In the President's Words

By: John Belcher, BS, CCEMT-P, CTBS, CPTC, NATCO President

I am writing this note from the airport in Richmond. There I was introduced to my upcoming role on the UNOS Board as the Transplant Coordinator Representative. I was struck by the sheer numbers of NATCO members represented in the room. Each is contributing in a variety of ways either as a Committee Chair or on the Board itself. I am honored to represent the community.

The workgroups, board and Executive Office have been hard at work planning and executing some exciting offerings for the membership and greater community.

Thank you to all who were nominated to run for a position on NATCO's Board of Directors. There were many highly qualified candidates vying for only a few open slots. The results have been made public and can be found on our website. I would encourage folks to participate in various roles within the organization. Many new faces are becoming involved with the potential for future opportunities in leadership positions. Interested parties should reach out directly to any member of the board to discuss how you can become more involved in NATCO.

NATCO is pleased to have Rebecca Winsett on board as the new Editor of our journal, Progress in Transplantation. I would encourage each of you to consider writing up the incredible work each of you are doing. Those of you, who may be first time authors, please be watching out for new resources that will be made available to guide new authors.

There is still time to register for our upcoming Annual Meeting in Orlando. We are looking forward to welcoming and working with our hospital partners to share ideas on best practices. If you are interested in learning more please contact me or our Executive Office.

I have been fortunate to attend the recent White House Organ Summit held in Washington DC in June. This event highlighted the roles of science, technology, and innovation in organ donation and transplantation, discussing the challenges we face, and efforts aimed at reducing the organ transplant waiting list. I will plan on sharing my experience with you at a later date.
NATCO 2016 Events

The NATCO 2016 Event Schedule contains many opportunities to learn and grow in your profession. Some events are virtual and others are face to face. We know how difficult it can be for many of our members to travel. We have heard your requests for more online learning opportunities, and will continue to offer webinar learning programs to help ease the burden and cost of travel. As always, we are most interested in hearing about the topics that are of interest to you. Please send suggestions for future programs to info@natco1.org. We have also created opportunities for NATCO to come to you! We offer Donor Management Simulation Training in your facility. Our CCTC Review Course has been a great success. Our aim is to provide 4 regional opportunities for you to attend a review course each year. If you are interested in hosting a future event, please contact Donna Dickt at DonnaD@natco1.org for more information. We would be happy to bring this course to you too! For more information you may also call 703-483-9820.

41st Annual Meeting: Communicate, Collaborate, Achieve the Magic of Transplant... July 27 - 30, 2016

We are looking forward to seeing you in Orlando!

If you haven't already downloaded the NATCO 41st Annual Meeting App you can do so by searching NATCO 41st in the App Store. Be sure to select your personalized agenda to receive notification alerts prior to each of your selected sessions.

Scan this code for a quick upload:
Read what members are saying:

**Improvement of Kidney Transplant Evaluation Process**

Geraldine Zingraf, MS, MBA, RN

It is always interesting to collaborate and hear what other transplant centers are doing to improve their process and the patients’ experiences towards transplant. The knowledge that can be obtained from another transplant center regarding their kidney transplant evaluation process can have large benefits for many programs. I am excited to hear what information can be shared and how I might be able to implement some of those same changes to help better my program.

**One Organ Procurement Organization’s Attempt to Improve with Donor Hospital Staff Using Social Media**

Samantha Taylor

I’m looking forward to Samantha Taylor’s presentation on using social media to engage our hospital partners. Most OPOs have done a great job with using social media to engage with the community to increase awareness but reaching out to hospital partners is a newer and very exciting concept!

Could your OPO be overlooking DCD potential? Whether you work for an OPO or a Transplant Center, there lies a mutual responsibility to ensure no candidates are missed to combat the growing national wait list. NATCO is offering a session with a panel of experts who will discuss the age old question, “To use or not to use a DCD tool?” I don’t want to miss the exciting new findings revealed in this study. Community leaders from across the nation are expected to attend this year’s event allowing opportunities to learn from the best and become a part of the force to eradicate death on the waitlist.

For more details visit [www.natco1.org](http://www.natco1.org).

**REGISTER HERE!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Details of the Advanced Hospital Development and Leadership Workshop will be coming soon! This workshop will take place October 13-14, 2016 at the Sheraton Chicago O’Hare. Agenda coming soon...

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The end of 2016 National Donate Life Month in April also signaled the close of Phase V of HRSA Hospital Campaign. A flurry of Donate Life Month hospital and organ procurement organization activities took place across the country to encourage people to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

NATCO, a National HRSA Hospital Campaign Partner is extremely excited for our members because all partners who submitted their scorecards by May 15th will be formally recognized by HRSA and National Partners.

June 2016, HRSA began recognition for Campaign achieving Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze activity levels. We are excited to learn what impact the emphasis on small and rural hospital participation will have. To learn more about HRSA Hospital Campaign please click HERE.

Donate Life America will recognize Donate Life Organizations efforts at their annual national meeting.

Organ Procurement Organizations will be recognize at AOPO’s annual meeting.

Honorees with be posted on organdonor.gov

Awards will be announced after the publishing of our In Touch Membership Newsletter so please follow award updates and announcements on NATCO’s Facebook and LinkedIn pages. If you are not following our social media pages, now is a great time to join.

Donate Life America

By: Lida Pieterman, Communications and Outreach Coordinator,
Donate Life America

Donate Life ECHO Coming July 10-23, 2016

The Association for Multicultural Affairs (AMAT) and Donate Life America joined forces in 2015 to develop Donate Life ECHO, which stands for Every Community Has Opportunity. It will be celebrated July 10-23, 2016 as a nationwide observance designed to reach multicultural communities.

Donate Life ECHO has two objectives: first, to focus on the power of sharing the decision to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor with your community; second, to encourage registered donors to ask...
members of their personal networks and extended communities to talk about organ, eye, and tissue donation and register as donors.

Through the ECHO concept of reiteration and repetition—with people sharing the life-affirming message of donation within their communities—more lives will be saved and healed. The involvement of multicultural communities in our movement is crucial. They save and heal lives as organ, eye and tissue donors; they need lifesaving kidney transplants in disproportionately high numbers; and they serve patients and their families as healthcare professionals.

There are numerous ways to show your support for this observance and get involved. For more information, please visit DonateLife.net/ECHO (link to: http://donatelife.net/echo) or AMAT1.org (link to http://amat1.org).

**Donate Life America Presenting at NATCO’s 41st Annual Meeting**

Donate Life America is pleased to be presenting at NATCO’s Annual Meeting this July. This year’s meeting theme of Communicate. Collaborate. Achieve the MAGIC of Transplant... is one that resonates deeply with our organization, as DLA was founded on the basis of collaborating to communicate the lifesaving and healing opportunity of donation and transplantation.

Melissa Devenny, Managing Director of Donate Life America, and Dr. Dianne LaPointe Rudow, Director of the Zweig Family Center for Living Donation at the Recanati Miller Transplantation Institute at Mount Sinai Hospital, will serve as presenters for the session entitled “Donate Life America” on July 29, 2016. Topics covered will include: the Donate Life 101 online orientation module; the new National Donate Life Registry; the Point of View Campaign; and Donate Life America’s emerging role in promoting living donation.

We hope you’ll be able to join us for this exciting and informative 30-minute session!

**National Donate Life Blue & Green Day**

This year’s National Donate Life Blue & Green Day Photo Contest was a resounding success once again. Donate Life America received 725 total entries, including 90 submissions from Clinical Partners across the country.

Congratulations to the University of Adults Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico, our 2016 Clinical Partner Blue & Green Day Photo Contest winner; and many thanks to everyone who participated in this year’s contest. There were some terrific submissions, and we encourage you to visit DLA’s Facebook page (link to https://www.facebook.com/DonateLife/) to check out the creative Blue and Green Day spirit!

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OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee

The OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC) would like to keep you informed of our ongoing activities and projects.

Since the September 2015 OPTN/UNOS TCC meeting, committee membership have presented and discussed effective practices during monthly committee calls. The Committee would like to begin offering these effective practice discussions to the broader transplant community. The Committee formed an Effective Practice Work Group that met in April to begin the process of submitting project information to UNOS leadership for approval. If approved, the goal of the work group will be to develop effective practice instructional events for transplant professionals.

Members received a demonstration of the new UNOS DonorNet Mobile App and a demonstration of the new UNOS Learning Management System (LMS) during the March meeting as well. The new mobile app will be available to OPTN members in the following phases:
- **OPo Phase 1** – Including ability to perform second verification of ABO, view basic donor info and upload attachments – scheduled release Q4 2016
- **OPo Phase 2** – Including ability to view all donor information and send offers – scheduled release Q2 2017
- **Transplant center functionality** – Including ability to view all offers, all donor information (including attachments), basic candidate information, enter provisional acceptances/refusals (modify a provisional yes to refusal) – scheduled release Q3/4 2017

The new UNOS Learning Management System (LMS) that will be available to OPTN members, UNOS Connect, will organize all transplant education into one site. With one login, members will be able to access all UNOS Education resources and manage it all in their transcript. Emailing or searching for CEPTC’s and certificates are now a thing of the past. Certificates and credits may be shared with management through UNOS Connect. Members will be able to access the site on any device, at any time. UNOS Connect is set to launch later this year.

UNOS Research and SRTR staff requested the TCC’s feedback on ways to improve OPTN data integrity, timeliness of submission, and reliability of data. Within the transplant community, there is lack of trust in data accuracy and completeness. UNOS staff and SRTR staff are working on ways to address this issue. Committee members offered their feedback to UNOS and SRTR staff. The TCC decided to form a work group to continue this discussion with Research, SRTR, and the OPTN/UNOS Data Advisory Committee (DAC). This work group, including members from the above-mentioned groups, began its work in May.

During each public comment period, the TCC reviews public comment proposals and provides feedback to the sponsoring committees. The TCC continues to encourage all coordinators to provide comment on the proposals that are out for public comment. The next public comment period begins in August.

The OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee meets on a monthly basis and continues to work on ideas focused on the OPTN/UNOS strategic goals. We welcome your ideas and feedback.
Please feel free to contact the Committee Chair, Jamie Bucio, or your regional TCC representative directly regarding our committee’s work. We represent you. https://www.transplantpro.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/TCC_Regional_Reps_2015-16.pdf

In the Spotlight
Sharing Local News

Released: April 26, 2016: INDIANAPOLIS – KV Racing Technology announced today that Stefan Wilson is entering the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 in the No. 25 Driven2SaveLives–KVRT Chevrolet. Stefan is partnering with Indiana Donor Network on Driven2SaveLives, a campaign to promote organ, tissue and eye donation and transplantation in honor of his late older brother, IndyCar driver Justin Wilson.

“Like so many other drivers, I grew up dreaming about the Indianapolis 500 and it’s all I’ve worked toward for the past few years. Justin raced in the 500 eight times and it was a dream to join him on the starting grid and race against him. I just never anticipated a situation where Justin wouldn’t be there with me,” said Stefan, a U.K. native who now calls Indianapolis home.

Justin died in August 2015 from injuries he sustained in a race crash at Pocono Raceway in Pennsylvania. He had previously registered his decision to become an organ donor and had discussed it with his wife. That selfless decision meant Justin saved five lives.

Now a registered donor himself, Stefan and Indiana Donor Network hope to get 2,500 people across the country to register their decision to donate through Driven2SaveLives. Indiana Donor Network, one of 58 designated organ recovery organizations in the U.S., oversees and coordinates organ, tissue and eye donation, and provides public education on donation and transplantation across the state.

“Justin’s decision to be an organ donor ended up being the one shining light out of that dark, terrible time after Pocono,” said Stefan. “I’m grateful to Indiana Donor Network and KV Racing Technology for the opportunity to fulfill a racing dream and to honor Justin’s legacy on such a monumental stage as the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500.”

“Stefan’s story really personifies our mission at Indiana Donor Network,” said Kellie Hanner, president and chief executive officer at Indiana Donor Network. “His experience with Justin’s organ donation illustrates firsthand what it means to save and enhance lives. We couldn’t ask for a better champion and we hope Driven2SaveLives inspires others to become registered donors like the Wilson brothers.”

Stefan’s teammates for the Indianapolis 500, Sébastien Bourdais and Matthew Brabham, will also carry the campaign logo on their cars in
“We are pleased to announce that Stefan – a talented driver and an outstanding young man – will be driving for KV Racing Technology,” said Kevin Kalkhoven, co-owner of KV Racing Technology. “Stefan has raced at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway before with Indy Lights but this will be his first INDYCAR race there and we look forward to having him on our team for the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500.”

“Having spoken with Stefan throughout the winter about this project, I am very pleased to see it come to fruition,” said Jimmy Vasser, co-owner of KV Racing Technology. “Not only has Stefan proven to be a fast driver but he brings the complete package to the table. It also goes without saying that it will warm the hearts of everyone in the racing community to see him drive the No. 25.”

FACTS: • More than 120,000 people nationwide are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants. ○ That’s enough people, if standing side by side, to circle the track at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) almost 14 times. • In the time it takes four cars to complete a four-lap qualifying attempt at IMS, another person is added to the national transplant waiting list. • Each day, 22 people on average in the U.S. die because a donated organ wasn’t made available in time. ○ That’s equivalent to the first seven rows of cars in the Indy 500 starting lineup. • It takes less time to fill out a donor registration form than it does for an IndyCar driver to complete one lap around IMS. • Approximately 90 percent of Americans support organ donation, yet only 50 percent are registered. • You can register to become an organ and tissue donor here.

About Indiana Donor Network Indiana Donor Network is one of 58 designated organ recovery organizations in the United States and coordinates organ, tissue and eye donation throughout the state. Indiana Donor Network is devoted to public education about donation and transplantation with the goal of saving and enhancing more lives. For more information about Indiana Donor Network or to register your decision to become a donor, visit IndianaDonorNetwork.org.

About KV Racing Technology KV Racing Technology was founded in January 2003. The Indianapolis based team is owned by successful venture capitalist Kevin Kalkhoven and 1996 IndyCar champion Jimmy Vasser. General Manager Steve Moore oversees the team’s operations and is assisted by Team Manager Chris Mower, Engineer Olivier Boisson and Crew Chief Greg Senerius.

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact info@natco1.org.
from their donation, and does not guarantee that donors will have a job waiting for them after surgery. I know many of you have already reached out to your Senators and Representatives. Thank you! If you have not already called or emailed them, please do so. Tell them to support this legislation.

In April, a Presidential Proclamation was released for National Donate Life Month. In it President Obama expressed his Administration’s commitment to shortening the organ waiting list, saying “across government, industry, academia, private organizations, and the medical and philanthropic communities, we must all do our part to lift up donors, donor families, and patients by supporting efforts to shorten the organ waiting list”. One of the more recent pieces of legislation that supports our field was signed into law by President Obama in 2013. It was the Hope Act. NATCO was very involved in this legislation. Our leadership worked very hard to see that this did in fact become law. This legislation laid the groundwork for the first HIV-positive to HIV-positive transplant in the United States which happened at John Hopkins earlier this spring. The White House announced that senior Administration officials will host a summit to highlight the role of innovation in organ donation and transplantation, discuss the challenges and ways to meet them. We will keep you informed about this summit as more information becomes available.

An issue that we faced in January, 2014, has again resurfaced. On March 3, 2016, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) made draft recommendations to change Medicare Part D protected classes. Specifically, to remove anti-depressant and immunosuppressant medicines from the protected-class status. NATCO objected to those changes then, and we do now. Current policy ensures that transplant recipients have access to the most appropriate immunosuppressant by prohibiting Part D plans from restricting access through formularies. If this changes it would enable Part D sponsors to impose formulary restrictions on these critical drugs, resulting in substantial risk of rejection, serious side effects, and other adverse drug reactions for Medicare Part D beneficiaries who are transplant recipients.

Restrictive formularies limit the ability to prescribe the right combination of medications to protect the recipient from organ rejection and other serious side effects. This delicate balance was recognized in the original decision to include these medications under protected status. If these draft recommendations move forward we will work diligently to see that immunosuppressants remain in the protected class.

While they have yet to be introduced, there are two draft bills that are being discussed. One of them would amend the Social Security Act to establish a program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease. The other would make clarifications to the section of the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) that prohibits buying or selling organs for “valuable consideration”. Specifically, that reimbursements for expenses a donor incurs, or programs to test the effect of providing non cash incentives to promote donation should not be considered “valuable consideration”. If these proposed bills move forward I will provide you with more information about them, and what position we will take.

There are more issues requiring our involvement, and as always we will report on our activities, the progress made, and ways you can engage in them. We are pleased that we can again have NATCO represented on all issues of importance to our Members so your voice...
is heard.

As always, if you would like to know more about current legislation, regulations, or hear something that might affect organ donation and transplantation, please email or call Wade at wadebdelk@gmail.com /202-253-7862.

Abstracts

By: Linda Ohler, MSN, RN, CCTC, FAAN, Editor, Progress in Transplantation

Economic Impacts of ABO-Incompatible Live Donor Kidney Transplantation: A National Study of Medicare-Insured Recipients

Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation After Lung Transplantation -- A Single-Center Study

Effect of the lung allocation score on lung transplantation in the United States

Depression and Anxiety as Risk Factors for Morbidity and Mortality After Organ Transplantation: A systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

NATCO would like to thank its Corporate Sponsor