

**OPTN/UNOS Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
May 16, 2016
Conference Call**

**Jerry McCauley, MD, MPH, Chair
Sylvia Rosas, MD, MSCE, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full committee on May 16, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>.

Policy Oversight Committee Update

1. The Vice Chair provided an update on the recent OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) on May 12th. POC approved five projects to begin work, including three ethics projects and two kidney projects. No questions about the projects were raised by the committee.

The Vice Chair also described the POC discussion on facilitated placement. There is evidence that facilitated pancreas allocation is effective in reducing the number of discarded organs. There is interest among other organ committees to implement similar practices. POC considered forming a central workgroup or to allowing organ committees to develop policies that are organ-specific. It was decided that committees can develop ideas. The Thoracic Committee will likely begin to develop facilitated placement policy for lungs first.

Committee Projects

2. **Blood Type B candidates and A2/A2B kidneys**

Since March, the workgroup has refined and finalized the survey questions to be sent to kidney program directors in July. An introduction describing the survey's purpose was added. The survey and introduction has also been reviewed and approved by the UNOS Survey Team. While the workgroup thought that the project could be changed from a Goal 2 project to a Goal 3 project, no evidence of reduced wait-list time was apparent. The project remains in Goal 2, despite projects being over allocated overall. The survey will be programmed and released on July 5th and be open for two weeks. Results will be available at the September full committee meeting.

An abstract was presented at the Transplant Management Forum in April and was a success.

Project Prioritization Discussion

3. The committee considered several project ideas from the March meeting and decided it would be best to pursue an educational initiative to increase cultural competency in regards to donation and transplantation. A committee member has had success in increasing living donors from minorities at his center. The committee would like to use this program as a model to increase transplants in other centers. A literature review will be provided at the September meeting and a workgroup will be formed to pursue the project.

Another committee member discussed an idea based on a program to Prevent Death on the Waiting List (PDOL). This program is implemented in the committee member's center, but there is not yet available data on the program's effectiveness in improving waitlisted patients or increase transplants. The committee suggests there may be evidence that it improves waitlist outcomes for older patients. Data and information will be collected and considered, but the concept will remain as an idea.

Other Significant Items

4. Committee members requested an update on the implementation of the Kidney Allocation System (KAS) and the Share 35 program at the September meeting.
5. The Chair recognized and thanked the five committee members with terms ending on June 30th.
6. New committee member orientation occurs during the first hour of the July 19th full committee meeting. There are five new members serving three year terms beginning July 1st.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 19, 2016