

OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
July 31, 2015
Conference Call

Ryutaro Hirose, MD, Chair
Julie Heimbach, MD, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on July 31st, 2015 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/> .

Committee Projects

1. Redesigning Liver Distribution

The Committee met in-person the day following the June 2015 Educational Public Forum on Redesigning Liver Distribution to discuss the outcomes of the forum and to determine a path forward for the project. After much deliberation, the Committee unanimously resolved both to consider additional results in modeling of concepts previously developed and to further analyze an additional concept. Based on significant feedback, these additional analyses will include variation in candidates' lab MELD/PELD score at transplant, to evaluate the results without the bias of varying exception point practices across the country.

Also based on community input, the Committee agreed to further investigate the newly proposed concept of using concentric circles based on the donor location, with additional proximity points given to local candidates. The Committee resolved unanimously to model the concept of 500-mile concentric circles from the donor location, with additional priority given at radii of 150 and 250 miles and to continue the emphasis on assessing the cost and transportation implications of any system of broader sharing.

The Committee was updated on the submission of the formal request to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients pertaining to these analyses and additional modeling and the preliminary dates for deliverables.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. Regional Review Board Education Materials

At the request of the Committee and in conjunction with the liver transplant programs in Region 5, staff have developed educational materials currently being piloted with the newest incoming RRB members in Region 5. This online tutorial includes a slide set with speaker notes and an assessment tool. The Committee has developed similar materials for each region and will begin training the RRB Chairs during this call.

The Committee will host an educational webinar to deliver these materials to the community, presented by Dr. Hirose. Following implementation, the Committee will continue to monitor the effort and plan to implement the training as a requirement if shown to improve the system and anticipates an update report to the Board of Directors during the December 2015 meeting.

Other Significant Items

3. Overview of Committee Service

New committee members were introduced to the overall framework of the OPTN/UNOS committees including the OPTN Strategic Goals, the policy development process and working within the system.

4. Project Prioritization

The committee reviewed the status of ongoing projects, the regional meeting schedule, and the agenda for the regional meetings. Following the meeting, members will be asked to respond to a poll prioritizing the current projects for the coming year and to suggest any potential future projects.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 24, 2015
- September 18, 2015
- November 20, 2015
- December 18, 2015