

OPTN/UNOS VCA Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
November 21, 2016
Chicago, IL

L. Scott Levin, M.D., FACS
Linda Cendales, M.D.

Discussions of the full committee on November 21, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

1. List Covered Body Parts Pertaining to VCA

UNOS staff approached the Committee with questions regarding the implementation of the recent changes to OPTN Policies and Bylaws. Several of these questions were clinical in nature and pertained to a reference list for UNOS staff that delineated what VCAs would appear under each covered body part. The Committee was able to provide valuable feedback to UNOS staff and will remain available for future questions.

Other Significant Items

2. Policy Oversight Committee Update

The Vice Chair provided an update of the recent OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC) discussions. The Vice Chair also discussed the role of POC, the current resource allocation for OPTN committee projects, project counts by committee, and an overview of the POC discussions regarding several projects. The Vice Chair will continue to serve as a conduit between the VCA Committee and POC.

3. Roles of UNOS Research and SRTR in Committee Support

UNOS and SRTR representatives provided an overview of the respective organization's support role to the VCA Committee. The Committee shared their desire to have an informal conversation with staff at the SRTR about the potential for VCA transplant data to appear in the Annual Report. UNOS staff will facilitate this call in the coming weeks.

The Committee also briefly discussed the transplant case volume in the U.S. and whether sufficient cases have been performed to permit different analyses. One member felt that the U.S. case volume and outcomes from the International Registry on Hand and Composite Tissue Transplantation would help support more robust analyses. The Chair asked members to collaborate with UNOS staff to collect high-level outcomes data on VCA transplants performed in the U.S. since 1999. This information will be extremely valuable for future policy discussions.

4. Latest VCA Data

UNOS staff updated the Committee on the latest VCA data. This included VCA candidate list registrations, removals, transplants, donors, and a breakdown of the VCA candidate list. The Committee remains keenly interested in regular updates on this data set. UNOS staff will provide another update in April 2017.

5. Continued discussion on future Committee projects

The Committee previously discussed results of a survey to identify priority projects during a conference call on October 14, 2016. The Committee continued these discussions in breakout groups to identify the problem(s) at hand, potential high-level solutions, and alignment with the OPTN Strategic Plan for the following:

- Increasing public awareness of VCA donation & transplantation
- Guidance to OPOs on optimizing VCA donation
- Aligning VCA membership requirements with other solid-organ membership requirements

The Committee tasked Working Groups with the development of these project ideas in the coming months with a target of POC review in Q1/Q2 2017.

The Committee also discussed the potential for a VCA Donation and Transplantation Consensus Conference. Additional discussions will take place in the coming months to identify the goals of a conference and the problems the conference would address.

6. Update from American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation (ASRT) Biennial Conference

The Chair provided a debrief from the ASRT Biennial meeting held in Chicago on November 3-5, 2016.

7. Uterus Transplantation

The Committee briefly discussed the recent uterus transplant activity involving living donors. Members shared that additional cases have been performed outside the U.S. The Committee felt it was appropriate to reach out to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) regarding another roundtable discussion. Additionally, the Committee asked UNOS staff to facilitate communication with the ASRM to request a volunteer to participate on regularly scheduled VCA Committee conference calls.

8. Scientific Discussion

The Committee invited Edward Cantu, M.D. (Hospital of the Univ. of Pennsylvania) and Lawrence Gottlieb, M.D. (University of Chicago Medical Center) to share their expertise on areas pertaining to VCA transplantation. Dr. Cantu shared his experience with ex vivo lung perfusion and what lessons could be translational for VCA preservation. Dr. Gottlieb shared his proof-of-concept work in vascularized chest wall transplantation (in the setting of heart transplantation). The Committee found both presentations stimulating and are grateful for the contributions of the invited guests.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 13, 2017 (conference call)
- February 10, 2017 (conference call)
- March 10, 2017 (conference call)
- April 7, 2017 (meeting in Chicago, IL)
- May 12, 2017 (conference call)
- June 9, 2017 (conference call)