

**Report of the Meeting of  
The Ad Hoc International Relations Committee**

**Gabriel Danovitch, MD, Chair  
Marian O'Rourke, RN, CCTC, Vice-Chair**

**September 22, 2010**

On September 22, 2010, the Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (Committee) met by telephone and Internet to discuss the following topics:

**1. Review of Responses to the Committee's audit of Programs at which Non-Resident Aliens Comprised More than 5% of All Transplant Recipients**

The Committee reviewed blinded responses to its audit from two kidney programs, two heart programs, and one liver program. The Committee also considered revisions to the current audit questionnaire. UNOS staff commented that the questions in the audit letter are not new, and may need to be evaluated for currency, particularly if the Committee proposes changes to the requirements in Section 6.0 (Transplantation of Non-Resident Aliens). The Committee discussed asking each program to provide information about each non-resident alien it transplanted, and will determine what additional questions would be useful for future policy development. The Committee leadership and UNOS staff will draft additional questions, and present them to the Committee electronically for review and approval.

The Committee asked UNOS staff what options were available under current policy if the Committee found a transplant program's response to the audit to be unsatisfactory. UNOS staff cautioned that policy allows the Committee to forward to the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) names of transplant programs that do not respond to the Committee's audit questionnaire. The policy does not provide for qualitative review of the transplant center's rationale for performing transplants to benefit non-resident aliens, either by the AHIRC or the MPSC. Several members of the Committee believe that that lack of review is further justification for a review of Section 6.0.

The Committee will review responses from six additional programs who have recently received audit letters at its next meeting.

**2. Primary Source of Payment for all Living and Deceased Donor Transplants and Specifically for Those Recipients Reported as Non-Resident Aliens**

UNOS staff began presenting the data analyzed, but due to time constraints, was not able to complete the presentation. Thus, the Committee has not discussed the data but will do so at its next meeting.

The Committee sought review of such financial data to assess whether valuable consideration might be a characteristic of living donor transplantation in the United States, as has been hinted at in the media and by Committee members.

**3. Update on Discussion of Having a Face-to-Face Meeting**

The Committee voted in favor (10-Supported; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstained) of requesting the OPTN leadership to allow the group to meet in person in 2011.

#### 4. Evaluate Policy 6.0 for Potential Revisions

The Committee discussed in general terms the need to modify Policy 6.0, but it focused primarily on the need to reconsider the 5% audit trigger. The Committee will prepare a new project request describing the need to revise Section 6.0 for consideration by the Executive Committee.

<b>Ad Hoc International Relations Committee</b>	<b>September 22, 2010 Teleconference and Live Meeting</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Gabriel M. Danovitch, MD, LRCP, MRCS	Chair	By phone
Marian O'Rourke, RN, CCTC	Vice Chair	By phone
Gloria Garcia Bohrer	Ex-Officio	By phone
Mark L. Barr, MD	At Large	
Linda Bowes	At Large	
Ann Butts	At Large	By phone
Angela Engerson RN	At Large	
William P. Fiser, Jr., MD	At Large	
Kay Kendall, MSW, LISW	At Large	By phone
Robert L. Kormos MD	At Large	
Richard S. Luskin, MPA	At Large	By phone
Dennis Martin, RN	At Large	By phone
Lisa McMurdo, RN, MPH	At Large	By phone
Jorge D. Reyes, MD	At Large	By phone
Paul Volek, MPH	At Large	By phone
James S. Bowman, MD	Ex Officio – HRSA	
Bernard Kozlovsky, MD, MS	Ex Officio – HRSA	
Diane Steffick, PhD	Arbor Research	By phone
Bertram L. Kasiske, MD	SRTR Liaison	By phone
Kerrie Cobb	UNOS Support Staff	By phone
Vipra Ghimire, MPH, CHES	Policy Analyst	By phone
Amy Putnam	Director of Policy	By phone
Brian Shepard	Director of Policy	By phone
Sarah Taranto	UNOS Support Staff	By phone