

OPTN Ethics Committee

Meeting Summary

July 21, 2022

Conference Call

Keren Ladin, PhD, Chair

Andy Flescher, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Ethics Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/21/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introduction of New Members and Committee Expectations
2. Committee Orientation
3. Update of Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup

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

1. Introduction of New Members and Committee Expectations

The members of the Committee introduced themselves and their connection to organ transplant and ethics. The Chair welcomed all of the new members to the committee and reviewed the expectations of committee members. The Committee support staff, as well as representatives from HRSA and SRTR, introduced themselves.

2. Committee Orientation

The orientation reviewed the OPTN governance structure and highlighted where the Ethics Committee falls within the structure, including the Committee's charge and scope. Each active project that the Committee is working on was reviewed, which includes Transparency in Program Selection, Ethical Evaluation of Multiple Listing, and Ethical Considerations of Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP). The Ethics Committee projects tend to take the shape of white papers, which evaluate a complex ethical issue and serve as guidance to the OPTN Board of Directors.

The Committee reviewed the policy development process, which highlighted where in the process each Ethics Committee project is. In the coming weeks, the Transparency in Program Selection white paper will be out for public comment. Regional representatives will be responsible for presenting the white paper during their regional meetings. Staff reviewed the resources available to support members during their time on the Committee. The Chair encouraged the members to use this presentation as a reference tool and encouraged members to reach out to staff or leadership if they had any questions.

3. Update of Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup

The Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup held their first meeting on July 14th. This meeting introduced the members, which represent a very wide range of stakeholders with varied points of view on NRP, and provided an overview of NRP and the project scope. The workgroup discussed the ethical principles that are under consideration and the potential overlap between NRP and donation after cardiac death (DCD). The workgroup will consider how NRP is unique and what additional considerations ought to be taken.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested including vulnerable populations, like pediatrics, into the workgroup's considerations. The member noted that what may be deemed as an acceptable practice between adult donors and recipients may have additional considerations for pediatric donors and recipients. The member noted that his discussions pertaining to NRP for pediatrics have been met with hesitancy across transplant teams. The Chair agreed that vulnerable populations ought to be a point of discussion for the workgroup, suggested the member join the next workgroup meeting, and email any additional thoughts or concerns.

Next steps:

The workgroup's next meetings are on August 4th and August 11th. The Ethics Committee will continue to receive updates on the workgroup's progress during their full committee meetings

Upcoming Meetings

- August 18, 2022
- September 15, 2022
- October 21, 2022 – in person in Richmond, VA

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Andy Flescher
 - David Bearl
 - Ehab Saad
 - Erica Stohs
 - Felicia Wells-Williams
 - George Bayliss
 - Glenn Cohen
 - Jennifer Dillon
 - Keren Ladin
 - Megan Urbanski
 - Melissa Anderson
 - Sena Wilson-Sheehan
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Edna Dumas
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alex Carmack
 - Catherine Parton
 - Cole Fox
 - James Alcorn
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen