Introduction

The Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via teleconference on 07/31/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup Planning

The following is a summary of the Workgroup’s discussions.

1. Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup Planning

The Workgroup call began with brief leadership introductions before discussion began concerning into the descriptions and advantages / disadvantages of the three geographic allocation frameworks.

Afterwards, kidney leadership described how leadership will attempt to present the workgroup each week with decision points based on progress made throughout the week and on kidney leadership calls. This sets higher expectations for leadership to make progress on weekly leadership calls but Nicole Turgeon and Vince Casingal understand and favor this dynamic.

Nicole then expressed what kidney leadership believes is the best option to replace DSA and regions in kidney allocation. Leadership would like to pursue continuous distribution as an end-goal but know it is necessary to develop a fixed-distance concentric circles model in the meantime as a short-term fix. Kidney and pancreas committee members had questions about exactly why we are pursuing a short-term fix and an aggressive timeline at which point UNOS staff informed the group of the recent HRSA letter which calls on the OPTN and UNOS to remove DSA and region from distribution models.

Following this conversation, representatives from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) spoke to the Kidney-Pancreas (KP) workgroup about the modeling request submitted by the liver committee for their geography project and what would be necessary for the KP workgroup to simultaneously explore continuous distribution and concentric circles. The SRTR representatives stated that developing two modeling requests in 4 weeks may not be realistic and could even further extend the time needed to conduct the modeling to the point that reaching public comment by January might not be possible. UNOS policy leadership and SRTR representatives imparted upon the KP workgroup that it wouldn't be out of the question to pursue concentric circles for presentation to the Board next June while working on a continuous distribution model for presentation thereafter.

The Workgroup call concluded with a summary of next steps and upcoming meetings.