director

<https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/transplant/research/research-cores/education-core.html>

### Comprehensive Transplant Center

#### Education Core

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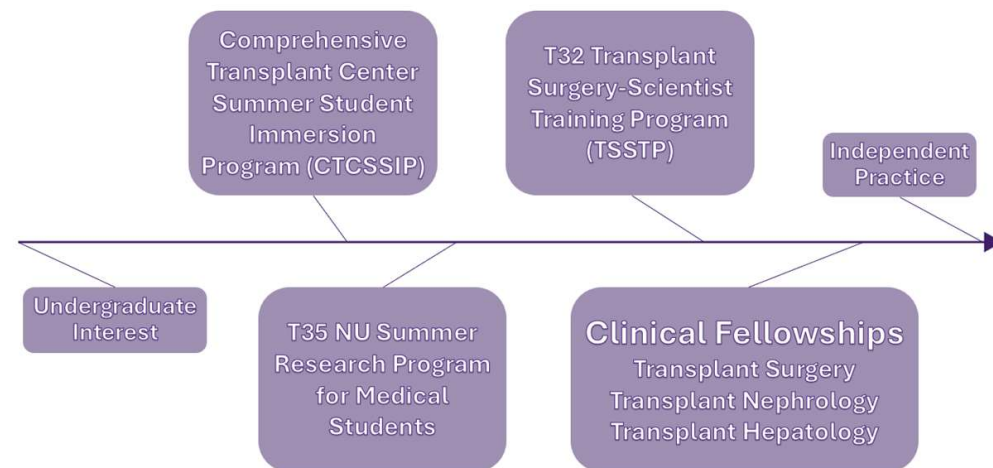


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### COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPLANT CENTER

# EDUCATION CORE

*Creating a pathway for the next  
generation of experts in transplant*



## Mission

The mission of the Education Core is to provide the tools, experiences, expertise, and infrastructure to teach and expand on a high level of skill and knowledge in clinical, surgical, and technical practices based on a fully-encompassing scope of issues pertaining to kidney, liver, pancreas, islet, small bowel, and multi-organ, deceased and living donor, organ transplantation. This core aids in the learning objectives for observers, medical students, residents, and fellows.

## About the Education Core

The Education Core is led by Derrick Christopher, MD, MBA. Dr. Christopher is an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Program Director for the Transplant Surgery Fellowship. Aaron Taub provides organizational and logistical support, and the ASTS Academic Universe provides the didactic learning for Residents and Fellows.

The Education Core oversees all Comprehensive Transplant Center (CTC)-administered fellowships, training grants, and lectures, and provides consultation and hands on assistance in developing new fellowship programs, accreditation site visit preparation, training, and funding prospects. They provide the expertise for setting up a new program or improving on an existing one.

## Clinical Fellowships

The CTC currently offers three clinical fellowships: Transplant Surgery, Transplant Nephrology, and Transplant Hepatology. In 2024, the Northwestern Medicine Organ Transplant Center performed 691 transplants, the most in a single year in Northwestern Medicine History.

The **Transplant Surgery fellowship**, led by Program Director Derrick Christopher, MD, MBA, is a two-year program accredited by the American Society of Transplant Surgery (ASTS) in kidney, liver, and pancreas transplant, and hepatobiliary surgery.

The **Transplant Nephrology fellowship**, led by Program Director Akansha Agrawal, MD, is a one-year program accredited by the American Society of Transplant's Transplant Nephrology Fellowship Training Accreditation Program (AST TNFTAP).

The **Transplant Hepatology fellowship**, led by Program Director Christopher Moore, MD, is a one-year program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

## Training Grants and Opportunities

The CTC holds two active NIH training grants: the T32 Transplant Surgery Scientist Training Program for two years of post-doctorate research fellowship, and the T35 NU Summer Program for Medical Students. It also hosts the CTC Summer Student Immersion Program (CTCSSIP) for undergraduates and medical students up to the M2 level.

The **T32 Transplant Surgery Scientist Training Program (TSSTP)**, led by Program Directors Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH, and Richard Green, MD, provides intensive and rigorous training by multidisciplinary senior, mid-level, and junior mentors, as well as classroom education. Trainees on this research grant choose one of two tracks; outcomes research or basic science research. Both tracks uniquely prepare trainees to perform innovative, state-of-the-art research in transplant-related fields.

The **T35 NU Summer Program**, led by Program Director Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH, is an NIDDK-funded summer intensive program, pairing highly promising first-year medical students with NIH-funded faculty mentors. Students apply with a proposed research project, which they will see to completion during the program. Students work closely with their mentors in and out of the lab, gaining valuable research experience and fostering interest in a career as a surgeon-scientist.

The **CTC Summer Student Immersion Program (CTCSSIP)**, led by Program Director Zachary Dietch, MD, is summer research mentorship program for undergraduates and medical students up to the M2 level from across the country, designed to expose future clinicians and scientists to the field of transplant and create meaningful professional connections early in their careers. Students spend the summer assisting their mentor with an ongoing study, deepening their understanding of research execution, and attending multidisciplinary lectures from transplant faculty selected to represent the breadth of the field.

## Additional Information

To view program curricula, review eligibility, or apply visit us at:  
<https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/transplant/education/index.html>

To inquire about opportunities within the Education Core, contact:

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