

**OPTN Ethics Committee**

**Meeting Summary**

**October 19, 2023**

**Conference Call**

**Andrew Flescher, PhD, Chair**  
**Sanjay Kulkarni, MD, Vice-Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Ethics Committee (“Committee”) met via WebEx teleconference on 10/19/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Review NRP Post-PC Changes
3. Vote: NRP White Paper

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

### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

The Chair, Vice Chair, and staff welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the agenda.

### **2. Review Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Post-PC Changes**

The Committee heard a presentation about the Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) White Paper and discussed the changes made post-public comment.

#### Presentation summary:

The Chair reviewed grammatical, tone, and accuracy changes to the Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) White Paper (WP), which was reviewed and discussed during the October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup> meetings. Several members provided additional citations and footnotes to the WP following those meetings, which have been incorporated into the final draft. The changes made to the WP were distributed to the OPTN Board of Directors and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

#### Summary of discussion:

The Committee discussed the changes to the WP and agreed upon those changes.

A member introduced an additional change to the informed decision making section to further clarify roles and procedure for obtaining consent for pre-mortem interventions and authorization for post-mortem interventions necessary for NRP. The Committee agreed to incorporate this change.

A member asked why a paragraph in the informed consent section of the original draft was removed, and the Chair and another member answered that the paragraph did not adhere to current Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) best practices. The original member responded, saying that it was surprising to have seen this paragraph removed, noting how often this issue came up in the literature reviewed and in Committee discussion. Another member agreed. The Chair explained that this section was removed because it was not specific to NRP, and the Committee had agreed to keep the paper’s focus on informed decision making considerations specific to NRP. A member introduced a change to

clarify that the paper is not providing a comprehensive list of the foundational principles of donation after circulatory death (DCD), but rather providing a list of principles within this category relevant to NRP. Members agreed with this change.

The Chair called to conclude the meeting with a roll call vote.

Next steps:

The Committee will update the WP with the changes made during the meeting and vote on the WP.

**3. Vote: NRP White Paper**

The Committee voted on the Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) White Paper.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the WP.

Next steps:

The Committee will meet next on November 16, 2023.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- November 16, 2023

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Andrew Flescher
  - Andrew Courtwright
  - Sanjay Kulkarni
  - Melissa Anderson
  - Bob Truog
  - Lois Shepherd
  - Thao N. Galvan
  - Sena A Wilson-Sheehan
  - Megan Urbanski
  - Jen Dillon
  - Keren Ladin
  - Laura L Butler
  - Laura Jokimaki
  - Ehab R Saad
  - Shelia Nichols Bullock
  - Erica Stohs
  - Lisa Paolillo
  - Felicia Wells-Williams
  - Carrie Thiessen
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Marilyn Levi
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kieran McMahon
  - Cole Fox
  - Rebecca Murdoch
  - Kristina Hogan
  - Kim Uccellini
- **Other Attendees**
  - Laura Schmitt