

OPTN/UNOS Pancreas Transplantation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2018
Conference Call

Jon Odorico, MD, Chair
Silke Niederhaus, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Pancreas Transplantation Committee (hereafter, the Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 02/26/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Concept paper on improving the OPTN UNOS committee structure

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Concept paper on improving the OPTN UNOS committee structure

The Committee continued a discussion on the Executive Committee's concept paper on improving committee structure.

Summary of discussion:

A Committee member expressed concern over changing the Pediatric Committee to an expert council, but overall supported the effort to reconfigure and improve committee structure. The Committee discussed the difficulty of deciding which committees work on proposals such as living donor, that impact multiple committees. UNOS support staff clarified that, although the structure hasn't been worked out yet, one possibility is work groups including representatives from the relevant committees and expert councils working together to create a solution.

In general, the Committee had a lot of questions about the structure of expert councils, how they will interact with committees, and their role in the policy development process. The Committee stressed the need for bidirectional conversation and communication between expert councils and committees in order for the new structure to work. A Committee member noted that expert councils not meeting in-person may prove problematic for communication efforts within the councils. Another Committee member noted that larger subject committees could prove unwieldy. Several Committee members expressed support for the shape of the new committee structure, but concern about the particulars and execution of the change.

Other Committee members expressed concern about regional representation not playing a role on expert councils. UNOS support staff explained that certain populations may not be geographically diverse but deserve an enhanced role in providing feedback on proposals: for example, Latino recipients may be concentrated in certain parts of the country, so regional representation would limit ability to fully represent this group.

A Committee member suggested that intestines could be a separate committee from liver, and that the Pancreas Committee could become the Pancreas & Islet Committee to reflect the joint nature of the committee's work.

In response to a question about the genesis for changing committee structure, the policy liaison explained that the changes stemmed from feedback from the community that certain groups in the community could be engaged more effectively. Several Committee members suggested piloting the expert council idea, perhaps with a new group not currently represented by a committee, to see the effects of the change and any problems that arise.

Next steps:

The Committee will finish discussing the OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan concept paper as there wasn't time during the call to finish that discussion, which was started during a March 12, 2018 teleconference. For the concept paper on revising committee structure, the policy liaison will send out a spreadsheet and ask that committee members respond with their positions on this concept paper.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 22, 2018 (Richmond, VA)
- April 16, 2018 (teleconference)