First Quarter 2019

NATCO empowers transplant professionals to achieve their highest potential. NATCO leads the donation and transplant communities by uniting our members, advancing education, and promoting research and advocacy.

IN THE PRESIDENT’S WORDS

Dear NATCO Members,

We have kicked off the first quarter of 2019 with great speed and action! It is hard to believe it is only March and we have already held 2 CCTC Review Courses, an Organ Preservation Symposium, and our third webinar is being held this week. Thank you to our team of volunteers who help to make all this happen!

Plans are underway to bring you an action packed second quarter as well. Read about our upcoming events and other activities taking place throughout our community. NATCO partners with many organizations to make donation and transplantation happen. We are a community that continues to grow when we support each other. Please take a look at what is happening in the community and if you have not already done so, give some thought to taking action. There are many ways you can get involved!

All my best, your NATCO President
Timothy J. Snyder
For the rest of their lives, kidney transplant recipients require daily immunosuppressive medications to reduce the likelihood of organ rejection. Under current law, however, Medicare covers the cost of a kidney transplant but only pays for anti-rejection medication for three years. After Medicare drops their coverage, transplant patients who aren’t fortunate enough to find affordable insurance are left to cover the cost of the medication on their own.

Without immunosuppressive medications to prevent rejection, many patients find themselves back in a risky and frightening place - having to go back on dialysis and in need of a new kidney. The current policy is costly, decreases ESRD patients’ quality of life, and fails to honor the sacrifice of the donor.

Everyone loses when a kidney transplant fails because of lack of immunosuppressive medication access.

That's why we've joined a coalition to launch Honor the Gift, a campaign aimed at pushing Congress to protect people living with transplants and honor their donors.

It's time to ensure Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive medication for kidney transplant patients. Join the movement - sign up to receive email updates about the campaign.
HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

Workplace Partnership for Life Campaign

The Workplace Partnership for Life (WPFL) is a national initiative that unites the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the organ donation community with workplaces throughout the nation to spread the word about the importance of donation.

Partners include local, regional, and national companies, associations, unions, and academic, volunteer, philanthropic, and community-focused organizations of all kinds. Their shared goal is promoting a "donation-friendly America" by fostering organ donation education and creating opportunities for individuals to sign up to save lives.

More than 13,000 businesses have joined as "workplace partners." They have helped register more than one million people in the United States.

Are you a partner?

NATCO NEWS

NATCO Transplant Nutrition Workgroup

NATCO is excited to announce a newly formed Transplant Nutrition Workgroup! This workgroup will provide oversight for all transplant
nutrition initiatives including the establishment of a transplant dietitian practice group within the NATCO community.

A priority of this workgroup will be to develop nutritional resources for dietitians and other nutrition transplant professionals as well as for candidates, recipients, and donors.

NATCO has long been a supporter of transplant dietitians and will host its 8th Annual Transplant Nutrition Conference July 30-31, 2018 in Bellevue, Washington. This conference has become the gold standard for transplant nutrition education. We are excited to expand upon this relationship and create a home base for transplant dietitians within NATCO.

The Co-chairs for this workshop will be Dan Pieloch, MS, RD, CPHQ and Linda Ulerich, RD.

More information will be coming soon!

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**NATCO Membership Sponsorships still Available**

*Is your organization a membership sponsor?*

There are many benefits that your organization receives when they become a sponsor. Depending on the sponsorship level, free registrations, free individual memberships, and free webinar viewing for ALL organization staff members can be available. For more information please contact us at info@natco1.org. Don't miss out!

For Brochure click [HERE](#)

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**The NATCO Academy**
We provide customizable learning opportunities on demand. For more information: click HERE

CCTC Review Courses

The Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinator (CCTC) Review Course is based on the ABTC Examination detailed content outline. This course provides topical information, resources, exam taking tips and strategies, and helps generate the confidence that potential candidates need to pass the examination the first time! Next Course:

April 11-12, 2019
Miami Transplant Institute

For more information click HERE

DONATE LIFE AMERICA
By: Lida Pieterman, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Donate Life America
For the 2019 National Donate Life Month theme, DLA was inspired by bicycles and the phrase "Life is a beautiful ride." Like the donation and transplantation journey, a bicycle serves as a symbol of progress, renewal and the moving circle of life.

Bicycles come in all shapes and sizes, but each is comprised of the same basic components, essential to supporting the rider and converting their energy into motion. Similarly, organ, eye and tissue donation offers many ways to give hope, support and strength to patients waiting, recipients and donor families. We each carry the potential to help make LIFE a beautiful ride for ourselves, and then for others, by registering to be a deceased donor, considering living donation, being a caregiver or champion for the cause.

This National Donate Life Month, we ask you to consider your role in this lifesaving and healing journey, and how you can inspire others to provide hope through donor registration and living donation. Please direct patients, families, volunteers and the public to DonateLife.net/NDLMA to access downloadable social media images, web banners, flyers...
and more. To see the wealth of bicycle-themed promotional items available, log in to DonationMerchandise.com, click GO TO MEMBERS STORE and then select the NDLM 2019 category.

Happy National Donate Life Month!

ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY
By: Wade Delk

There has been increased interest and activity in Congress for organ donation and transplantation issues. The Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1224/S. 511), the same legislation we worked hard to advance in the last Congress, has now been reintroduced by Senators Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) and Tom Cotton (R-AR), and Representatives Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Jaime Herrera Butler (R-WA). As you may likely remember, this legislation
allows living donors to use life, disability, long-term care insurance, and amends the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to include organ donation to take time off from work to recover from donation surgery.

NATCO was a sign-on to a letter that went to both House and Senate members urging them to become co-sponsors of this important legislation. To date there are 15 co-sponsors in the House, and 2 co-sponsors in the Senate. We anticipate a much greater number in the near future.

This past December, Senator Todd Young (R-IN) stated his intent to introduce a bill (OPO Act) in this new Congress, with support from Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), to reform and provide greater oversight in the US transplant network. It seeks to determine if an OPO's performance is worthy of recertification on an annual basis. Additionally, it will provide Congress with all UNOS surveys, audits, investigations, and corrective plans for OPOs.

NATCO, along with many others in the transplant community, are in opposition to this, and have signed on to a letter sent to Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chair of the Senate HELP Committee, and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee stating our concerns since this Committee is likely the one that will have jurisdiction over this bill if/when it is introduced. The letter points out that donations have increased over the last five years, and deaths on the waiting list have declined. While the intent of this Act would be to increase organ donation and transplantation, it appears that it will instead increase agency and organizational burdens, costs, and may reverse or hamper the current progress being made.

We will keep you updated on the activity of the above, and any other issues of importance in Congress, or state legislatures that may affect organ donation and transplantation.

If you have questions or would like additional information please contact me at wadebdelk@gmail.com or 202-253-7862.

-Wade

UNOS Innovation Event returns to NATCO!
Often, if not always, in life and work, the best question to ask is “what is possible?” Imagine if you had the rare gift of time and resources to solve the inefficiencies within the field of transplantation or within your own organization.

Once again, we will be offering you an opportunity to do just that! NATCO in collaboration with UNOS will be bringing an Innovation Event to the NATCO Annual meeting in Bellevue, Washington. This is a wonderful opportunity to partner with UNOS staff to solve those data and educational gaps that weigh down your transplant hospital or OPO on a daily basis.

SAVE THE DATES!
Tuesday July 30, 2019
2:00pm to 5:00pm
Members will meet with development teams to come to a common understanding on the requirements and layout for the projects.

Wednesday, Thursday July 31 - August 2, 2019
During breaks/lunch
Developers continue to work on the projects. We ask that members stop by during breaks/lunch to see progress and answer any questions that the developers may have.

Friday, August 2, 2019
Plenary Session 8:30 - 9:15
Voting for People’s Choice and award presentation.

If you have suggestions for challenges that you would like to see resolved, please contact Tara.Taylor@unos.org

ABSTRACTS
By: Linda Ohler, MSN, RN, CCTC, FAAN

Marijuana and Listing for Heart Transplant A Survey of Transplant Providers

There is no consensus within the heart transplant community about whether patients who use marijuana should be eligible for transplant listing, but several states have passed legislation prohibiting marijuana-using patients from being denied transplant listing based on their use of the substance.

Outcomes after lung transplantation for patients with occupational lung diseases

Occupational lung diseases (OLD) including silicosis, asbestosis, and pneumoconiosis
progress to end stage lung disease requiring lung transplantation (LT). Prognosis and
treatment of OLDs are poorly understood and a paucity of data exists regarding LT
outcomes. Additionally, transplant operative complexity for patients with OLD is high.
A single center retrospective review of all single and bilateral LT recipients between
May 2005 and Oct 2016 was performed.

**Post-intestine transplant graft-vs-host disease associated with inclusion of a liver graft and
with a high mortality risk**

This study reports the incidence, anatomic location, and outcomes of graft-vs-host disease
(GVHD) at a single active intestine transplant center.

Records were reviewed for all patients receiving an intestine transplant from 2003 to 2015.
Pathology reports and pharmacy records were reviewed to establish the diagnosis, location,
and therapeutic interventions for GVHD.

**Risk of adverse maternal and fetal outcomes during pregnancy in living kidney donors: A
matched cohort study**

We examined the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in primiparous kidney donors
compared to matched controls.
Fifty-nine women with a history of kidney donation prior to their first pregnancy with normal
renal function and no history of kidney disease, diabetes or chronic hypertension were
matched 1:4 by age (within 2 years) and race to women with two kidneys using data from an
integrated healthcare delivery system. Adverse pregnancy outcomes were defined as preterm
delivery (delivery <37 weeks), delivery via cesarean section, gestational hypertension,
preeclampsia/eclampsia, gestational diabetes, length of stay in the hospital >3 days, infant
death/transfer to acute facility and low birthweight (<2500 g).

**ABOUT OUR SPONSOR**

Organ Recovery Systems, is the global market-leading
provider of organ preservation products. We are
committed to advancing organ preservation by developing
innovative medical technologies to preserve
organs. Based in Chicago, with regional offices in
Brussels and São Paulo, we currently support over 225
transplant programs in 34 countries with our proprietary
LifePort® Kidney Transporter and organ preservation
solutions.

LifePort Liver Transporter is in process of regulatory reviews. PILOT™, (Preservation to
Improve Liver Outcomes in Transplantation), is a prospective randomized multi-center trial
comparing LifePort Liver Transporter system with Vasosol®, to static cold storage. Patient
enrollment is scheduled to begin during the second half of 2017. We are dedicated to
furthering the field of transplantation through pre-clinical and clinical research.