3rd Quarter 2012

In This Issue:
In the Presidents Words
NATCO's Newest Educational Offering
NATCO Treasurer's Report
NATCO 37th Annual Meeting Learning from the Past, ADVANCING THE FUTURE Legislative Update
Symposium for Advanced Transplant Professionals
In the Spotlight: NATCO 2012 Award Winners

Print the entire 3rd Quarter In Touch here.

In the President's Words
By: Craig Myrick, RN, CPTC, NATCO President

As I was finishing this article, I was brought back to reality as I received notice that a dear friend’s step-son had lost his battle with cancer. He was only 19 years old. It made me once again reflect on how precious life is. I am truly sorry for their loss.

I am amazed for how each of us contributes to this amazing field of donation and transplantation. I want to thank each and every one of you for helping our donor families and transplant recipients through one of the most challenging events in their life. You are amazing. Together we make a difference. Please take a moment to reflect on your contribution.

In the last In-Touch newsletter, Tracy Evans-Walker had you reflect on our accomplishments during the past year. I am proud of our progress and want to once again express my sincere thanks for Tracy’s work as President this past year and I would encourage you all to do the same. This has been a year filled with diverse challenges, some not anticipated, and she has done us all a great service. Thank you Tracy.

During the next year, we must continue to focus on the six goals that are important to continue our mission. Each goal has associated objectives with action items that are timed and measured. We have four reporting periods and a dashboard to track our progress. I would like to see our goals and the progress of each goal posted to the NATCO member’s only website so that our membership can see our progress.

I would like to quickly review each of our important goals that were identified in our five-year strategic plan.

The first goal is to improve the recruitment and retention of the association’s members. We intend to enhance and increase membership opportunities, including focused new member recruitment and retention. For example, the membership workgroup committed to the “speed” networking opportunity that many experienced at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The feedback our team received was positive. We have listened to the feedback provided and plan to have this opportunity at the next meeting in San Diego. That is only one example of the action items the membership workgroup completed during the year.
Second, speak with one voice through collaboration and advocacy. In our transplant community, we all have something to contribute. NATCO continues to reach out to other organizations to maintain relationships and build new ones. These organizations include UNOS, CMS, HRSA, AOPO, AST, ITNS, ABTC and AATB. We continue to partner with the ASTS to offer dual membership to our senior NATCO members. Tracy Evans-Walker was successful in her vision to have a plenary session at the next Symposium for the Advanced Transplant Professionals/ASTS Winter Symposium for the advanced transplant provider. Wade Delk, NATCO’s Capital Hill expert, continues to lead visits that include NATCO leadership and members to educate senators and congressmen and their staff about the issues that are important to our donation and transplant community. NATCO was well represented as we spent time with Dr. Koh, the Assistant Secretary for Health, to ask for his assistance. Theresa Beigay, from HRSA, a member of NATCO for the past 22 years set up the meeting. We were coached to be efficient with our goals as we would only be allowed 15 minutes of Dr. Koh’s time. He was so engaged the meeting lasted for an hour.

Third, improve education content and delivery. NATCO hosted 12 webinars in the past year in both transplant and donation areas.

Fourth, improve internal and external communications. The new website has been completed with promotion of the website in progress. When any communication goes out to the website, the social media outlets are simultaneously updated at the same time. The new website dashboard is 80% complete.

The fifth goal is to strengthen and protect our financial health. A financial task force was formed to improve resource management and develop procedures and tools to help the organization more consistently balance cost and member value.

And finally, promote research and build grant infrastructure. NATCO’s goal is to promote research and seek new resources of funding for research to provide members with a venue to report, collaborate and publish their research.

Obviously, this is an ambitious set of goals but then NATCO is an organization composed of ambitious, can-do people. I will look to our BOD, Executive Board, Executive Office, committee and workgroup leaders and our entire membership to achieve these goals and build our future together.

Remember, this is a five-year strategic plan. At times we have attempted to complete too much in too short of a time period. This plan should allow NATCO to accomplish our goals keeping true to our mission and our vision.

NATCO cannot accomplish these goals without our member’s participation. Everyone in NATCO needs to be involved. There are many ways for you to contribute. We are always looking for individuals with fresh ideas and a willingness to share. If you are not sure where to start consider joining a committee. Committee members are asked to share their expertise when NATCO is asked to respond for public comment on proposed UNOS regulation or policy changes, and CMS or The Joint Commission issues. The experts for this are within our membership.

I am proud and honored to be your President. I look forward to working with such a passionate group of individuals during the next year. Thank you.

(Back to top)
NATCO's Newest Educational Offering - Donation & Transplantation; A Multi-Disciplinary Approach

By: Carrie Comellas, RN, CPTC, CCTC, NATCO President-Elect

In order to meet the changing educational needs of its members, NATCO is pleased to introduce the Donation & Transplant Academy. The goal of the Academy is to provide in-depth education and training focused on a few selected areas of the donation and transplant process.

Keeping true to our vision, the Academy will also contain combined plenary sessions to unite our attendees and allow for networking opportunities. This meeting is formatted with the plenary sessions opening and closing the meeting, and topic-specific education will occur during the two middle days. At plenary sessions, topics discussed will include the following:

- The Impact of the Push & Pull on the Donation & Transplantation Community
- Infectious Disease Transmission
- Living Donation & Alternatives for Incompatible Pairs
- Increasing the Donor Pool
- Hot Topics in Donation & Transplantation
- Heading to the Future of "Making Organs"

The procurement focus for this meeting is donor management, preservation and perfusion. NATCO is partnering with the International Society for Organ Preservation (ISOP) as an education source for all interested in acquiring knowledge in the expanding field of organ preservation. The focus of this workshop is to provide participants with the study materials and knowledge to pass the Certified Transplant Preservationist (CTP) exam as well as provide a hands-on experience using kidney pumps with human en-bloc kidneys.

For those interested in donor management, we will have an exciting, interactive, two-day workshop that will include both didactic and hands-on experience with our Laerdal SimMan®! We are excited to augment our education offerings with a simulated human patient. There is growing support in the literature that suggests the benefits of simulation in critical care education. This new technology simulates a standard ICU monitor and permits interaction and interventions in real time. The following is some of what can be expected:

- Physical assessment
- Hemodynamic monitoring and resuscitation
- Ventilator and pulmonary management strategies
- Arterial line insertion
- Needle thoracotomy
- Bronchoscopy simulation
- Expanded focus on the management of pediatric patients

A combination of experienced organ procurement professionals and critical care physicians will be your facilitators for this workshop. We hope that you will enhance the sessions by sharing some of your "tricks of the trade." Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to not only maximize your skills and knowledge, but also help you prepare for those difficult management situations.
The clinical focus will include a two-day intensive kidney paired donation program in addition to concurrent tracks in transplant pharmacy and transplant nutrition.

The development and use of Kidney Paired Donation has increased greatly over recent years and has become an effective method to increase living donation. Educational and interactive sessions will explain the concepts essential to initiate and maintain a successful Kidney Paired Donation Program.

This training will include the following topics:

- Evolution of Paired Donation
- The Science of KPD: Histocompatibility, HLA & ABO Incompatibility
- KPD Decision Pathways with HLA & ABO Incompatible Pairs
- Meet the Registries
- Utilizing Innovative Registry Software to Match Highly Sensitized Recipients
- Psychosocial Issues in Paired Exchange & The Role of the Independent Living
- Donor Advocate
- Complex Case Studies in Paired Exchange
- Complex Donor Evaluation Issues
- Logistical Exchange Challenges & Solutions
- Operationalizing KPD from the Administrative Perspective
- Donor Follow-Up: Regulatory Challenges & Solutions
- Providing Donor Insurance
- Resources for Donor Travel Expenses
- Toolkit for the Development of a KPD Program

The pharmacology and dietetic needs of a transplant recipient are unique from the other patients. NATCO has developed a two-day session to specifically address the needs of this population. The session will consist of plenary sessions where both dieticians and pharmacists will be together to address general topics, and breakout sessions have been developed to provide specific information regarding each area of practice. Pharmacy and nutrition plenary will include:

- Overview of Transplant
- Educating Patients & Caregivers Regarding Overall Compliance & Medication Adherence after Transplant: Challenges & Barriers
- Osteoporosis in Transplantation
- Food & Nutrient Interactions with Transplant Medications
- Use of Herbal Supplements after Transplantation: A Pharmacist's Perspective

The Transplant Nutrition-focused full-day seminar will discuss:

- Obesity & Transplantation
- Metabolic Syndrome
- Nutrition Support
- Controlling GI Side Effects
- Food-borne Illness
- Nutrition Panel Discussion

The Transplant Pharmacology full-day seminar will discuss:

- Managing Post-Transplant Infections
NATCO is excited about this new endeavor. We hope to see you all in November!
Year | Net (Loss)/Gain
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2004 | ($93,373)
2005 | ($164,746)
2006 | ($91,958)
2007 | 281,967
2008 | 155,064
2009 | 116,993
Unfortunately NATCO is budgeting for another loss in 2012. As always NATCO will continue to provide educational and networking opportunities to our members and we will continue to bring the two sides together, the question become how can we do it more efficiently? During the strategic planning meeting in November of 2011 a financial task force was formed to help with this endeavor. The following are some of the strategies that we will be utilizing to try and decrease expenses in order to continue to provide all of NATCOs services to its members at a reasonable cost.

- A task force will be re-evaluating speaker selection and compensation to try and lower meeting costs without sacrificing content.
- NATCO will be looking at different venues to host the annual meeting in a more cost effective manner. Large cities such as New York, San Francisco etc. have inflated costs (food and beverage, audio visual etc.)
- NATCO volunteers will take on more responsibility and begin to take on duties previously done by the executive office (hours saved equals money saved)
- Board of Directors meeting will be reorganized to cut down on hotel rooms and travel expenses when possible

NATCO is your organization and we welcome any comments from the membership as we move forward. We are confident that NATCO will continue to fulfill our mission and vision and be able to provide the highest quality of education.

(Back to top)

**NATCO 37th Annual Meeting: Learning from the Past, ADVANCING THE FUTURE**

By: Tania Houle, MBA, CPTC, 2012 Annual Meeting Program Chair

Donation and transplant professionals came together in Washington, DC from August 12 to August 15 at NATCO’s 37th Annual Meeting. This year the meeting focused on what we have learned in the past and how that has helped us advance our current practice and will continue to drive the future practices of donation and transplantation. The Annual Meeting kicked off with a Keynote Performance and speech by Brad Ellis from the hit TV show Glee. Brad is a heart recipient who took the time to thank, inspire and encourage all the attendees to remember what we do for donor families, recipients and the community at large. His upbeat performance, bright personality and true passion started off the meeting on a positive note. Brad’s performance was a tough act to follow, but Helen Irving moderated an informative presidential-style debate regarding the OPO Push & the Transplant Pull between Charlie Alexander and Dianne LaPointe Rudow. The morning continued with research grant presentations highlighting the tremendous work our colleagues are doing. After a short break, the Annual Meeting program chairs put together a fun Speed Networking session. This session was a quick, 15-minute, table-to-table hop allowing the exchange of best practices, challenges and contact information for future networking. This was followed by lunch where personal stories regarding donation and transplantation were shared.
The upbeat and interactive start to the Annual Meeting allowed participants and presenters alike to go forward into concurrent, practice-specific sessions continuing to share and learn, thereby enhancing our future and progressing our field. Sessions on Monday included simulation in donor education, utilizing data, immunosuppression, LVADs and artificial hearts, a pediatric DCD panel discussion, creative approaches to physician education, heart failure, therapies for Hep C, learning from first person objections, increasing tissue consent rates, liver transplantation with HCC and neuroendocrine tumors and advanced practice professionals’ roles in transplantation.

Everyone then gathered for the Welcome Reception which was held in the exhibit hall. This allowed attendees time to relax, interact, speak with the exhibitors who provided great support for our Annual Meeting and view posters in the poster viewing area.

Monday started with the ABTC certification breakfast. Attendees then chose to attend any number of the concurrent session throughout the day. During the morning session the transplant plenary was offered while the donation team split into procurement, hospital development and family services. After lunch the format switched and the procurement plenary was held while transplant divided into focused sessions for abdominal transplant, general transplant and thoracic transplant. The Annual Meeting also allowed for special interest forums to have open participant-led discussions. Monday closed with a networking reception in the exhibit hall and oral-poster presentations. Tuesday began with procurement plenary covering legal, ethical and performance topics seen by OPOs regularly, while the transplant side focused on organ specific topics. Lunch was provided during our Business Meeting, Awards Luncheon & Top Abstract and Case Study Presentation.

This lunch allowed us to reflect on all the accomplishments of the NATCO Board of Directors and President Tracy Evans-Walker, who had helped NATCO to reach goals, establish a strategic plan and committed her time and passion for our profession by serving us over the past year. It also allowed for the introduction of our new NATCO President Craig Myrick.

After lunch the transplant plenary covered QAPI, newly proposed CDC guidelines and evidence-based psychosocial evaluations. The procurement professionals heard from abstract and case study presenters, delved into family care and learned why we can’t always get what we want.

Wednesday brought us all back together again beginning with important trends in health care. Wade Delk, NATCO’s director of governmental affairs, explained where issues concerning donation and transplantation stood and encouraged us all to contact our congressmen. Dr. Dorry Segev and Brian Boyarsky reported on their efforts to get the ban on using HIV-positive organs for transplantation lifted. HIV is now a very treatable disease, much more manageable than diseases such as Hepatitis C. Allowing HIV-positive patients to receive organs from HIV-positive donors would improve their quality of life and expand the donor pool. Teresa Beigay then spoke about donation and transplantation—the power of partnerships.

We then learned the importance of being true leaders and “building restaurants” even after we lose key components needed to succeed. This was part of a dynamic presentation by Julie Mirkin, who encouraged us to all take what we have learned and go forward as leaders in our areas of practice. We then received updates on NATCO-sponsored grants.

Could an opt-out system work in the U.S.? That was the next question tackled by Richard Pietroski. He reviewed similar systems, their successes and failures in other countries, and research data regarding Americans opinions on such systems. We ended the Annual Meeting with Roberta J. Al-Housani Blakely who works as a transplant coordinator in the United Arab Emirates, who described
her successes, challenges and the daily dilemmas she faced in trying to build a modern organ
donation and transplantation system in the UAE. As we all sat and listened to Roberta speak, many
of us realized exactly how far we have come, that our future is bright and that by continuing to learn
from one another and share best practices we will continue to Learn from the Past and Advance the
Future.

(Back to top)

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**Legislative Update**

By: Wade Delk

We continue to make progress in our quest to pass the Comprehensive
Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Patients Act of 2011 (H.R.
2969, S. 1454). Thank you to everyone who took the time to send letters
to your legislators. It is making a difference. During our Annual Meeting,
we took the opportunity to take some of our members to Capitol Hill to
meet with legislators. This was not only a great opportunity to advance
the Immunosuppressive legislation, but was also a way for members to
experience firsthand what we do to advance organ donation and
transplantation issues.

At the beginning of the year, we (and members of the Transplant
Roundtable) made the Immunosuppressive legislation priority one. In
January, there were 50 members of the House, and 10 members of the Senate who signed on as co-
sponsors. As of this writing, there are 117 members of the House and 20 members of the Senate
who have co-sponsored it. We are particularly happy to see the great increase in co-sponsors on the
House side which is where our focus has been.

In July, we added another issue to our legislative efforts. It is the push to reverse a federal ban on
organ transplants from HIV-positive donors to HIV-positive recipients. Under a 1988 amendment to
a federal law dealing with organ transplants ([PL 98-507]), transplants among HIV-positive people
were barred. Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA) will be introducing legislation to repeal the ban. Dr.
Dorry Segev, a transplant surgeon at Johns Hopkins, and Brian Boyarsky, also with Johns Hopkins,
discussed this in great detail during our legislative and advocacy update session at the Annual
Meeting.

In addition, we have been having conversations with Congressman Jerrold Nadler’s office (D-NY). He
is interested in developing a living donor bill of rights that will provide insurance, employment, and
other protections for living donors.

Items to include:

- guaranteed insurability (including health, life, and disabilities insurances - so a "can't deny" because the
  person is a living donor, as well as "can't increase costs" because the person is a living donor who may
  have had a test come back with less than optimal test results)
- insurance coverage for a living organ donation (be it shared between donor and recipient, or some
  other way)
- job protection for someone who becomes a donor (likely through FMLA coverage)
education, training and data gathering

We are continuing to work with his office to discuss all things that should be included in a bill.

If you have questions or would like additional information on our legislative activities, please contact me at wdelk@goAMP.com or 202-253-7862.

Symposium for Advanced Transplant Professionals
By: Debbi McRann, Membership Workgroup

The NATCO 2013 Symposium for Advanced Transplant Professionals will be held in Miami in conjunction with the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. The planning committee and NATCO leadership have partnered with leaders in the donation and transplantation committee to provide the senior members with an exciting agenda to promote this year’s theme ‘Success at the Margins.’ Our plenary sessions will focus on emerging and current metrics from the donation and transplantation perspective, and the relationship between SRTR data, CMS, and UNOS. Dr. Dorry Segev will describe potential growth opportunities with ABO incompatibility and Charlie Alexander will provide highlights in the field from his past year as UNOS President.

In addition to allowing time for joint sessions with ASTS, we will offer tracks for procurement and transplant professionals. An advanced clinical practice track will focus on donor management with real case scenarios using SimMan and a hands-on bronchoscopy workshop. The transplant coordinator track will offer transition to adult care, waitlist management strategies, and living donor updates. All participants will be invited to submit case studies in the spirit of Success at the Margins where positive outcomes were achieved when challenges were overcome by creative thinking!

The Symposium will conclude with a presentation relevant to seasoned coordinators that will provide practical solutions to continue your personal growth in the field and prevent burnout. The networking and educational opportunities are sure to provide a solid framework for you to contribute your part in the multidisciplinary effort for Success at the Margins!

In the Spotlight: NATCO 2012 Award Winners

The NATCO Research Awards Presentation took place following the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at the 37th Annual Meeting. The members and guests received an update on the association and then recognized their colleagues for their accomplishments through an awards ceremony. NATCO received more than 45 abstracts and case studies to support the 2012 Annual Meeting. The highest scored abstract and case study received awards from President Tracy Evans-Walker and then shared their research with the attendees. NATCO congratulates all of this year’s recipients!
NATCO TOP ABSTRACT & CASE STUDY AWARD
Awarded to the abstract which received the highest score. These awards were sponsored by Cytonet, LLC.

Intestinal Re-transplantation following Fungal Sepsis
Marcia Castillo, RN, BSN, CCTC, Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Palo Alto, CA

Donor-Derived Disease Transmission Events in the United States in 2011: An Updated Report from the OPTN Ad Hoc Diseases Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC)
Shandie H. Covington, BS, United Network for Organ Sharing, Richmond, VA; Sara Taranto, BS, United Network for Organ Sharing, Richmond, VA; Carrie Comellas, RN, CPTC, CCTC, Stony Brook University Medical Center, Stony Brook, NY; Emily A. Blumberg, MD, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA

GRANT RECIPIENTS
Technology as a Medium to Effectively and Efficiently Educate Nurses about Organ Donation and Transplantation
Haley Hoy, PhD, NP, University of Alabama Huntsville College of Nursing, Huntsville, AL

[Back to top]