



In Touch

The latest news and information from NATCO

Fourth Quarter 2018

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 This Issue

[In the President's Words](#)

[USA Today](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Donate Life America](#)

[Advancing Public Policy](#)

[OPTN/UNOS](#)

[Abstracts](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Procurement and transplant professionals who are

IN THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear NATCO Members,

Hello again NATCO family, I hope this letter finds all of you well. As I write this from my office at home, the first snow of the year has arrived in the Northeast part of Pennsylvania. It's amazing how a little snow can put you in a good mood and help you reflect on your life, friends and family. The holiday season is upon us, and the snow certainly helps set the tone for the season.

As for NATCO business, we just returned from Tempe, Arizona after a very successful Introductory Course for our newest Transplant and Procurement Coordinators. The faculty for the Introductory Course did an amazing job along with the very hard work from our NATCO management team led by Donna Dick. We heard great comments



committed to the advancement of organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation join together to improve outcomes and share best practices.

NATCO promotes and enhances relationships between donation and transplantation. Members improve their skills and competencies through sharing knowledge and best practices.

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st of each year.

Click [HERE](#) to join or for more information.

MEMBER BENEFITS

NETWORKING: donation and transplant professionals collaborate to enhance professional development.

EDUCATION: geared specifically to donation and transplant professionals to provide the best patient, donor and family care.

CERTIFICATION: achieve and maintain current certification requirements

RESEARCH & SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION: through

from the attendees who attended the Transplant, Procurement and Hospital Development tracks.

Our Board of Directors met after the Introductory Course to discuss plans for 2019. We accomplished many things including setting the budget. There are many exciting items that we will roll out in 2019 so stayed tuned for more details.

As we celebrate the holidays, my hope is that all of you will take time to enjoy your family. Our families are the ones who can raise us up when we are having the most difficult times with the work we do. Sometimes it may be just to listen, cry with or help us keep focus of the big picture for the work we do. We all are so thankful to have that support.

Just as important, I want everyone to remember the lives that each of you have touched by the work we do. Think about how many families that are thankful for the second chance at life they have been given because of you. We know that all of this would not be possible without the Donor families who said yes to donation during the most difficult and heartbreaking time in their lives. We all should be thankful for their ability to see the greater good by helping another human being when they have lost so much.

To each of you, thank you for being you. Thank you for working long hours that never seem to end, answering the phone calls with countless organ offers and somehow managing to maintain a focus on those who wait for a life- saving transplant. To that end, I am thankful for all of you.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Holiday Season, and as always take care of each other.

All my best, your NATCO President
Timothy J. Snyder

USA Today

Why Transplant Coordinators Are Essential for Saving Lives

In the world of organ donation and transplantation, not all superheroes wear capes. Organ transplantation could not exist as we know it today without procurement and transplant coordinators.

NATCO's *Progress in Transplantation* and website. Journal includes CE credit in each issue.

ADVOCACY: helping to advance public policy.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

CCTC Review Courses

[For More Information](#)

WEBINARS:

[For More Information](#)

ONLINE LEARNING:

Online version of the Introductory Course for Transplant Professionals

[For More Information](#)

Fundamental Critical Care Support (FCCS) Self-directed Online Course

[For More Information](#)

Clinician's Guide to Donation and Transplantation

[For More Information](#)

Coordinators practice at the very heart of the robust and complex field of organ transplantation. They put all the pieces of transplantation together when they collaborate with transplant surgeons, immunology specialists, attending and consulting physicians, nurses, hospital leaders, chaplains, social workers and other members of the health-care team. The procurement transplant coordinator and the clinical transplant coordinator are the professionals in health care who apply their specialized knowledge to make transplantation happen.

An unsung hero

Although surgeons were the pioneers who made organ transplantation technically possible, the creation of a system to support the myriad facets of transplantation and donation belong to the coordinator. Without this system, transplantation could not exist for the thousands who need an organ for a second chance at life.

There are hundreds of acts that must occur for a donor to be realized and the organ to be allocated and transplanted into a recipient. The role of the coordinator can be overlooked when reading historical accounts of transplantation, which typically feature milestones in surgical and immunological accomplishments.

The role of coordinators

Procurement coordinators meet with the family of the potential donor to obtain permission for donation. If permission is granted, the coordinator will work tirelessly to schedule serologies and deliver them to the immunology laboratory, schedule the organ removal, assist in the surgery and ultimately flush and cool the organs. The coordinator then either places the organ on a portable-perfusion pump or packages them for transport to another destination. He or she might even accompany the organs on perfusion machines to their destination. Coordinators frequently converse over the phone at odd hours of the night and meet in airports after being awake for long hours.

Clinical-transplant coordinators are called on to manage the complicated care of transplant recipient, both in preparation for and after surgery. It is not uncommon for clinical coordinators to monitor and adjust immunosuppressive therapies, validate laboratory results, admit patients to hospitals for treatment of complications and interpret clinical findings. Most of these coordinators are registered nurses. They provide the majority of education to patients, and monitor patients for signs and symptoms of rejection and infection.



DONNA DICKT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATCO, editorial@mediaplanet.com

Digital Article: <http://www.futureofpersonalhealth.com/advocacy/why-transplant-coordinators-are-essential-for-saving-lives>

Upcoming Events

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!

Organ Preservation Symposium March 12-13, 2019



For more information Click [HERE](#)

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:

February 23 - 24, 2019
UC Davis
Sacramento, CA

For more information click [HERE](#)

DONATE LIFE AMERICA

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



DLA NATCO Liaison Attends 2018 DLA Annual Conference

The new NATCO Liaison to Donate Life America's Advisory Council, Tammy Wright, RN, BSN, CCTC, attended the DLA Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon in October. Tammy has 25 years of experience in the field of transplantation, but this was her first DLA conference, and it left a lasting impression. One of her biggest takeaways was the importance of the work DLA does to register donors.

"When someone registers as a donor, they eliminate the difficulty of their loved ones having to make a decision on their behalf during a time of sorrow," said Tammy. "I was blown away by the focus and the efforts of the Donate Life Community to make that happen, and I see the opportunity transplant centers have to support DLA's mission by inquiring about donor registration status when we are listing candidates."

Recognizing that it may be challenging to know how to bring up the topic of donor registration while patients and family members are going through so much, Tammy has a special request:

"Please take a moment to participate in the survey below. Your input could mean making that ask easier. Together, we can make a difference."

Did You Know?

- 49 percent of organ donors were authorized by donor registries in 2017.

- Registration eliminates decision making in a time of crisis.
- Registration allows coordinators to immediately begin caring for the family.
- As part of the mix, remember to ask patients and family members to make sure they are registered donors.
- Donation begins with donor registration!

Survey for Upcoming Webinar - Your Help Is Needed

Do you ask about donor registration status when listing candidates and meeting with their families? If so, do you have any best practices that you can share? In preparation for an upcoming joint NATCO-DLA webinar, please take a moment to complete this brief [survey \(link\)](#). Your feedback is invaluable as we seek to further the cause of organ, eye and tissue donation. We will share the survey results in the Q1 2019 edition of In Touch. The deadline to provide feedback is December 31, 2018. Thank you for your help!

ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY By: Wade Delk



The mid-term elections happened a short time ago, and as of this writing, all races have not been finalized, but hopefully by the time this is published all will be.

The one thing we do know now is that the House of Representatives will now be controlled by the Democrats, and the Senate will remain in Republican control with perhaps a slight increase in seats. Congress is expected to hold leadership elections on or

about November 28. This means that party leaders are continuing their campaigns, but in this case, it is directed to their Congressional peers to see who will be in or continue to be in a position of power. This includes Congressional Committee leadership. It is likely that a friend of our field, Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-NJ) will be in a greater leadership position. The bill he introduced: Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1270), which we have long supported, now has 84 co-sponsors.

We are now entering a Congressional lame duck session. For this Congress it mainly means a change of power, and for those who were not re-elected are in their final days in Congress. It will be interesting to see how much push there will be from Republicans to pass certain pieces of legislation that may not have as strong of a chance for success in a House with Democrats holding the majority.

You may have seen or heard in campaign ads about candidates, mostly Republicans, who voted, or would vote to eliminate pre-existing conditions. As many of you know, we spent a lot of time making sure that it was included in the Affordable Care Act, and we continue to do everything we can to make sure it stays in. I am happy to report that all the offices I have spoken with, or heard from, denied that they had or have any intention of removing this provision.

During this past year we have seen a great deal of attention being given to the opioid crisis. I think we all agree that this is a very important initiative, and the President, Congress, and States have all worked hard to address it. As the 116th Congress begins in January, I hope their scope of activity expands to other types of important health policy like organ donation and transplantation. We will certainly do what we can to focus their attention on our issues, and as always continue to offer our expertise to help them make informed decisions.

-Wade

OPTN/UNOS



By: Anne Paschke, UNOS

The new functionality in the new mobile TransNet version (5.8.0) for both Android and iOS devices is because of you

and your suggestions at the NATCO Innovation event in August. You can now package and label living donor organs, confirm kidney and liver laterality for living donor cases and use a new miscellaneous external (free text) label. Visit to your App or Play Store to download this application now.

Removing DSA and regions from organ distribution policy

The OPTN/UNOS board of directors will vote on a proposal to remove DSA and region from liver allocation policy at their December meeting. DSAs were removed from lung allocation in 2017. Other committees are looking at data and will send policy proposals out for public comment in the spring. Read this update from the kidney and pancreas committees on their progress.

See your data in new ways

The Data Services section of UNet contains new options, and it is easier to use. You can now create your own center-specific reports without a data request to UNOS.

UNOS wins OPTN contract

UNOS is proud to announce that we will continue to serve as the nation's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) through September 2023. We look forward to continuing to work with the transplant community to improve the transplant system.

ABSTRACTS

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

[Cytomegalovirus prophylaxis in seropositive renal transplant recipients receiving thymoglobulin induction therapy: Outcome and risk factors for late CMV disease](#)

Anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG) therapy is a risk factor for cytomegalovirus (CMV) disease in renal transplant (RTx) recipients and therefore antiviral prophylaxis is commonly used. We evaluated the outcome of our current policy of 90 days of CMV prophylaxis in seropositive recipients given ATG and the risk factors for the occurrence of CMV disease after prophylaxis.

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

www.organ-recovery.com

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