

**OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Meeting Summary
November 23, 2015
Teleconference**

**Jorge Reyes, MD, Chair
Susan Gunderson, MHA, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full committee on November 23, 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. Define Exhausting the Match Run

During its October 5, 2015 meeting, the Committee reviewed data in an attempt to identify *where* in the match sequence placement efforts would be futile. Following the discussions, the Committee agreed to revise the data before making a decision on a path forward. The updated data request included the following:

- For heart and lung match runs, summarize the centers/regions in Zones C, D, and E that are accepting these organs.
- Revisit results, excluding donors that were recovered in Alaska.
- Summarize outcomes of organs allocated to Zones C, D, and E vs. outcomes of those allocated locally or to Zones A or B.

The Committee reviewed the updated data during its follow up conference call on November 23, 2015. While the updated data provided additional information about the accepting regions and centers for heart/lungs and lungs for zones A through E, it did not impact the Committee's decision on a cut-off point on the match runs. The Committee agreed to the following based on the percentage of accepted organs in Zones C through E:

- Heart, Heart Lungs, and Lungs – offers must be made through Zone B before considering making offers internationally.

The Committee will send a memorandum to the Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee for feedback.

Other Significant Items

2. IRC Annual Report

Policy 17.1.C: Report of Activities Related to The Transplantation of Non-US Citizens/Non-US Residents states that the Ad Hoc International Relations Committee will prepare and provide public access to an annual report of transplant hospital activities

related to the registration and transplantation of non-US citizens/non-US residents. Committee leadership noted that upon review of the 2015 version of the annual report there were several centers with a higher percentage of registrations and transplants of non-US citizens/non-US residents.

Policy 17.1.B states that the “Ad Hoc International Relations Committee may request that transplant hospitals voluntarily provide additional information about registrations or transplants of non-US citizens/non-US residents.” During the policy revisions in 2012, the Committee created a list of potential questions for transplant programs in an effort to better understand this issue. This included the following:

- In which country or countries is the candidate or recipient a citizen?
- Did the candidate or recipient seek organ transplant service for her or his organ failure in her or his home country or countries of citizenship?
- Did the candidate or recipient seek organ transplant service for her or his organ failure in her or his home country or countries of citizenship?
- What were the dates when the candidate or recipient stayed in the US between listing and receiving an organ transplant?
- On what date did the candidate or recipient leave the US after receiving the organ transplant?
- Why was the candidate or recipient in the US – business, tourism, obtaining higher education, or another reason? (This question only applies to those who did not “travel for transplant.”)
- Why did the candidate or recipient travel to the US to receive an organ transplant?
- How will, or did, the candidate or recipient finance the transplant?
- How did the candidate or recipient receive funds for the listing or transplant – personal, government agency, or a non-governmental agency

The Committee agreed to request feedback from the Board of Directors in June 2016 in an effort to better understand the expectations when reviewing the annual reports. Committee leadership will be presenting the third edition of this annual report to the Board of Directors.

3. Committee Project Brainstorming

Committee leadership noted that the “on hold” project dealing with deceased donor imports should be revisited as a potential project for the committee.

New Business

None

Upcoming Meeting

- TBD