

**OPTN/UNOS Liver & Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**September 15, 2016**  
**Conference Call**

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

*Discussions of the full committee on September 15, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.*

## **Committee Projects**

### **1. Redesigning Liver Distribution**

The Committee's discussion largely focused on feedback that has been submitted in response to this proposal as of the halfway point of public comment. As of September 15, the Committee already received feedback from the Patient Affairs Committee, the Operations & Safety Committee, the Ethics Committee, and the Pancreas Committee.

Representatives from Region 2 and Region 11 explained that their regions did not vote to support the proposal. The Region 9 representative explained why the region did vote in support of the proposal. Region 8 had not yet held its meeting, but had discussed the proposal during a program director call and expressed its concerns, which the representative relayed back to the Committee.

The Committee also began reviewing the following themes that have emerged in public comment:

- The OPTN and the Committee should focus on increasing transplants, donors, and improving OPO performance
- The Committee has not fully vetted the financial impact of this proposal on centers and OPOs
- Organs will move from high to low-performing OPOs, or areas of high rates of donation to low, or will impact waitlist mortality
- The proposal will decrease the number of transplants
- The proposal will decrease access to transplant in rural communities
- Why is the modeling on the MELD thresholds not being released until after the public comment cycle ends?
- Why does the model use allocation MELD instead of lab MELD?

The Committee will consider all of these themes, and any additional themes that may emerge, during its in-person meeting on October 24, 2016. The Committee will develop formal responses, and will consider whether any additional changes should be made to the proposal in light of these themes. The Committee will also continue to discuss the "Neighborhoods" scheme that has been proposed as an alternative solution to the geographic disparity problem.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- October 24, 2016 in Chicago, Illinois
- November 17, 2016 and December 15, 2016 via teleconference