



NATCO empowers donation and 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.

2nd Quarter, 2021

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MEMBERSHIP

Procurement and transplant professionals, and dietitians who are committed to the advancement of organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation join together to improve outcomes and share best practices.

IN THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear NATCO Members,

As we approach summer, I continue to reflect on how much we have overcome throughout the past year. The COVID 19 pandemic has challenged our physical, mental and emotional well-being. Many of us are still impacted, however, are very encouraged as our nation returns to pre-2020 activities. Our current surroundings look beautiful in the warmth of the season. Please continue to support and care for one another as we re-group with family, friends and colleagues.



There is still plenty of time to register for the NATCO 46th Annual Meeting on August 4-5th. We will be returning to another virtual platform. This meeting has exceptional speakers with the educational opportunities that you have come to expect, while paying respect to the safety and convenience of learning from home or office. This two-day event will allow us to share best practices, to inspire, and to motivate you to "Believe in Yourself: Make a Difference".

Have you ever considered that one way you can personally make a difference is to become involved in a committee or work group at NATCO? Both are ways to volunteer within our organization and provide leadership roles for important projects. This is the perfect opportunity to become engaged in NATCO to make a difference and work with colleagues within procurement and transplantation. I am looking forward to hearing and learning from you.

Elections for NATCO Board positions closed on May 17th, 2021. We are excited to welcome two of our past committee chairs to the Board: John Clarke, representing our procurement members, and Gwen McNatt, representing our transplant members. We thank those

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

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

MEMBER BENEFITS

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

CERTIFICATION: achieve and maintain current certification requirements

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: opportunities to increase skills and expertise; and develop leadership within your organization and the community.

CURRENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Emerging Leaders Program
[For More Information](#)

CCTC Review Courses
VIRTUAL COURSES
September 8-10, 2021
[For More Information](#)

WEBINARS:
[For More Information](#)

Online version of the
Introductory Course for
Transplant Professionals
[For More Information](#)

NATCO wishes to thank our long-time sponsor ORS for their continued support of our mission. Please visit their website for more information:



members who took the time to vote in this election.

We continue to work hard to meet the goals you have set for your personal career development. NATCO has developed a model that is relevant to procurement and transplant coordinators in our community. Members experience personal and professional growth when they engage with NATCO's programs and professionals within the transplant community. Our aim is to provide opportunities that will advance your progression along the model of professional development. We welcome the opportunity to work with you one-on-one to help you succeed. Please email us at info@natco1.org to schedule time to create an individual plan for your career.

As my presidency term comes to a close, I am grateful for this time to serve as your NATCO president. NATCO has accomplished many great successes throughout the past several years. I am very optimistic for our future. NATCO will continue to support and empower procurement and transplant professionals to reach their highest potential. Please continue to share your ideas with myself and the NATCO team. My email is gstendahl@chw.org.

Sincerely,

Gail Stendahl

NATCO Board of Directors

The NATCO Board of Directors is pleased to announce the results of the 2021 Elections! Your newly elected officers are:

President Elect: Erika Demars, RN, BSN, CCTC

Treasurer: Jennifer Reese, RN, MSN, APRN-CNP, CCTC

Councilor-at-Large: John Clarke, BA

Councilor-at-Large: Gwen E. McNatt, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN

NATCO Annual Meeting



The ability to develop, restore and extend trust with all stakeholders is the key leadership competency of the global economy.

~ Stephen M.R. Covey

The NATCO 46th Annual Meeting is one you don't want to miss! You will have the opportunity to hear from renowned physicians and executive leaders from our community. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from our Keynote Speaker.

Leading at the Speed of Trust

August 4, 2021 @ 10:30am – 11:15 am ET



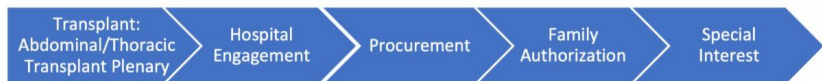
Stephen M.R. Covey

Co-founder and Global Practice Leader
Franklin Covey's Speed of Trust Practice

Thank you to our sponsor!



The focus of this meeting is working together towards improved donation and transplant outcomes through collaboration and advanced practices. Tracks targeting specific skills and best practices include:



Learn How to.....

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Registration Now Open with Exciting Opportunities!

- All registered attendees are eligible to win a \$100 Target Gift Card by visiting our Exhibitors and attending Exhibitor sessions.

Thank You to our sponsor W.L Butler!



- Be sure to include your shipping address in the registration information! Every attendee will receive a NATCO Care Kit delivered to your door in time for the meeting.

Thank you to our sponsors IIAM and CompuMed!



Full Agenda Available [HERE](#)

Register [HERE](#)

Progress in Transplantation

Progress in Transplantation is seeking 2 Associate Editors.

Ready to become more involved in the publication side of science?

Interested in preparing yourself for a future Editor role?
Inquire on how you can become a part of the editorial team with *Progress in Transplantation*.



Associate Editor Major Responsibilities

1. Works closely with the Editor-in-Chief to coordinate the flow of incoming manuscript submissions and determine eligibility of publication
2. Appoints and directs the activities of the peer reviewers and reads and critiques manuscripts for science content, format, style (grammar included)

Expectations

1. Be or become a NATCO member;
2. Have background in leading research studies and writing for publication;
3. Be fluent with Word, Excel, OneDrive;
4. Become fluent with online submission site SAGEtrack, author guidelines, manuscript flow, and reviewer pool;
5. Able to handle 4 manuscripts per month from assigning reviewers through the revision process;
6. Adheres to production schedules and deadlines;
7. Prepares and participates in monthly meetings with Editor in Chief

There is so much more to preparing a manuscript for publication! If you have an interest or want to recommend a colleague, please contact Rebecca P Winsett PhD rpwinsett@natco1.org

Volunteers Needed



NATCO is offering members an opportunity to participate in the development of the essential programs that make up the core training and education for professionals in the community. If you are looking for a path to leadership within the donation and transplant community, please consider this opportunity.

NATCO seeks experienced professionals to serve on various committees and workgroups. Details of specific openings can be found on our website at: <https://www.natco1.org/professional-development/committees/>.

NATCO Nutrition News

**10th Annual Transplant
Nutrition Conference**

Virtual Event
August 10-11, 2021

The NATCO Executive Nutrition Board and the CCTD Committee are pleased to announce an additional 30 CCTD certified transplant dietitians from the Spring 2021 application deadline with an overall 160 CCTD certified Transplant Dietitians to date. Congratulations CCTD certified dietitians – we acknowledge your advanced practice in transplant nutrition and applaud your commitment to providing transplant candidates, recipients, and donors with the highest level of care. The next CCTD application deadline is October 1, 2021.

The 10th Annual Transplant Nutrition Conference will be taking place virtually, August 10-11, 2021. The focus of the meeting will be on clinical management, best practices, and innovative research in all areas of adult transplant nutrition.

The Pediatric Transplant Nutrition Conference will also be taking place virtually on November 2, 2021. Proposal submissions for presentations, posters and mini oral sessions will be accepted until June 11, 2021. All applications should be completed [here](#). For questions on submissions please email: Jennifer.Kolbensvik@oumedicine.com. Those interested in additional networking opportunities, the Pediatric Transplant Dietitian Listserv was established early 2021. Send a request to peditransplantnutrition@gmail.com to join!

We are excited to announce the 1st annual Jeanette Hasse Transplant Dietitian of the Year Award. This award will recognize transplant dietitians for their dedication to patient care, innovation, and contributions to the transplant nutrition field. Please stay tuned for more application/nomination information to come!

DONATE LIFE AMERICA

By: Lida Pieterman, Senior Writer and Editor, Donate Life America



Congratulations 2021 National Donate Life Blue & Green Day Photo Contest Winners!

Hundreds of incredible photos were submitted to this year's National Donate Life Blue & Green Day Photo Contest — in some categories, we couldn't choose just one winner! We were also so impressed by the many

beautiful Donate Life Rocks that we have made it a new category! All of the winning photos can be viewed on the [DLA Facebook page](#). Thank you to everyone who participated and shared your Donate Life spirit!

DLA's October 2021 Annual Conference Going Virtual – Save the Date

After careful consideration, DLA has decided to host our 2021 Annual Conference in a virtual format.

Annual Conference plenary and breakout sessions will be held Monday, October 25 - Thursday, October 28 from 11:00am-4:15pm ET.

Optional discussion groups and other pre-meeting content will be available each day from 10:00-10:45am ET and 4:15-5:00pm ET.

Newcomer Orientation will take place prior to the Conference, date and time TBD.

Registration opens in August and will be on a per person basis (not per organization). We hope you can join us!

DLA Online Community Resource Offerings

Looking for a multitude resources for promoting organ, eye and tissue donation? DLA has got you covered! Be sure to visit [DLACommunity.net](#) and [DonateLife.net](#) throughout the year to access materials for National Observances and more, including:

April: National Donate Life Month

August: National Minority Donor Awareness Month

September: DMV Appreciation Month

November: National Donor Sabbath (*new artwork for 2021 coming soon!*)

ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY



By: Wade Delk

We are working to pass the Living Donor Protection Act (S377/HB1255). As a reminder, it will prohibit discrimination in the issuance, price, or benefit levels for life, disability, and long-term care insurance due solely to the individual's status as a living donor. As of this writing there are 23 Senators and 20 Representatives who have signed on as co-sponsors. The Senate and House bills are identical. We are off to a good start but will need many more co-sponsors if we are going to get this passed.

The importance of your help in passing this bill and any others we are seeking to advance cannot be overstated. Members of Congress want and need to hear from their constituents. This helps them to validate the work that they do. There is no need to be reluctant to reach out to them to tell them what you think. They are in Washington, DC to represent you, so you should make every effort to seek their support of things that are important to you. Also keep in mind that when you do communicate with them you are potentially giving them talking points and material for their speeches. They like to tell stories they hear from constituents when talking about an issue, and yours might just be one they use. So please reach out to your Representative and two Senators and ask them to support the Living Donor Protection Act.

If you have any questions, please contact me at wadedelk@gmail.com or call 202-253-7862.

UNOS/OPTN



By: Erin Parkhurst, UNOS

New kidney and pancreas policies now in effect: Projected to increase equity in access for candidates nationwide

UNOS has implemented a new system for matching **kidney** and **pancreas** transplant candidates with organs from deceased donors.

The new approach is projected to increase equity in transplant access for candidates nationwide. It replaces distribution based on donation service area (DSA) and OPTN region with a more consistent measure of distance between the donor hospital and the transplant hospital for each candidate. This will further ensure the right organ gets to the right patient at the right time based on medical need rather than geography.

The **policy** was developed over nearly three years by organ donation and transplant experts, organ recipients and donor families from around the country, and input from thousands of people during three public comment cycles. [Learn more.](#)

U.S. leads world in rates of deceased donors, key transplant categories

The February 2021 newsletter of the International Registry in Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODaT) ranks the United States highest in the world in the rate of deceased donation and rates of kidney, liver and lung transplantation, based on 2020 preliminary data. [Read more.](#)

New expedited liver placement policy prevents discards

UNOS launches new policy establishing a clear process for the expedited placement of deceased donor whole livers due to late turndowns. [Read](#) a Q&A about how the policy works.

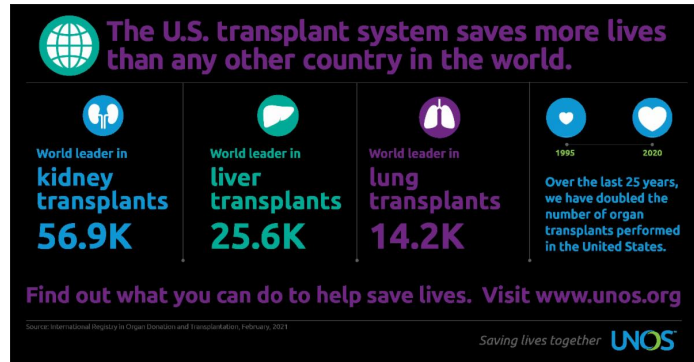
In case you missed it on Unos.org:

[New kidney and pancreas allocation system will increase equity](#)

By Brian Shepard, CEO

[New DonorNet Mobile now available for transplant hospitals nationwide](#)

[26 OPOs join new collaborative to increase DCD donor recoveries](#)



ABSTRACTS



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

[SARS-CoV-2 infection increases tacrolimus concentrations in solid-organ transplant recipients](#)

David M. Salerno Danielle Kovac Heather Corbo Douglas L. Jennings Jennifer Lee Jason Choe Jenna Scheffert Jessica Hedvat Justin Chen Demetra Tsapepas Russell Rosenblatt Benjamin Samstein Karim Halazun Elizabeth Verna Marcus Pereira Corey Brennan Syed A. Husain Sumit Mohan Robert S. Brown Jr ...

New York State was the epicenter of COVID-19 infection in the United States¹ The extent of tacrolimus variability in patients infected with COVID-19 infection is unknown. The purpose of this study was to determine whether COVID-19 infection affects the trough concentration of tacrolimus in solid-organ transplant recipients by evaluating the changes in dose-corrected trough concentrations before and during infection.

[Immunogenicity of a Single Dose of SARS-CoV-2 Messenger RNA Vaccine in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients](#)

Brian J. Boyarsky, MD, William A. Werbel, MD, Robin K. Avery, MD, Aaron A. R. Tobian, MD, PhD, Allan B. Massie, PhD, Dorry L. Segev, MD, PhD, Jacqueline M. Garonzik-Wang, MD, PhD

Immunocompromised individuals have been excluded from studies of SARS-CoV-2 messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. In such patients, the immune response to vaccination may be blunted. To better understand the immunogenicity of mRNA vaccines in immunocompromised individuals, we quantified the humoral response to the first dose in solid organ transplant recipients.

[COVID-19 and Solid Organ Transplantation: A Review Article](#)

Yorg Azzi¹, Rachel Bartash², Joseph Scalea³, Pablo Loarte-Campos¹, Enver Akalin¹

The coronavirus pandemic has significantly impacted solid organ transplantation (SOT). Early in the outbreak period, transplant societies recommended suspending living kidney transplant programs in communities with widespread transmission to avoid exposing recipients to increased risk of immunosuppression, while recommendations were made to reserve deceased-donor kidney transplantation for likely life-saving indications. SOT recipients may be at high risk from COVID-19 disease due to chronic immunosuppressive treatment and other medical comorbidities. Mortality rates reported between 13 to over 30% in SOT recipients. In addition to high rates of complications and mortality attributable to COVID-19 infections, the pandemic has also led to additional complexities in transplantation including new questions regarding screening of donors and recipients, decision making to accept a patient for kidney transplant or wait after pandemic.

[Multicenter validation of the liver graft assessment following transplantation \(L-GrAFT\) score for assessment of early allograft dysfunction](#)

Vatche G Agopian¹, Daniela Markovic², Goran B Klintmalm³, Giovanna Saracino³, William C Chapman⁴, Neeta Vachharajani⁴, Sander S Florman⁵, Parissa Tabrizian⁵, Brandy Haydel⁵, David Nasralla⁶, Peter J Friend⁷, Yuri L Boteon⁸, Rutger Ploeg⁷, Michael P Harlander-Locke⁹, Victor Xia¹⁰, Joseph DiNorcia⁹, Fady M Kaldas⁹, Hasan Yersiz⁹, Douglas G Farmer⁹, Ronald W Busuttil⁹

Background & aims: Early allograft dysfunction (EAD) following liver transplantation (LT) negatively impacts graft and patient outcomes. Previously we reported that the liver graft assessment following transplantation (L-

GrAFT7) risk score was superior to binary EAD or the model for early allograft function (MEAF) score for estimating 3-month graft failure-free survival in a single-center derivation cohort. Herein, we sought to externally validate L-GrAFT7, and compare its prognostic performance to EAD and MEAF.

Lay summary: Early allograft dysfunction negatively affects outcomes following liver transplantation. In independent multicenter US and European cohorts totaling 3,423 patients undergoing liver transplantation, the liver graft assessment following transplantation (L-GrAFT) risk score is validated as a superior measure of early allograft function that accurately discriminates 3-month graft failure-free survival and post-liver transplantation complications.

[A Systematic Review of COVID-19 and Kidney Transplantation](#)

Viyaasan Mahalingasivam 1, Alison Craik 2, Laurie A Tomlinson 2, Long Ge 3 4, Liangying Hou 3 4, Qi Wang 3, Kehu Yang 3 5, Damian G Fogarty 6, Ciara Keenan 7 8

Introduction: Kidney transplant recipients are at increased susceptibility to many viral infections leading to justifiable anxiety about the effects of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Results: Twenty studies had sufficient data, which we have summarized. Studies were predominantly descriptive and came from France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States. Quality assessment demonstrated limitations in selection of comparison groups and controlling for additional factors. Mortality rates from published studies were variable. Based on early data early from Spain, 46% of patients who developed COVID-19 within 60 days of transplantation died. Acute kidney injury was common, and mycophenolate was discontinued in most patients.

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NATERA is a global leader in cell-free DNA testing. The mission of the company is to change the management of disease worldwide with a focus on women's health, oncology and organ health. The company offers proprietary testing services for physicians, researchers and clinicians in cancer, including biopharmaceutical companies, and genetic laboratories through its cloud-based software platform. Developed by our trusted legacy in cfDNA, the Prospera™ transplant assessment test is optimized to be a precise and reliable tool for early, clinically meaningful rejection assessment. Renasight™, a renal genetics panel, is a comprehensive, accessible genetic test for patients with chronic kidney disease.

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website

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