

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee  
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S  
Meeting Summary  
September 26, 2023  
Conference Call**

**Pramod Bonde, MD, Chair  
Peter Stock, MD, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Management of International Living Donors in the U.S Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix Webex teleconference on 09/26/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Group Update: Donor Follow-up
2. Finalize Data Request
3. OPTN Task Force: Attaining Efficiency in Allocation

The following is a summary of the Subcommittee's discussions.

### **1. Group Update: Donor Follow-up**

The Subcommittee heard a group update from the donor follow-up group about donor follow-up barriers related to international living donation. The purpose of the update is to inform the Subcommittee about follow-up barriers related to international living donations and discuss the next steps for their portion of the project. The group was asked the following:

- Does the Subcommittee want to conduct a literature review?
  - Will a literature review be helpful for all groups, given the scarce literature?
  - Literature review was performed in August 2022
- Does the Subcommittee want to submit a data request?
  - Are there additional questions that should be included in the data request?
- Does the Subcommittee want to retrieve and review protocols from centers that have experience with NCNR living donors?
  - Review of protocols from the American Society of Transplantation
  - Contact high-volume programs with experience with NCNR living donors
  - Seek feedback from OPTN Transplant Coordinators and Transplant Administrators Committees

#### Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions made by the Committee.

Regarding challenges related to routine follow-up care, a member asked for clarification about why international living donors would have different attitudinal differences about follow-up care from domestic donors. A member replied that the challenges for routine follow-up for domestic and international donors are similar. She explained that there are challenges with routine follow-up and

receiving labs from the donors. She shared that when attempting to follow up with the international living donor, there's no way to confirm the well-being of the donor. Therefore, while follow-up challenges are similar among domestic and international donors, it is difficult to follow up with an international living donor because there's an increased complication to remain in contact with the donor. Another member agreed and stated that the time zone difference could also contribute as a barrier to follow-up. Regarding challenges related to long-term complication follow-up, a member inquired if insurance issues could be of concern for donor follow-up. A member agreed and stated that there have been situations where donors do not have access to insurance post-donation.

A member asked when donor follow-ups occur. A member replied during six, twelve-, and twenty-four-months post-donation. The Chair commented that contacting donors is a barrier to donor follow-up because some people may change their telephone numbers frequently. The Chair also commented that the international living donor should have a physician in their country where they receive care who would be the primary contact for follow-up. A member noted that it would be helpful to have data on transplant programs with the highest volume of international living donations. He also noted that although some articles have been reviewed for the project, it may be worth gathering additional articles and conducting a literature review.

## **2. Finalizing Data Request**

The Committee discussed questions needed for the data request.

### Summary of discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee decided to submit a part one data request and will review additional questions needed for a part two data request.

The Chair commented that it would be helpful to have data on transplant programs with the highest volume of international living donations. Members agreed and noted that knowing which programs have the most experience with recovering international living donors is a priority.

### Next steps:

The Committee will submit a part one data request and review the results at the next meeting.

## **3. OPTN Task Force: Attaining Efficiency in Allocation**

The Committee heard a presentation on attaining efficiency in organ allocation through the development of an OPTN Task Force ("the Task Force"). The rationale for the Task Force is that there is a need for urgent action to increase efficiency in organ allocation and improve organ utilization. The Task Force will evaluate existing data and recommendations regarding system challenges and improvement. Additionally, the Task Force will prioritize issues to address and recommend short and long-term strategies to address larger challenges related to organ non-use and out-of-sequence organ allocation.

### Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions made by the Committee.

There were no further discussions.

## Upcoming Meeting

- **October 24, 2023**

## Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
  - Cynthia Forland
  - Ehab Saad
  - Nancy Marlin
  - Abby Ruiz
  - Peter Stock
  - Angele Lacks
  - Taryn Shappell
  - Ashtar Chami
  - Eliana Agudelo
  - Vineeta Kumar
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Shelley Grant
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Avery Cook
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Tamika Watkins
  - Jesse Howell
  - Laura Schmitt
- **Other Attendees**