

Pitt Research Discoveries

The Father of Modern Transplantation

After performing the first successful human liver transplant in 1967 and proving the effectiveness of immunosuppressant drugs to prevent organ rejection, **Thomas Starzl, MD, PhD** (March 11, 1926 - March 4, 2017), arrived at Pitt in 1981 where he continued to improve transplant science, organ preservation, and organ procurement. At Pitt, Starzl oversaw the largest transplant program in the world and was perhaps best known for making medical history by performing the first simultaneous heart and liver transplant in six-year-old Stormie Jones in 1984 and for conducting research that allowed organ transplant recipients to take smaller, fewer doses of antirejection medications, thus reducing side effects. Established in 1985, Pitt's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute is one of the world's leading resources dedicated to helping people survive end-stage organ failure and its physicians have performed more than 17,000 organ transplants.

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