

42ND ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING



MS DAFNE CHIANELLA

CHIEF PAEDIATRIC PERFUSIONIST, CCP, FFP

Dafne Chianella, CCP, FFP, is an internationally recognized perfusionist, educator and professional leader at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and a clinical instructor in the MUSC College of Health Professions. Her clinical practice focuses on paediatric and congenital cardiac surgery, heart transplantation, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and mechanical circulatory support for some of the most complex paediatric cardiac patients.

Beyond her clinical role, Dafne has established herself as a respected leader within the global perfusion community for her commitment to advancing perfusion practice through education, collaboration, mentorship, and quality improvement. As Chair of the American Society of ExtraCorporeal Technology (AmSECT) Pediatric and Congenital Perfusion Committee, she has played a key role in developing Paediatric and Congenital Perfusion Standards and Guidelines that have been endorsed by leading congenital cardiac organisations and shared internationally, helping drive improvements in patient safety and clinical practice.

Dafne is also passionate about building a more inclusive and sustainable profession. As co-founder of the AmSECT Women in Perfusion Committee, she has helped create mentorship opportunities, promote leadership development and advocate for greater support for women and parents pursuing careers in perfusion.

Her leadership and contributions to the profession have been recognized through the 2026 AmSECT Perfusionist of the Year Award, honoring her excellence in clinical practice, professional service and leadership. The MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital perfusion team was also recognized with the AmSECT Pillar Award for Perfusion Excellence, reflecting their commitment to quality improvement, education and innovation.