

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee

Meeting Summary

March 22, 2022

Conference Call

Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Pramod Bonde, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (Committee) met via Citrix GoTo Meeting teleconference on 03/22/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Continuous Distribution of Kidneys & Pancreata: Values Prioritization Exercise
2. Reminder: Winter 2022 Public Comment
3. Discussion: Project Ideas

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

1. Continuous Distribution of Kidneys & Pancreata: Values Prioritization Exercise

The Committee was reminded to participate in the values prioritization exercise for the continuous distribution of kidneys and pancreata.

Summary of discussion:

There were no comments or questions

2. Reminder: Winter 2022 Public Comment Preview

The Committee was reminded to participate in regional meetings and Winter 2022 Public Comment.

Summary of discussion:

There were no comments or questions.

3. Discussion: Project Ideas

The Committee worked to refine their project idea.

Summary of discussion:

Project Idea: Exchange of ideas

Topic ideas:

- Continuous distribution
- Increase living and deceased donation
- Non-citizens/non-residents
- Normothermic Regional Perfusion
- Multi-organ transplantation
- Donation after circulatory death (DCD)

The Vice Chair explained that the primary focus of the project could be to explore international best practices and identify potential improvements to the United States' system.

A member expressed interest in exploring living donation practices in other countries. The member stated that this appears to be the most beneficial topic. The member added support for the other suggested topic areas.

Another member stated that it is important to remember that oftentimes countries experience an inverse relationship between living donation and deceased donation. The member stated that there are lessons to be learned from other countries' living donation programs. The Vice Chair added that there may be the opportunity to learn surgical techniques related to living donation as well.

The Chair stated that United States surgeons may travel to South Korea or Turkey to increase their experience with living donation surgery. The Chair stated that there may be an opportunity to develop the United States' programs to help increase surgical experience. Additionally, the Vice Chair added that the Committee may be able to provide guidance on how a transplant program should facilitate the exchange of international practice for training surgeons.

The Chair asked whether there is data on how many United States surgeons or physicians received their training outside of the United States.

The Vice Chair stated that if the Committee pursued best practices related to DCD, they will need to understand the legal challenges in various countries.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussing potential project ideas.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 26, 2022 (teleconference)
- May 25, 2022 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Abby Ruiz
 - Barry Friedman
 - Chang Liu
 - Howard Nathan
 - Nancy Long
 - Min Zhou
 - Pramod Bonde
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kim Uccellini
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Robert Hunter