

## **OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee**

**June 24, 2021**

**Conference Call**

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

**Pramod Bonde, MD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 06/24/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Reminder: Onboarding and Continuing Education Requirements
2. Vice-Chair Nomination Process
3. Voting Item: Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status
4. Open Discussion

### **1. Reminder: Onboarding and Continuing Education Requirements**

The Committee was reminded to complete the required education modules, and sign conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements.

There were no comments or questions.

### **2. Vice-Chair Nomination Process**

The Committee reviewed the new process for selecting committee vice-chairs. The goal of the new process is to increase transparency, promote inclusiveness, and provide a thorough vetting process for vice-chair candidates.

#### Summary of Discussion:

The Chair commented that the Committee does not have regional representation due to its Ad Hoc status. The Chair noted that diversity is important to the work of the Committee and is committed to supporting the efforts to maintain broad representation. Staff noted that the request for vice-chair nominations is a separate process and will begin in the fall. The recent “call for nominations” included information about which committees will have vice-chair vacancies in 2022.

There were no additional comments or questions.

### **3. Voting Item: Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status**

The Committee reviewed the guidance document. This included the following:

- *Introduction* – Background and overview of current citizenship data element, benefits for collecting the information, and the complexities of collecting the information.
- *Transplant Candidate Registration, Living Donor Registration, and Deceased Donor Registration* – Overview of the forms and the factors contributing to inaccurate citizenship status data collection and ways to improve the data collection

- *Transplant Recipient Follow-Up and Living Donor Follow-Up* – Overview of the forms and factors contributing to low rates of follow-up data collect for non-U.S. citizen/non-U.S. resident (NCNR) and non-U.S. citizen/U.S. resident (NCR) recipients and donors.

#### Summary of Discussion:

A member asked how the clarity on the citizenship status data definitions came to be. Staff explained that the clarity on the data definitions was provided based on historic intentions and interpretations of the data elements. The member added their support for the clarifications, specifically the NCNR, traveling to U.S. reason for other than transplant.

The Committee unanimously voted in support to send the *Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status* document to Summer 2021 Public Comment.

The Chair thanked the members and UNOS staff for their work on this document. The Chair added that it will be an important document for transplant hospitals and organ procurement organizations to reference when reporting citizenship status.

There were no additional comments or questions.

#### **4. Open Discussion**

The Chair requested the members continue to identify future committee projects.

Staff noted the committee's monthly conference calls has been revised to the fourth Tuesday of every month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm EST. The next Committee call will focus on the annual report of non-U.S. resident transplant activity within the U.S.

There were no additional comments or questions. The meeting was adjourned.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- July 27, 2021 (teleconference)
- August 24, 2021 (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Barry Friedman
  - Pramod Bonde
  - Howard Nathan
  - Min Zhou
  - Peter Stock
  - Prakash Rao
  - Sylvia Villalon
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
- **UNOS**
  - Betsy Gans
  - Meghan McDermott
  - Robert Hunter