

# Contextualizing Transplantation: Medicine, Society, and Culture

**16 to 18 April 2024 | SHHK Conference Room (05-57) & LKC Medical Library (11 Mandalay Road)**

## KEYNOTE

### A New Approach to the Surgical Treatment of Disease: Transplantation and Physiological Surgery

The introduction of organ transplantation in the 1880s marks the beginning of a new strategy in the surgical treatment of disease. Before, surgeons typically tried to remove diseased tissue from the patient's body, for example, in cases of tumors. The new strategy consisted in reconstructing body functions. The new approach went along with a new style in surgery, often called "physiological surgery" for its orientation towards body function and its close relationship to experimental physiology. Within the history of modern surgery more generally, organ transplantation was an important step away from the traditional rationale of surgery as a treatment of last resort in cases of emergencies, usually at the body's surface, towards the rationale of modern surgery, which is based on the planned treatment of complex internal diseases by deliberate surgical interventions into body structures and functions.

#### About the Speaker



After working as a resident in internal medicine at the University Hospital in Marburg, Germany, **Thomas Schlich** had prestigious research and teaching positions in the history of medicine at Cambridge, Stuttgart, and Freiburg. He was awarded a Heisenberg Fellowship of the German Research Council (2000-2002). In 2002 he moved to McGill University where he has held a Canada Research Chair (2002-2012), and since 2012 a James McGill Professorship. Since 2021 he is Chair of the Department Social Studies of Science. He is interested in the history of modern medicine and science (18th-21st centuries), medicine and technology, history of medical innovation, body history. As the author of *The Origins*

of *Organ Transplantation: Surgery and Laboratory Science, 1880-1930* (Rochester, 2010), he focuses on the history of modern surgery (1800 to the present time) and the history of the medical face mask.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

**16 April 2024: SHHK Conference Room**

#### Opening Address:

K. K. Luke (Chair, School of Humanities, NTU)

#### Keynote Lecture:

Thomas Schlich (McGill University)

#### Talks by:

Justin Barr (University of Toronto)

Ayesha Nathoo (University of Cambridge)

**17 April 2024: SHHK Conference Room**

#### Talks by:

Navin Kumar Verma (NTU)

Hyung Wook Park (NTU)

Shelly McKellar (Western University)

Sharrona Pearl (Drexel University)

Kaori Sasaki (Sapporo Medical University)

Volker H. Schmidt (NUS)

**18 April 2024: LKC Medical Library**

#### Special Session:

Conversation with Singapore's Transplant Surgeons (Tiong Ho Yee and Shridhar Ganpathi Iyer at NUH)

## REGISTRATION

View schedule and register for hybrid conference:



<http://soh.school/transplant-workshop>

(A zoom link is also available for online audiences)

**Organiser: Park Hyung Wook**

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