

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee

Meeting Summary

February 25, 2025

Conference Call

Peter Stock, MD, Chair

Cynthia Forland, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 02/25/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Follow up: 2023 Report on non-U.S Resident Transplant Activity
2. Brainstorm: New project Ideas

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

1. Follow up: 2023 Report on Non-U.S Residents Transplant Activity.

The Committee continued their discussions from last month's [meeting](#), addressing additional questions and comments regarding the 2023 report on transplant activities involving non-U.S. residents. This report, as mandated by OPTN Policy 17.1, focuses on the registration and transplantation of individuals who are non U.S. citizens/non-U.S residents.

Summary of discussion:

This agenda item did not require any decision. No decisions were made.

A member noted that Region 5 has the highest percentage of deceased donor transplants in the report. She expressed interest in the number of deceased donor transplants conducted specifically at her OPO, suggesting that this information could be useful for targeted outreach and education programs

2. Follow up: 2023 Report on Non-U.S Residents Transplant Activity.

The committee brainstormed new project ideas and discussed a potential data request to support these initiatives.

Summary of discussion:

Decision #1: The committee supported moving forward with a data request to further explore new project ideas.

A member commented that some living donors who are non-citizens/non-residents (NCNR) may travel to the U.S. to donate, and there could potentially be more as we consider future projects.

The Vice-Chair noted that the report requirement focuses on recipients. However, based on last meeting's discussion, the committee was interested in additional information regarding the status of living and deceased donors. Given that the committee's most recent project focuses on donors, it would be helpful to have additional information that the annual report does not cover. Staff clarified that the committee was interested in the following information:

- Distribution of donor citizenship status by donor type (living vs deceased), annually for the past 5 years.
- Number and percentage of transplants by donor citizenship status, donor type (living vs deceased), organ, and recipient age (pediatric vs adult).

Another member expressed interest in examining individuals who live in the U.S. but get transplanted abroad and comparing their outcomes.

Next steps:

The Committee supported submitting a data request to potentially help with future project ideas.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 22, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Cynthia Forland
 - Steve Wisel
 - Abby Ruiz
 - Taryn Shappell
 - Donene Vukovich
 - Manida Wungjiranirun
- **HRSA Representatives**
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Sarah Booker
 - Shaina Kian
- **Other Attendees**