

## **OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee Meeting**

### **Meeting Summary**

**October 18, 2023**

**Conference Call**

**Emily Perito, MD, Chair**  
**Rachel Engen, MD Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/18/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Vice Chair Nomination and Selection Process
3. OPTN Taskforce on Efficiency
4. Discussion: Offer Filtering and Managing Offers from a Pediatric Perspective

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

#### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

#### **2. Vice Chair Call for Nomination and Selection Process**

The Committee received a presentation about the nomination and selection process to become Vice Chair of the Committee.

##### Summary of discussion:

Decision: There were no decisions made regarding this item.

The Chair advised the Committee to nominate themselves or someone they know who is potentially interested. The Chair also noted her willingness to meet with members to discuss more information about the position and provide the opportunity for members to ask questions. The Vice Chair echoed the Chair's remarks, expressing her willingness to discuss her experience with potential candidates.

##### Next steps:

The Committee will receive information via email about the process, including the details of the process.

#### **3. OPTN Taskforce on Efficiency**

The Committee received an update about the OPTN Expeditious Taskforce.

##### Summary of discussion:

Decision: There were no decisions made regarding this item.

The Chair asked if the idea is that the Taskforce would come up with the ideas and then tell the relevant Committees that they would need to work on the idea. Staff responded that to their understanding, the Taskforce will be coming up with ideas and solutions for efficiency topics and then turning to the appropriate Committees to create the associated policy project.

A member expressed concern about a lack of transparency and an unclear communication plan with Committees and stakeholders. Staff responded that to their understanding, a communication plan is in the works and that the Taskforce is keeping the importance of transparency in mind.

The Vice Chair stated that the community did not have enough notice or communication surrounding the town hall. An SRTR representative asked when the roster will be finalized and public. The Chair added that it would be helpful to know this and then the Committee could ask for regular touchpoints with the pediatric representatives on the Taskforce. The SRTR representative stated that the community was not made aware clearly enough that the Taskforce was accepting nominations or suggestions for membership. The Vice Chair added that perhaps this would be a good opportunity for people who are looking to become more involved with the OPTN.

The Vice Chair noted concern that the Taskforce is not adequately considering and representing the pediatric voice and cautioned against implementing anything without proper representation. The Chair stated that it is not transparent and not inclusive for the Taskforce to meet in person before the roster is finalized and shared with the community.

A member stated that the goals and objectives of the Taskforce have not been clearly communicated to members. The Chair explained that one thing that is important for the Taskforce to consider is that efficiency must not come at the expense of access for more difficult-to-match candidates, including pediatrics. A member asked if the Taskforce will be meeting virtually as well as in person, and how often they are expected to meet.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to receive updates about the Expedious Taskforce as they become available.

**4. Discussion: Offer Filtering and Managing Offers from a Pediatric Perspective**

The Committee discussed offer filters and how they impact the pediatric population across all organs.

Summary of discussion:

Decision: There were no decisions made regarding this item.
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The Vice Chair asked the Committee to comment on their thoughts about the current way offer filters are set up, specifically for members who are more involved with kidney transplants. They noted that their transplant program does not allow them to use offer filters for pediatric kidney candidates, since they share a code in the OPTN Computer System with the adult program. A member commented that their center is the same. A member voiced that they have feelings of anxiety if they were to put a hard 'no' on an organ. A member commented that they don't see how offer filters help candidates at programs and it doesn't seem to give better access. They continued, noting that they understand the efficiency side of things, but worry that using offer filters is just recreating norms that were in place before other constraints were removed. A member shared that they don't get a lot of pediatric heart offers and thus, they do not put filters on, especially when they're still trying to understand the donor pool.

The Chair remarked that setting individual offer filters for a particular candidate may be more useful, given how heterogeneous the pediatric group can be, as well as more feasible, due to the small size of pediatric candidates. A member echoed previous comments and expressed their concern about limiting access to organs for some candidates. A member shared that using candidate-specific filters would be more applicable than using program-level offer filters. A member commented on their concern about engaging in extra work for transplant center staff, as well as more chances for error. They said they would appreciate an interactive demonstration to see the impact and that would be helpful in deciding.

A member pointed out that a barrier is if a transplant center only has one code for both adult and pediatric programs. The Vice Chair agreed, suggesting the creation of pediatric subcodes to identify the pediatric population of a program that can track offer filters, when candidates transition from pediatric to adult care, amongst other factors. They detailed that this is a limitation of the current system that needs to be addressed.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to discuss offer filters and provide relevant insights as they relate to the Committee.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- November 15, 2023 @ 4:00 PM ET (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Aaron Wightman
  - Caitlin Peterson
  - Carol Wittlieb-Weber
  - Dan Carratturo
  - Emily Perito
  - Gonzalo Willis
  - JoAnn Morey
  - Katrina Fields
  - Namrata Jain
  - Neha Bansal
  - Rachel Engen
  - Reem Raafat
  - Ryan Fischer
  - Sonya Kirmani
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Avery Cook
  - Simon Horslen
  - Jodi Smith
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Alex Carmack
  - Betsy Gans
  - Dzhuliyana Handarova
  - Jenna Reformina
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Kayla Balfour
  - Kieran McMahon
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Others**
  - Melissa McQueen (visiting board member)