

**OPTN Ethics Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2019  
Conference Call**

**Elisa Gordon, PhD, MPH, Chair  
Keren Ladin, PhD, Vice Chair**

**Introduction**

The Ethics Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 05/16/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Multi-Organ Transplant (MOT) White Paper Changes
2. Update: Scope Discussion
3. Update: Living Donor Project

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

**1. Multi-Organ Transplant (MOT) White Paper Changes**

The Committee reviewed certain changes to the MOT white paper and voted that these changes be approved and an updated paper be submitted to the Board for its approval.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee received feedback from UNOS executive level review of the MOT briefing paper and white paper that language in Section F: MOT and Local Prioritization, related to the influx and efflux of organs, did not accord with Board positions on geography and distributing organs as broadly as possible. Based on that feedback, the Committee reviewed potential changes to the white paper to be in accord with the Board and to ensure clarity in the white paper. The Committee reviewed a change to modify the white paper by removing Section F: MOT and Local Prioritization and move the most salient points of that section to the introduction related to discussion of geography and local prioritization. The most important point of the MOT and local prioritization section that was moved to the introduction and focused on how MOT local prioritization can vary by geography depending on whether a high-volume MOT program is near the donor hospital or not. The Committee also approved changes to ensure the list of recommendations at the end of the white paper mirrored the list of recommendations throughout the white paper, and changed "UNOS data" to OPTN data which is the correct attribution. The Committee voted unanimously to approve these changes.

Next Steps

The Board will review the white paper for approval at its in-person meeting in June.

**2. Update: Scope Discussion**

The Ethics Committee will discuss on a future call the scope of the Ethics Committee. Staff provided a brief update so Committee members could start thinking about what the scope discussion should entail. Staff explained that all committees will be reviewing their mission statements and their roles advising the Board. It is also relevant to the Ethics Committee that discussions of scope could help to ensure projects come to fruition by being well-defined and in line with OPTN goals. It was also mentioned that the Ethics Committee had similar conversations several years ago about scope, so the current conversation represents a continuation of previous discussions.

### Next Steps

Staff will compile the current mission statement for Ethics Committee review on a future call.

### **3. Update: Living Donor Project**

The Living Donor Committee is pursuing a project that provides guidance on the use of social media by transplant candidates, potential donors and transplant hospitals. Given the ethical implications of such a project, the Living Donor Committee has asked for 1-2 volunteers from the Ethics Committee to participate in discussions and development of the project. A Committee member volunteered and staff will ensure they have access to the Living Donor Committee calls.

### Next steps:

Staff will connect volunteer Committee members with the Living Donor Committee to participate on this project.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- June 20, 2019 (teleconference)
- July 18, 2019 (teleconference)
- August 15, 2019 (teleconference)