

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee  
Meeting Summary  
July 26, 2022  
Conference Call**

**Pramod Bonde, MD, Chair  
Peter Stock, MD, Ph.D., Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoTo Meeting teleconference on 07/26/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Presentation & Discussion: Annual Report

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

### **1. Presentation & Discussion: Annual Report**

The Committee reviewed annual data related to non-U.S citizen/non-resident (NCNR) registrations and transplants, per *OPTN Policy 17.1.B*.

#### Data summary:

Key observations for waiting list additions:

- Region 4 has seen an increase in percent NCNR registrations each year from 2018-2021
- Region 5 has the highest percent NCNR registrations, this similar to previous years
- Region 7 has the highest NCNR-Travel to U.S. for transplant registrations
- The majority of all programs and hospitals listed zero NCNR candidates in 2021

Key observations for DCD NCNR transplants:

- National increase from 1.2% to 1.6%
- The majority of all programs and hospitals performed zero deceased donor NCNR transplants in 2021, accounting for 62.4%
- Regions 5, 7, and 9 have the highest percent NCNR- Travel to U.S. for transplant, deceased donor transplants
- Region 1 has a major percent decrease in NCNR deceased donor transplants from 2.2 in 2020 to 1.2% in 2021

Key observations for living donor NCNR transplants

- Living donor NCNR transplants vary annually
  - 2018 and 2019 were exceptionally high years for NCNR living donor kidney transplants
  - There was a decline in 2020 that was likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a rebound in 2021

#### Summary of discussion:

The Chair asked if more deceased or living donor transplants occurred in 2021. The presenter responded that in 2021 there were a total of 500 NCNR deceased donor transplants for all organs, and under 90 NCNR living donor transplants accounted for in 2021.

The Chair asked if living donor information was collected. The presenter replied that donor data is collected. However, donor information was not presented in the 2021 annual report. The Chair suggested that donor information be included in the annual report so the Committee could look at barriers related to increasing donations.

A member asked about the accuracy of citizenship data received from organ procurement organizations (OPOs). The presenter suggested the OPO committee may provide insight into this question.

Another member asked, when collecting living donor information, how are the citizenship questions stated. It was noted that the data collection elements on the Living Donor Registration (LDR) for are the following: U.S Citizen; Non-U.S Citizen/U.S Resident; Non-U.S Citizen/ Non-U.S Resident, Traveled to U.S for reason other than Transplant; Non-U.S Citizen/Non-U.S Resident, Traveled to U.S for transplant.

The member stated that the data in the annual report shows Saudi Arabia has a high number of individuals who travel for transplant compared to Mexico. The member asked whether the data shows those who travel for transplant are partaking in transplant tourism. The presenter responded that the data collected on the Transplant Candidate Registration (TCR) does not explicitly ask about transplant tourism.

A member asked if there is data on how NCNR paid for their transplantation in the U.S. The presenter replied that insurance status data is collected; however, it was not included in the annual report.

Another member suggested that the annual report include the definitions of each of the citizenship classifications to ensure there is no misunderstanding. The member also suggested that the data include a denominator of the responses to understand the totality of the report.

A member expressed interest in data on transplant outcomes for NCNR recipients.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- August 23, 2022 (teleconference)
- September 27, 2022 (teleconference)
- October 25, 2022 (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Abby Ruiz
  - Barry Friedman
  - Chang Liu
  - Nancy Long
  - Pramod Bonde
  - Scott Sanoff
  - Sylvia Villalon
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Vanessa Arriola
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Tamika Watkins
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Robert Hunter
  - Brooke Chenault
  - Jesse Howell
  - Kim Uccellini
  - Krissy Laurie
  - Matt Belton
  - Nadine Hoffman