Stanford



Daniel Jaechul Ahn

Resident in Surgery

Bio

BIO

I am a general surgery resident physician at Stanford University. I obtained my MD with Honors at the University of Chicago in 2022. My research, which is funded through an F32 National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health, focuses on improving organ allocation policies and promoting equity in access to transplantation. In particular, I study how organ allocation systems prioritize patients for transplantation, how transplant centers respond to changes in national allocation policies, and how clinical data can be used to develop more accurate and equitable measures of medical urgency. My long-term goal is to become an academic transplant surgeon whose research informs evidence-based transplant policy and improves outcomes for patients with end-stage organ failure. My work has appeared in prestigious journals including JAMA, Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Circulation: Heart Failure, Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation, and American Journal of Transplantation.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Residency

HONORS AND AWARDS

- F32 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Institutes of Health (2026)
- Resident Research Award, Stanford University Department of Surgery (2026)
- 2nd Place, Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, Surgical Trainee Research Award Competition, Northern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (2026)
- Research Travel Grant, Japan Surgical Society (2026)
- Young Investigator Award, American Transplant Congress (2024)
- Graduation with Honors (Top 10% of Graduating Class), The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2022)
- Urban Health Initiative Strongin Community Service Prize, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2022)
- Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2022)
- Gold Humanism Honors Society, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2022)
- Departmental Award for Outstanding Performance in the General Field of Surgery, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2022)
- Herman E. Diskin, MD Memorial Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship, The American Medical Association Foundation (2021)
- John D. Arnold Scientific Research Prize, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2021)
- Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (2019)
- Medical Student Research Fellowship, The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (2019)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Resident Member, American College of Surgeons (2022 - present)
- Member, American Society of Transplantation (2023 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- BS, The University of Chicago , Biological Sciences (2018)
- MD, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (2022)

INTERNET LINKS

- MyNCBI Bibliography: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/daniel.ahn.1/bibliography/public/
- NIH F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship Project Information: https://reporter.nih.gov/search/ATUHfUiZQ0-L4YbrPotYqw/project-details/11460639
- Personal GitHub Repository: https://github.com/aanieldhn
- Google Scholar Page: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=klfbV3wAAAAJ&hl=en

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Unintended Shifts in High-Priority Adult Heart Transplant Listings after the OPTN's September 2025 Policy Change.** *The Journal of heart and lung transplantation : the official publication of the International Society for Heart Transplantation*
  Ramos, C., Horwitz, A., Singer, R., White, M., Narang, N., Khush, K. K., Parker, W. F., Ahn, D. J.
  2026
- **Development and Validation of an Adult Medical Urgency Score for US Donor Heart Allocation.** *JAMA*
  Lyden, G. R., White, M., Ahn, D. J., Menteer, J., Daly, R. C., Narang, N., Khush, K. K., Jasseron, C., Dorent, R., Masotti, M., Wood, N. L., Colvin, M. M., Gentry, et al
  2026
- **Beyond Categorical Tiers: Improving Measurement of Medical Urgency as the Foundation for Heart Allocation Reform.** *Journal of cardiac failure*
  Ahn, D. J., Eap, D. K., Parker, W. F.
  2026; 32 (9): 1584-1593
- **Potential Impact of the OPTN Status Escalation Policy for Adult Heart Transplant Candidates With Durable LVADs.** *Circulation. Heart failure*
  Ahn, D. J., Attia, A., Nakayama, T., Narang, N., Khush, K. K., Parker, W., Sasaki, K.
  2026: e013854
- **High Rate of Transplantation Before Review of Status Exception Requests Among Adult Heart Transplant Candidates.** *Circulation. Heart failure*
  Ahn, D. J., Nakayama, T., Attia, A., White, M., Eap, D., Narang, N., Khush, K. K., Parker, W. F., Sasaki, K.
  2026: e013994
- **Artifactual Declines in Durable LVAD Utilization among Heart Transplant Candidates: Selection Bias in Transplant Registries.** *The Journal of heart and lung transplantation : the official publication of the International Society for Heart Transplantation*
  Ahn, D. J., Lyden, G. R., Attia, A., Nakayama, T., Narang, N., Sasaki, K., Parker, W. F., Khush, K. K.
  2026
- **Status Exceptions and Misalignment of Medical Urgency in U.S. Pediatric Heart Transplantation.** *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*
  Ahn, D. J., Attia, A., Nakayama, T., Narang, N., Daly, K., Khush, K. K., Parker, W. F., Sasaki, K.
  2026
- **Renal Resistance on Hypothermic Machine Perfusion and Acceptance of Deceased Donor Kidney Allografts.** *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology : JASN*
  Nakayama, T., Attia, A., Ahn, D. J., McCabe, M., Endo, Y., Kashyap, R. S., Pham, T. A., Melcher, M. L., Sasaki, K., Bekki, Y.

2025

- **Low Rates of Inotropic Support and Durable Left Ventricular Assist Device Placement among Status 2 Heart Transplant Candidates with Temporary Mechanical Circulatory Support.** *The Journal of heart and lung transplantation : the official publication of the International Society for Heart Transplantation*
  Ahn, D. J., White, M., Ran, G., Narang, N., Kanwar, M., Parker, W. F.
  2025
- **Association of Non-Standardized MELD Score Exceptions with Waitlist Mortality in Adult Liver Transplant Candidates.** *American journal of transplantation : official journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons*
  Ahn, D. J., Kwong, A. J., Wall, A. E., Parker, W. F.
  2024
- **The Accuracy of Nonstandardized MELD/PELD Score Exceptions in the Pediatric Liver Allocation System.** *Transplantation*
  Ahn, D. J., Zeng, S., Pelzer, K. M., Barth, R. N., Gallo, A., Parker, W. F.
  2023
- **Utility of geriatric assessments in evaluation of older adults for kidney transplantation.** *Clinical transplantation*
  Campbell, K. H., Ahn, D. J., Enger, F., Zasadzinski, L., Tanumihardjo, J., Becker, Y., Josephson, M., Saunders, M. R.
  2022; 36 (12): e14813
- **Advance care planning among African American patients on haemodialysis and their end-of-life care preferences.** *Journal of renal care*
  Ahn, D., Williams, S., Stankus, N., Saunders, M.
  2021; 47 (4): 265-278
- **In policy and in practice: expedited placement and allocation out of sequence in liver transplantation.** *American journal of transplantation : official journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons*
  Attia, A., Nakayama, T., Ahn, D. J., York, T., Wehrle, C. J., Cheng, X. S., Charu, V., Kwong, A. J., Stutchfield, B. M., Segev, D., Gentry, S., Melcher, M., Sasaki, et al
  2026
- **Under-Capture of Candidates Supported by Temporary Mechanical Circulatory Support in the OPTN STAR Registry.** *JACC. Advances*
  Ahn, D. J., Attia, A., Nakayama, T., Parker, W. F., Khush, K. K.
  2026; 5 (10 Pt 2): 103213
- **Does reperfusion time affect chances of HCC recurrence after liver transplantation?** *HPB : the official journal of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association*
  Gangaram, P., Attia, A. M., Ahn, D., Nakayama, T., Sasaki, K.
  2026
- **The Benefit of Sequential Normothermic Regional Perfusion and Hypothermic Machine Perfusion in Kidney Transplantation From Donation After Circulatory Death Donors.** *Clinical transplantation*
  Nakayama, T., Fu, S. J., Attia, A. M., Ahn, D. J., Pham, T. A., Melcher, M. L., Bozhilov, K. K., Sasaki, K.
  2026; 40 (8): e70641
- **Undercapture of HeartMate 3-Supported Pediatric Candidates in the OPTN STAR Registry.** *The Annals of thoracic surgery*
  Ahn, D. J., Attia, A., Nakayama, T., Parker, W. F., Khush, K. K.
  2026
- **Donor Warm Ischemia Time Modifies Susceptibility to Cold Ischemia in Donation After Circulatory Death Kidney Allografts Under Hypothermic Machine Perfusion.** *Transplantation*
  Nakayama, T., Attia, A., Ahn, D. J., Endo, Y., Kashyap, R. S., Hernández-Alejandro, R., Sasaki, K., Bekki, Y.
  2026
- **Highly Sensitized Pediatric Kidney Candidates Have Reduced Access to Kidney Transplant in the United States.** *American journal of transplantation : official journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons*
  Nakayama, T., Ahn, D. J., Attia, A., Bozhilov, K. K., Kirchner, V. A., Sasaki, K., Busque, S., Melcher, M. L., Pham, T. A.
  2026
- **Current status of split liver transplantation using machine perfusion in the United States.** *HPB : the official journal of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association*
  Nakayama, T., Ito, R., Attia, A., Ahn, D. J., Ichida, H., Shiraki, S., Sasaki, K.

2026

- **Potential Double Counting in Meta-Analysis of Combined Heart-liver Transplantation.** *Transplantation*
  Nakayama, T., Attia, A., Ahn, D. J., Sasaki, K.
  2026

- **Current status of minimally invasive liver transplantation: a narrative review** *ANNALS OF LAPAROSCOPIC AND ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY*
  Nakayama, T., Attia, A., Ahn, D. J., Sasaki, K., Margonis, G.
  2026; 11

- **Donor-Recipient Age Mismatch and Long-Term Graft Outcomes After Adolescent Liver Transplant.** *JAMA network open*
  Nakayama, T., Jensen, A. R., Attia, A., Ahn, D. J., Firl, D. J., Kwong, A., Charu, V., Melcher, M. L., Esquivel, C. O., Sasaki, K.
  2026; 9 (1): e2552779

- **Cost effectiveness of commercial portable ex vivo lung perfusion at a low-volume US lung transplant center** *ARTIFICIAL ORGANS*
  Kent, J., Nordgren, R., Ahn, D., Lysandrou, M., Diaz, A., Fenton, D., Wignakumar, T., McMeekin, N., Salerno, C., Donington, J., Madariaga, M. L.
  2024

- **Association of High-Priority Exceptions with Waitlist Mortality Among Heart Transplant Candidates.** *The Journal of heart and lung transplantation : the official publication of the International Society for Heart Transplantation*
  Johnson, D. Y., Ahn, D., Lazenby, K., Zeng, S., Zhang, K., Narang, N., Khush, K., Parker, W. F.
  2023

- **Assessing knowledge of end-stage kidney disease and treatment options in hospitalized African American patients undergoing hemodialysis.** *Chronic illness*
  King, A., Tanumihardjo, J., Ahn, D., Zasadzinski, L., Robinson, E., Quinn, M., Peek, M., Saunders, M.
  2023: 17423953231168803

- **Where Do I Fit In? A Perspective on Challenges Faced by Asian American Medical Students.** *Health equity*
  Ahn, D. J., Garg, N., Naik, A. G., Fan, J., Wei, H., Song, B. B., Chung, K., Vela, M. B., Kim, K. E.
  2021; 5 (1): 324-328

- **ABHD10 is an S-depalmitoylase affecting redox homeostasis through peroxiredoxin-5.** *Nature chemical biology*
  Cao, Y., Qiu, T., Kathayat, R. S., Azizi, S. A., Thorne, A. K., Ahn, D., Fukata, Y., Fukata, M., Rice, P. A., Dickinson, B. C.
  2019; 15 (12): 1232-1240

- **A Panel of Protease-Responsive RNA Polymerases Respond to Biochemical Signals by Production of Defined RNA Outputs in Live Cells.** *Journal of the American Chemical Society*
  Pu, J., Chronis, I., Ahn, D., Dickinson, B. C.
  2015; 137 (51): 15996-9

PRESENTATIONS

- The Accuracy of Non-Standardized MELD/PELD Score Exceptions in the Pediatric Liver Allocation System - American Transplant Congress 2023
- Association of Non-Standardized MELD Score Exceptions with Waitlist Mortality in Adult Liver Transplant Candidates - American Transplant Congress 2024
- Low Rates of Inotropic Support and Durable Left Ventricular Assist Device Placement Among Status 2 Heart Transplant Candidates With Temporary Mechanical Circulatory Support - World Transplant Congress 2025
- High Rate of Transplantation Before Review of Status Exception Requests Among Adult Heart Transplant Candidates - American Transplant Congress 2026
- Potential Impact of the OPTN Status Escalation Policy for Adult Heart Transplant Candidates With Durable LVADs - American Transplant Congress 2026
- Status Exceptions and Misalignment of Medical Urgency in US Pediatric Heart Transplantation - American Transplant Congress 2026
- Potential Impact of the OPTN Status Escalation Policy for Adult Heart Transplant Candidates With Durable LVADs - Japan Surgical Society 2026
- Who Is Really the Sickest? Rethinking Donor Heart Allocation in the United States - Stanford University Transplant Symposium (September 18, 2026)