

**OPTN/UNOS Ethics Committee
Meeting Summary
September 28, 2015
Chicago, IL**

**Peter Reese, MD, Chair
Elisa Gordon, PhD, MPH, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full committee on September 28, 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. Ethical Consideration in Imminent Death Donation

The Ethics Committee (the committee) continues to examine the ethical considerations of Imminent Death Donation (IDD). The committee is leading an inter-committee work group with representatives from the Operations and Safety, OPO, and Living Donor Committees examining the potential ethical concerns, operational considerations, and possible policy modifications that would need to be addressed if IDD is to be considered as a new category of organ donation.

The Committee reviewed a draft report that is being finalized for consideration by the OPTN/UNOS Board in December 2015. The report will address the:

- Potential for the perception that IDD erodes the Dead Donor Rule
- Appropriateness of surrogate consent for IDD
- IDD candidates as a vulnerable population
- Identifying appropriate candidates for IDD
- Public trust
- Operational, practical and policy considerations
- Potential benefits
- Potential harms
- Potential unintended consequences

The Committee plans to ask for Board for guidance regarding the future direction of this project.

2. Review White Papers for Accuracy and Relevancy

The OPTN website provides access to thirteen white papers previously developed by the Ethics Committee, but these white papers have not been regularly reviewed to ensure accuracy and relevancy. The Committee has completed a review of each of the white papers. Based on that review, four papers were deemed not to require revision. To date, one white paper entitled the Ethical Principles to be Considered in the Allocation of Human Organs has been completed and approved by the Board.

In December 2015, the Committee plans to ask the Board to consider a revised white paper addressing living non-directed organ donation. Other white papers addressing split versus whole liver transplantation and the ethics of presumed consent are under revision and should be presented to the Board in 2016.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

3. The Committee considered one proposal from the fall 2015 public comment period.

A representative of the Kidney Committee provided an overview of the Simultaneous Liver Kidney (SLK) Allocation Policy. The Committee did not take a formal position regarding the proposal or provide any specific feedback.

Other Significant Items

4. Potential New Committee Projects

The Committee conducted a “brainstorming” session to identify potential new projects that align with the new strategic plan with special emphasis on projects that have the potential to increase the number of transplants. The Committee considered all potential projects recommended by members and favored exploring potential projects to address:

- Public education regarding living donation
- Developing guidance concerning recognition of first person authorization for donation on a national level
- Donor champions
- Reducing hospital and OPO incentives
- Living donation by the terminally ill

5. Living Donor Prioritization Under the Kidney Allocation System (KAS)

A member of the Kidney Committee provided an overview of living donor prioritization under the new kidney allocation system. After the presentation, the Committee considered if prior living donors should be prioritized over highly-sensitized or pediatric transplant candidates.

The Committee did not support recommending changes to living donor prioritization under KAS at this time. The Committee does want to re-evaluate living donor prioritization under KAS after the system has been in effect for a full year.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 27, 2016 (tentative) – Full Committee Meeting