

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee  
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S  
Meeting Summary  
October 24, 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 Webex teleconference on 10/24/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Overview: Vice Chair Selection Process
2. Data Request & Discussion: Review Part 1 Data Request Results

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

### **1. Overview: Vice Chair Selection Process**

The Subcommittee heard an overview of the Vice Chair nomination and selection process for the 2024-2026 Committee terms. The overview included the Vice Chair's nomination goals, process, qualifications, and timeline.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member asked when the term starts. The presenter replied on July 1, 2024.

### **2. Data Request & Discussion: Review Part 1 Data Request Results**

The Subcommittee reviewed the part one data request results that answer the following questions:

- What is the total number of international living donors recovered in the U.S. between 1/1/20 and 6/30/23?
- Who are the top 5 transplant hospitals with the highest number of international living donors recovered?

Based on the data results, the Subcommittee will determine how they would like to proceed with the project.

#### Data Summary:

Citizenship of All Living Donors Recovered from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023:

- 21,002 (94%) U.S living donor citizens were recovered during this period.
- 692 (3.13%) Non-U.S. citizens/ U.S residents were recovered during this period.
- 293 (1.32%) Non-U.S. citizens/Non-U.S. residents who traveled to the U.S. for a transplant were recovered during this period.
- 85 (0.38%) Non-U.S citizens/ Non-U.S residents who traveled to the U.S. for reasons other than transplants were recovered during this period.
- 63 (0.28%) were not reported during this period.

The top 5 transplant hospitals recovering international living donors from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023:

- University of California San Francisco Medical Center
- Saint Barnabas Medical Center
- Keck Hospital of USC
- Mount Sinai Medical Center
- Ny Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center

Summary of discussion:

There was not an agenda item that required a decision; there were no decisions made by the Subcommittee.

The Vice-Chair inquired about the ethnicity of the international living donors recovered from the University of California San Francisco Medical Center. The presenter replied that the ethnicity of the international living donors could be included in the second data request. Another member asked for a more comprehensive list of centers that have experience with recovering international living donors.

When reviewing data on non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. residents (NCNR) who traveled to the U.S. for reasons other than a transplant, a member asked if this category would include undocumented individuals. The presenter replied that there may be some undocumented people who are categorized as non-U.S. citizens/ U.S residents (NCR).

Members noted that the project is focused on non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. residents who traveled to the U.S. for a transplant and less on non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. residents who traveled to the U.S. for reasons other than transplants. The Vice-Chair disagreed and stated that the goal is to increase the number of transplants for individuals living in the U.S. who need a transplant and do not have family or friends who are citizens and residents of the U.S. to serve as their donor. He explained that it is just as challenging to get an NCR to be a donor as it is to get a donor who is considered an NCNR. Another member voiced that she is not opposed to focusing on the NCR population; however, their group has primarily focused on NCNR. The Vice-Chair clarified that the scope includes NCNR and noted that it should be expanded to include NCR.

Another member pointed out that international living donors could be categorized as NCNR and NCR. He explained that transplant programs may face different issues when evaluating NCNR and NCR. For example, obtaining labs for a potential NCNR donor versus getting labs for an NCR donor will present different challenges, and thus, the recommendations for addressing the barriers will differ.

There was consensus among the Subcommittee that international living donor is a broad term that could include NCR and NCNR. Another member agreed and commented that if an individual does not have citizenship in the U.S., they could be considered an international living donor. The Chair inquired if the project would need to go back to the Policy Oversight Committee (POC). Members agreed that if there was consensus to expand the scope, the project should go to the POC for approval again. A member stated that they were not opposed to including NCR in the project's scope but wanted to ensure that the barriers transplant programs face when evaluating NCNR are not overshadowed by the barriers transplant programs face when evaluating NCR. Another member proposed addressing the two topics separately. She explained that if the barriers that transplant programs face when evaluating NCR and NCNR will sufficiently overlap, then perhaps both demographics could be addressed in one project. However, the two demographics could be addressed separately if the barriers vary.

Staff inquired if the Subcommittee would still like to discuss how to proceed with the project based on the data results or if they would like to resolve the scope concerns first. A member replied that it would be best to address the uncertainty of the scope before deciding how to proceed with the project.

Next Steps:

The Subcommittee will continue discussing whether the project scope should be expanded to include non-U.S. citizens/U.S. residents.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- November 28, 2023

## Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
  - Pramod Bonde
  - Peter Stock
  - George Bayliss
  - Cynthia Forland
  - Ehab Saad
  - Nancy Marlin
  - Ashtar Chami
  - Carrie Thiessen
  - Scott Sanoff
  - Carrie Thiessen
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Avery Cook
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Tamika Watkins
  - Joann White
  - Ross Walton
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - Jesse Howell
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**