

**OPTN Living Donor Committee  
Meeting Summary  
February 9, 2022  
Conference Call**

**Heather Hunt, JD, Chair  
Nahel Elias, MD, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Living Donor Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoTo Meeting teleconference on 02/09/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Announcements
2. Public Comment Highlights
3. Feedback on Exclusion Criteria Proposal

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

### **1. Announcements**

The Committee received announcements.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Committee congratulated Dr. Stevan Gonzalez as the incoming Vice Chair of the Committee. Additionally, the Committee congratulated the Chair on their recent appointment to the OPTN Board of Directors.

The Committee is planning to have the April 4, 2022 meeting in-person, in Chicago, Illinois.

The Committee was updated that the Living Donor Data Collection Workgroup is having a final meeting on February 16, 2022 to finalize a project plan.

### **2. Public Comment Highlights**

The Committee reviewed highlights for Winter 2022 Public Comment.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Committee was informed of the OPTN Kidney & Pancreas Transplantation Committee's *Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata Request for Feedback*. The Committee was encouraged to participate in the values prioritization exercise in order to submit input on the weight for each attributes compared to other attributes.

The Committee supports the inclusion of priority for all living donors. The Committee suggested that a living donor focus group be created to review feedback from the community.

The Committee's recommendations on prior living donor priority will continue to be presented to organ-specific committees as continuous distribution frameworks develop.

The Chair requested for the Committee to review a timeline regarding the development of continuous distribution. The Chair requested that Committee members advocate within their local communities to garner additional support for prior living donor priority.

The Committee was informed of the OPTN Executive Committee's project, *Redesign Map of OPTN Regions*. The Committee was encouraged to review the project further and submit public comment. There were no comments or questions.

### **3. Feedback on the Exclusion Criteria Proposal**

The Committee reviewed feedback received thus far on its *Modify Living Donor Exclusion Criteria* proposal.

#### Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair previously presented the *Modify Living Donor Exclusion Criteria* proposal to the OPTN Board of Directors. Some feedback included concern for lack of long-term data on the effects of living donation as well as concern that the modifications were being proposed to increase transplants. The OPTN Board of Directors was informed that living donor safety is central to every discussion and decision which the Committee makes, and for that reason is advocating to work on addressing long-term living donor data collection. Additionally, it was questioned whether the language regarding the high suspicion exclusion criterion should be more substantial. However, it was noted that the purpose of this modification was to align language throughout OPTN policy. Committee members reaffirmed this language citing that more substantial language would result in a higher threshold for determining suspicion, which would be inappropriate.

Concern regarding lack of long-term data on living donors has been received as feedback from several regional meetings thus far. The Chair stated that the Committee should advocate for the community's concern to turn into support as the Committee seeks to review long term data collection on living donors. The Chair added that the current lack of data should not prohibit the development of certain policies where there is evident need.

Additional feedback from regional meetings included concern regarding accepting individuals with type 2 diabetes as living donors resulting in transplant programs receiving poor outcomes within 1 year post transplant. There was also suggestions for distributing guidance to transplant programs who choose to adopt these modifications to their living donor exclusion criteria.

#### Next steps:

The Committee will continue to review public comments on the *Modify Living Donor Exclusion Criteria* proposal.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- March 9, 2022 (teleconference)
- April 4, 2022 (Chicago, Illinois)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Aneesha Shetty
  - Angie Nishio Lucar
  - Doug Penrod
  - Erik Lum
  - Heather Hunt
  - Henkie Tan
  - Katey Hellickson
  - Mark Payson
  - Mary Beth Stephens
  - Nahel Elias
  - Stevan Gonzalez
  - Tyler Baldes
  - Vineeta Kumar
  - Yee Lee Cheah
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Bert Kasiske
  - Christian Folken
  - Krista Lentine
- **HRSA Staff**
  - Arjun Naik
  - Raelene Skerda
  - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Anne McPherson
  - Lauren Motley
  - Leah Slife
  - Lindsay Larkin
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Rebecca Goff
  - Ruthanne Leishman
  - Samantha Weiss
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
  - Brad Kornfeld