

**OPTN/UNOS Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplantation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018
Conference Call**

**L. Scott Levin, M.D., FACS, Chair
Linda C. Cendales, M.D., Vice Chair**

Introduction

The VCA Committee met via teleconference on May9, 2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Bylaw language correction

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

1. Bylaw language correction

UNOS staff presented a few corrections to the Committee's proposal to *Align VCA Membership Requirements with Other Solid Organ Programs*.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee previously approved amendments to OPTN Bylaws, Appendices D.7 (Transplant Program Key Personnel), and J (Membership and Personnel Requirements for Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplant Programs) during their April 2018 meeting. Following that meeting UNOS staff noted a small number of changes to the approved language that required correction. UNOS staff shared an overview of these corrections which included updating the applicable board certifications for the primary transplant surgeon of a head and neck transplant program, as well as other minor changes for style and clarity. Members then verbalized agreement with the need for the corrections.

The Committee then discussed the value of requiring cadaver rehearsals in Appendix J.2.D (Additional Primary Surgeon Requirements for Other VCA Transplant Programs). Members acknowledged that cadaver rehearsals may be an effective practice. However, they expressed concern about requiring the rehearsals in the bylaw requirements. There was consensus that facilities for these rehearsals may not be universally available for VCA surgeons, and members were skeptical if the experience gained through these rehearsals justified the fiscal burden of traveling for the experience. Further, surgical subject matter experts on the Committee expressed that translational experience from the actual surgical case experience was more valuable than cadaver rehearsals. As a result, the requirement for cadaver rehearsals was removed.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee voted to recommend consideration of the proposal as amended to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors for during its June 2018 meeting (Yes – 10, No – 0, Abstain – 0).

Next steps:

UNOS staff will update the materials for the Board meeting consistent with the Committee's discussions. The Vice Chair will present the proposals to the Board Ad-hoc Policy Working Group by conference call, and will also attend the Board meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

With no further business to discuss, the call was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- June 13, 2018 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- July 11, 2018 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- August 8, 2018 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- September 12, 2018 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- October 12, 2018 (Chicago, IL 9 AM-3 PM Central)
- November 14, 2018 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- December 12, 2018 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- January 9, 2019 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- February 13, 2019 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- March 29, 2019 (Chicago, IL 9 AM-3 PM Central)
- April 10, 2019 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- May 8, 2019 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)
- June 12, 2019 (Conference call 4-5 PM Eastern)