

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Management of International Living Donors in the U.S
Meeting Summary
August 1, 2023
Conference Call**

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations – Management of International Living Donors in the U.S (the Subcommittee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 08/1/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Open Forum

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

1. Open Forum

The Subcommittee is divided into five groups: communications, logistics, donor follow-up, undocumented Non-U.S. Citizens/Non-U.S. Residents (NCNR), and risk of exploitation, inducement, and coercion. The communications group met and had an open forum about their section of the Subcommittee’s project.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made during the meeting. The group suggested that a data request would be helpful to further discuss the project.

A member shared that some programs use WhatsApp to send links to a Zoom or Microsoft Teams meeting with a translator to communicate with the potential international living donor. A member stated that in addition to communication barriers, cultural barriers should be considered. She explained that in some literature there are centers that expressed concerns about the recipient and donor relationship and understanding cultural differences when evaluating a donor. Another member agreed and inquired if transplant programs have staff to help with communication efforts; including how different cultures perceive organ donation and how it is communicated to the potential donor. He also mentioned the cost associated with communicating with a potential international living donor, such as using different tools, apps, and translators to communicate with the donor.

In terms of resources, another member explained that the evaluation process involves multiple people, including the living donor coordinator, ethicists, social workers, and international living donor advocates, who are involved in the beginning stages of the evaluation process. Another member pointed out that the evaluation process is resource and time intensive because it takes a lot of effort to complete the evaluation process.

Regarding cultural considerations, a member noted that it’s vital to ensure that there is no financial incentive for organ donation. Another member agreed and shared that some donors may work in the household of individuals they are donating to as a form of financial incentive.

Another member noted that it's important to highlight educational materials used to help educate the international living donor about organ donation. He also commented that obtaining and translating medical documentation can be challenging. Another member commented that the local donor hospital may act as a resource in obtaining medical documentation. He also stated that the potential donor may not have resources such as access to video and the Internet for video calls.

The group suggested that a data request may be needed to continue working on the project. Another member asked about protocols from programs that transplant Non-U. S Citizens/Non-U.S Residents (NCNR) and explained that it would be helpful to understand their process for evaluating NCNR donors. Another member noted that it's important to know which centers have the highest volume of transplanting NCNR donors to help further explain the evaluation process.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussing their section of the project.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 22, 2023 (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Ashtar Chami
 - Chang Liu
 - George Bayliss
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
- **Other Attendees**