

**OPTN/UNOS Pediatric Transplantation Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**July 29, 2016**  
**Conference Call**

**William Mahle, M.D., Chair**  
**George Mazariegos, M.D., Vice Chair**

*Discussions of the full committee on July 29, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.*

### **Committee Projects**

#### **1. Revisions to Pediatric Emergency Membership Exception**

The Board approved the new minimum training and experience requirement for pediatric transplant programs in December 2015. At the time, several Board members asked the MPSC and Pediatric Committees to resolve gaps in the Emergency Membership Exception pathway for heart and liver transplant programs. Committee leadership and UNOS staff discussed this request and felt a small working group of MPSC and Pediatric Committee members should work to identify a framework for the changes and present to their respective Committees in the fall of 2016. The POC considered this new project in July 2016 and approved further work on the project. The Executive Committee also approved the project.

The MPSC/Pediatric Committee Working Group will meet by conference call in the coming months to consider a framework for changes. Thereafter, the Pediatric Committee will consider the changes to the OPTN bylaws that are needed to close the gaps in the Emergency Membership Exception pathway. These changes will require public comment (potentially January 2017) and consideration by the Board (potentially June 2017).

### **Committee Projects Pending Implementation**

#### **2. Pediatric Transplantation Training and Experience Considerations in the Bylaws**

UNOS staff updated the Committee regarding the communications strategy for the new minimum training and experience requirements approved by the Board in December 2015. To help keep these requirements “in the front of people’s minds”, UNOS will post an e-newsletter article on TransplantPro in August 2016. A second article will follow in February/March 2017. As the time approaches for transplant programs to submit applications for a pediatric component, UNOS staff will communicate directly with any transplant program that transplanted a candidate less than 18 years old in the last five years and solicit their interest in submitting a program application.

### **Other Significant Items**

#### **3. Introduction of New Members**

The Chair introduced the new members of the Committee who began terms on July 1, 2016:

- Dean Kim, M.D.
- Kishore Iyer, M.D.

- Kristin Mekeel, M.D.
- Margaret Knight, CRNP
- Melissa McQueen
- Stephen Gray, M.D.

#### **4. Reduce Pediatric Liver Waiting List Mortality**

The Liver Working Group Chair shared an update from a conference call on July 15, 2016. Included in the update was a data summary of the problems of extended waiting times and waiting list mortality facing pediatric liver candidates, especially very young candidates. The Working Group identified a high level solution to move all liver candidates less than 18 years old higher in the liver allocation sequence and prioritize those pediatric candidates most at risk of death. The Working Group felt this project was aligned with the spirit and letter of Goal III of the OPTN Strategic Plan (Improve Waitlist Patient, Living Donor, and Transplant Recipient Outcomes). Further, the Strategic Goal alignment of this project was supported by the White Paper [\*Ethical Principles of Pediatric Organ Allocation\*](#).

The Committee held a lengthy discussion on the project. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the project to the OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for their review in August 2016.

#### **5. Projects of Interest from Liver & Intestine Committee**

The Committee was reminded of two projects of interest from the OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestine Transplantation Committee. Both of the following proposals will be out for public comment from August 15, 2016 to October 16, 2016:

- Liver Distribution Redesign Modeling
- National Liver Review Board

The Committee will receive updates from the Liver and Intestine Committee during conference calls in August and September.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- August 17, 2016 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern (conference call)
- September 21, 2016 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern (conference call)
- October 19, 2016 10:00 AM-4:00 PM Eastern (Chicago, IL)
- November 16, 2016 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern (conference call)
- December 21, 2016 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern (conference call)
- January 18, 2017 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern (conference call)
- February 15, 2017 4:00-5:00 PM Eastern (conference call)