

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
September 21, 2020
Conference Call**

**Irene Kim, MD, Chair
Paulo Martins, MD, PhD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/21/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Board & Committee Call for Nominations
2. OPTN Engagement Opportunities
3. Public Comment: *Update on the Continuous Distribution of Lungs*
4. SES Proposal
5. Discussion: *Align OPTN Policy with U.S Public Health Service Guideline, 2020*

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

1. Board & Committee Call for Nominations

The MAC heard a presentation from the UNOS Board support staff about diversifying the OPTN Board and committees.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked about the selection process for new Board and committee members noting that the need for more minority representation, especially in leadership roles. Another member agreed and suggested that a minority representative should be selected to assist UNOS as appointments are made to fill vacancies. This member also requested a breakdown of minority representation across all committees.

A member of the nominating committee encouraged MAC members to apply to vacancies. This member asked that Committee members share this information with their colleagues and make referrals, especially for more senior members of the transplant community who have larger networks.

Next steps:

The MAC requested a diversity breakdown across committees and will discuss at their October or November Committee meetings.

2. OPTN Engagement Opportunities

The Committee was reminded of the following opportunities:

- Board and Committee nominations
- Public Comment
- Virtual regional meetings
- Prioritization exercise
- OPTN Regional Review

Summary of discussion:

Two members spoke up to support the need for all MAC members to complete the prioritization exercise.

3. Public Comment: Update on the Continuous Distribution of Lungs

The Committee made changes to the following draft comment:

“The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) thanks the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee for their efforts in developing this request for feedback and the opportunity to comment. The MAC commends the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee for leading the charge to operationalize the continuous distribution framework. While the MAC finds the project innovative, they are concerned that the subjectivity of the prioritization process could create an opportunity for gaming, potentially furthering inequity in the healthcare system.”

Summary of discussion:

A member asked for input about the subjectivity of the proposal. A member that specializes in pulmonology offered insight stating that while some elements of the proposal are subjective, he knows that clinical objective data plays a large role in lung allocation. For the sake of time, a few members decided to continue this conversation offline.

Next steps:

Once drafted, the comment will be posted on the OPTN website.

4. SES Proposal

Summary of discussion:

The Committee discussed stakeholder outreach. So far, the Committee has received feedback from the Transplant Administrators Committee (TAC), Patient Affairs Committee (PAC) leadership, the Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers for Minority Institutions, and Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO).

Members reported the following responses:

- American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS): Continued support
- American Society of Transplantation (AST): Supports. Inclusion, Diversity, and Access to Life (IDEAL) Task Force 2020 to review
- National Kidney Foundation (NKF): Supports. Committees to review
- International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTA): Requested deeper conversation with MAC leadership.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to do outreach to stakeholder organizations and aims to receive all feedback by mid-October.

5. Discussion: Align OPTN Policy with U.S. Public Health Service Guideline, 2020

The Committee did not have time for this discussion, but was encouraged to submit individual public comments to the OPTN website by Thursday, October 1.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 19, 2020 (Virtual)

- November 16, 2020- Full Committee Call (Teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Juan Del Rio
 - Lakeicha Gunter
 - Nicole Hayde
 - Christine Hwang
 - Reynold Lopez- Soler
 - Irene Kim
 - Paulo Martins
 - Okechukwu Ojogho
 - Dolomu Olaitan
 - Yesenia Mora- Coffey
 - Oscar Serrano
 - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Monica Colvin
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Chelsea Haynes
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Lauren Motley
 - Kelley Poff
 - Susie Sprinson
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Anna Wall
 - Ross Walton
 - Anne Zehner
- **Other Attendees**
 - Amishi Desai (Board member)
 - Pono Shim (visiting Board member)