

**OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
International Kidney Paired Donation Workgroup
February 24, 2021
Conference Call**

Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee International Kidney Paired Donation Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 02/24/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Overview
2. Discussion

1. Overview

The Workgroup reviewed the current state of international kidney paired donation (KPD) as well as position statements from national and international societies.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if “financial incompatibilities” was defined within the Counsel of Europe Committee on Organ Donation’s position statement. Staff responded that the Alliance for Paired Donation (APD) coined this term when their program began to incorporate patients from other countries. The member stated that “economic disparities” would be a better term.

Another member stated that The Transplant Society (TTS) has a position statement that is published in the Transplantation journal. Staff will disseminate TTS’s position statement to the Workgroup.

There were no additional questions or comments.

2. Discussion

The Committee explored the idea of international KPD as a way to increase the number of transplants.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if the OPTN has considered merging the U.S. KPD programs to create a national KPD program. Staff responded that one reason KPD programs have not merged is because of the difference in underlying philosophies of the various U.S. programs.

The Workgroup expressed interest in evaluating the net impact for U.S. patients of potential expansion of the OPTN Kidney Paired Donation Pilot Program (KPDPP).

Another member expressed concern regarding the potential for other KPD programs to further their international matches, once they see the OPTN KPDPP pair with Canada.

A member stated financial aspects, including donor support and donor funds, are challenges that need to be addressed. The Chair agreed and stated that insurance coverage will need to be examined to understand how international KPD could be covered.

Another member expressed interest in recipient outcomes, regarding follow-up with international patients to track outcomes to monitor if there are differences. The member added that donor follow-up is another important challenge to address.

A member stated that alignment between histocompatibility labs will need to be researched.

Another member stated that sharing of private health information (PHI) between countries will have to be addressed. HRSA staff suggested referencing the National Marrow Donation Program to evaluate how they handle PHI.

The Workgroup discussed the potential idea of creating criteria for populations that are hard to match, medically urgent, etc. to participate in an international kidney exchange to expedite the transplantation process and increase chance of match.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 24, 2021 (teleconference)
- April 28, 2021 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Aneesha Shetty
 - Barry Friedman
 - Elliot Grodstein
 - Howard Nathan
 - Karl Schillinger
 - Nahel Elias
 - Peter Stock
 - Phyllis Weech
 - Prakash Rao
 - Samy Riad
 - Sylvia Gonzalez
 - Tracey McRacken
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Brian Shepard
 - Jen Wainright
 - Leah Slife
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Peter Sokol
 - Robert Hunter
 - Ruthanne Leishman