

**OPTN Ethics Committee
Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup
Meeting Summary
September 22, 2022
Conference Call**

Keren Ladin, PhD, Chair

Introduction

The Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/22/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

Neurological and ethical implications of NRP + Workgroup discussion

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

1. Neurological and ethical implications of NRP + Workgroup discussion

James Bernat, MD, shared his expertise as a neurologist to supplement the discussions of the workgroup specifically with regard to brain death.

Summary of Discussion:

A member inquired if the belief that brain death has proceeded when NRP commences is just an assumption, since there is no way to confirm whether brain death has occurred or not. The group discussed recirculating the heart and how the UDDA lacks a distinction between an open and closed circuit of flow, which is a challenge to NRP. This distinction is important when considering permanent versus irreversible cessation. The group discussed the potential for cerebral circulation after clamping the cerebral arteries. The presenter highlighted the challenges of fully understanding cerebral and brain activity following the declaration of death by circulatory criteria with the subsequent reperfusion of the organs and occlusion of the vessels to the brain. A member inquired if, when the cerebral arteries are ligated and testing ensures no brain activity was occurring, could NRP be pursued in a manner that alleviates the concerns of neurologists.

The group considered the role of consent in providing adequate authorization by donors and their families to proceed with NRP despite the potential unknowns associated with neurologic activity. A member also questioned how different ethical principles, such as utility and consent, overlap and when one may be required to apply over another. The group considered who carries the burden of ensuring that no harm is done.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 13, 2022
- October 27, 2022

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Andy Flescher
 - Bob Truog
 - Carrie Thiessen
 - Erin Halpin
 - Jonathan Fisher
 - Julie Spear
 - Keren Ladin
 - Kevin Myer
 - Lainie Ross
 - Matthew Hartwig
 - Sanjay Kulkarni
 - Sena Wilson-Sheehan
 - Sophoclis Alexopoulos
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Kim Uccellini
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
- **Other Attendees**
 - James Bernat