

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee  
Meeting Summary  
July 25, 2024  
Teleconference Call**

**Jennifer Prinz, BSN, MPH, Chair  
Erika Lease, MD, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) met via teleconference on 07/25/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Review & Recommendations to the Executive Committee

### **1. Public Comment Review & Recommendations to the Executive Committee**

The Committee reviewed the projects and proposals going out for Summer 2024 public comment.

#### Voting Results:

Update Histocompatibility Bylaws: 16 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Require Reporting of HLA Critical Discrepancies and Crossmatching Events to the OPTN: 15 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing: 16 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System: 14 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Continuous Distribution of Kidneys Update: 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Continuous Distribution of Pancreata Update: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Continuous Distribution of Hearts Update: 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

Continuous Distribution of Livers & Intestines Update: 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain

#### Summary of discussion:

##### Update Histocompatibility Bylaws:

- Members highlighted the complexity of updating regulations in laboratory testing for organ transplantation and the importance of ensuring all stakeholders are properly informed and involved in the process.

##### Require Reporting of HLA Critical Discrepancies and Crossmatching Events to the OPTN:

- Members advised that this was a well-crafted proposal that addresses its intended purpose of improving patient safety through more comprehensive and mandatory reporting of HLA typing discrepancies.

#### Promote Efficiency of Lung Donor Testing:

- This discussion between members highlighted the complexities involved in creating policies for organ donation and transplantation, particularly in balancing the need for comprehensive information with the practicalities of the organ offer process.
- Members also said it will be important to define what information is required at what stage of the process.

#### Revise Conditions for Access to the OPTN Computer System:

- Members emphasized that this proposal is to be a significant step in enhancing the security and proper use of the OPTN computer system, involving substantial time and financial investment to implement and maintain these new security measures.

#### Continuous Distribution of Kidneys Update:

- Members discussed the complex considerations involved in organ allocation policy, balancing factors such as medical urgency, fairness, efficiency, and special populations like pediatric patients and highly sensitized individuals.

#### Continuous Distribution of Pancreata Update:

- Members emphasized that the proposal thoroughly explained the reasons and provided sufficient evidence for the solution. Particularly praising the detailed plan for facilitated pancreas placement.

#### Continuous Distribution of Hearts Update:

- Members stressed that the proposal for continuous distribution of donor hearts is well-developed and has involved significant stakeholder input. It appears to be addressing important issues of equity and transparency, though there's an acknowledgment that fully resolving equity concerns remains an ongoing challenge. The use of data-driven approaches and community engagement in developing the proposal is highlighted as a strength.

#### Update on Heart Continuous Distribution:

- Members felt the paper was well written and outlines the progress and next steps in the continuous distribution process. Additionally, engagement with other committees was adequate.

#### Continuous Distribution of Livers & Intestines Update:

- Members strongly indicated that the proposal is well-positioned to move forward to the public comment stage. This will allow for broader community input and potentially further refinement of the proposed continuous distribution framework for livers and intestines

#### Next steps:

The Committee will send their recommendations to the Executive Committee for final approval.

#### **Upcoming Meeting (s)**

- August 8, 2024
- September 12, 2024

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Jennifer Prinz
  - Erika Lease
  - Aneesha Shetty
  - Cynthia Forland
  - Hannah Copeland
  - Heather Bastardi
  - Kelley Hitchman
  - Lorrinda Gray-Davis
  - Lisa McElroy
  - Lori Markham
  - Neha Bansal
  - Paige Porrett
  - Rachel Miller
  - Sanjay Kulkarni
  - Shimul Shah
  - Scott Lindberg
  - Steven Potter
  - Ty Dunn
  
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Chris McLaughlin
  - Marilyn Levi
  - Shelley Grant
  - Steven Keenan
  - Shannon Dunne
  
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Cole Fox
  - Viktoria Filatova
  - Amanda Young
  - Darby Harris
  - Eric Messick
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - James Alcorn
  - Joann White
  - Joe McCollum
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Kayla Temple
  - Kelley Poff
  - Krista Hogan
  - Lauren Mauk
  - Michael Ghaffari
  - Robert Hunter
  - Roger Brown
  - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
  - Susan Tlusty

- Viktoria Filatova
- **Guests**
  - Andrew Kao
  - Jondavid Menteer
  - Daniel Yip