Transplant Times

Organ Transplant Awareness Program
August 2022
Promoting Organ Donor Awareness; Supporting the Transplant Community

www.otapnm.com
for transplant info

Support group will meet Friday, August 5th at 1 pm

rioreal@earthlink.net or call 505.948.4099

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is happy and healthy. It is OTAP's 20th Anniversary! The approval to operate as a 501c3 corporation was granted on August 7, 2002. I am looking for a venue where current OTAP Members can celebrate the occasion and regroup. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

The American Liver Foundation is launching their advocacy campaign this month which focuses on increasing funding for liver research, education, and awareness of liver disease and garnering support for bills to improve the lives of those with liver issues. OTAP members will meet with New Mexico congressional members this month to "lend our voice". Let me know if your would like to join us.

Participants are needed for two studies focused on the organ recipient transplant experiences. The surveys are brief and an easy way to help improve the transplant process. I am very grateful to all those pioneer recipients who gave their lives in order to make organ transplantation possible. By the way, 21 children have been born to women with uterine transplants! Thanks to Marianne for contributing the article about liver organ perfusion machine.

Evelyn

Transplant Recipient Anniversaries

Congratulations!!!

Bert Clemens	**Kidney**	**August 10, 2020**
Philip J Hargis, Jr.	**Heart**	**August 12, 2012**

Thank you for expressing an interest in United Network for Organ Sharing's (UNOS) design research project. UNOS is conducting this research to understand the unique needs of patients throughout the transplant process. Our goals are to learn about the information, tools and resources patients, their caregivers and living donors need before registering on the waiting list; while waiting for an organ; and after transplant.

We understand your experience is specific to your journey. We're recruiting a wide range of participants representing various aspects of the organ donation community including all organ types, ages, ethnicities, geographic areas and levels of education.

The below questions and answers will help you determine if this opportunity is right for you.

What can I expect?
Participants will be interviewed over an online video or phone call. Interviews will last about 60 minutes or less and you'll be compensated for your time. Participants will be asked questions about their overall transplant experience and experience with transplant resources. There are no right or wrong answers.

How much time will this take?
About 60 minutes or less.

When and where?
Virtual interviews will be conducted in July - August 2022. We would schedule a time that works best for your schedule between these date ranges.

How will my personal information be used? Will information be shared?
We will use your information to understand how we may improve the overall experience of patients, caregivers and living donors as they move through the transplant process. Your information will be used only for research purposes and never shared. All references to participants will be anonymized.

How do I get started?
If you're a patient or caregiver and would like to participate, please contact Bernadette Jay at bernadette.jay@unos.org or call (804)-782-4865.

Best regards,
Bernadette Jay
United Network for Organ Sharing
804-782-4865
bernadette.jay@unos.org

UNOS brings innovation, improvement and insights to strengthen the donation and transplant community.

School of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO SPRINGS BRANCH

Hello,

We are reaching out to you to request your assistance with a study that explores possible personality changes following organ transplantation. The study will be conducted through an online survey that should take less than 30 minutes to complete. The survey is completely anonymous.

We would appreciate your help recruiting participants by passing along this flyer to anyone who has undergone organ transplant surgery.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Dr. Mitch Liester at (719) 338-5719 or
transplantstudy@cuanschutz.edu

Thank you for your help!

Regards,

Organ Transplant Study Team at the University of Colorado School of Medicine

Scan to Participate

or access the study at this link: https://redcap.link/transplantstudy

This machine could make many more livers available for transplant

Swiss researchers have created a tool that could store a liver for up to 10 days outside a body and still keep it viable for transplant — transforming a decades-old process.

By Pranshu Verma, Washington Post

June 3, 2022

Share

Researchers in Switzerland have developed a machine that can store livers outside a body for multiple days, dramatically increasing the window in which the organs are viable for transplant. The tool, which allows doctors time to improve the liver's condition, could increase the supply of organs eligible for donation, transforming a decades-old transportation process that still relies on antiquated methods, such as iceboxes.

In a medical paper released on Tuesday in the journal of Nature Biotechnology, scientists from University Hospital Zurich unveiled a machine that successfully mimics the human body, allowing livers to survive outside a body for up to 10 days — far longer than the 12 hours most transplant experts consider safe using current methods.

Though the machine is still at least two years away from clinical use, researchers said, it aims to solve a continuous problem for transplant surgeons: Slowing down the race against the clock to transplant an organ, while ensuring every organ that can be used is.

"We offer a window of time to fix problems," said Pierre-Alain Clavien, the study's lead researcher and director of surgery at University Hospital Zurich. "Now, you can take a liver that is in poor shape ... and to try to use medication or whatever you want to make [it] better."

Transplant surgery is one of the most impactful innovations in modern medicine, experts note, allowing doctors to extend the lives of people who faced significant organ ailments. In 1954, surgeons at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston performed the first successful transplant, giving a patient a new kidney donated from his twin brother. In the 1960s, liver, heart and pancreas transplants followed.

Since then, medical science has advanced transplant surgery techniques but has barely changed the way organs are physically moved and stored. When an organ comes up for

donation, doctors furiously hop onto airplanes to retrieve it, and then shuttle back to the recipient — all within hours — trying to keep the organ in stable condition.

David Klassen, the chief medical officer for the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), said having a machine that can expand the window for liver transplants from 12 hours to 10 days is a significant achievement. It could increase the supply of livers available for donation, a notable prospect given demand for liver donations outstrip supply across the world, he added. (Over 11,800 people were on the waiting list in America for a liver donation in 2021, according to U.S. government statistics, second only to those waiting for kidneys.)

With more time, transplant surgeons could make attempts to improve the state of livers that otherwise couldn't be donated. Livers are often discarded for simply being too fatty, but with more time, surgeons could surgically reduce fat content. (In 2021, 944 of the 9,541 livers recovered for transplant were discarded, according to UNOS.)

Klassen also said it could alter the logistics of transplant surgery. Instead of patients being summoned to the hospital at odd hours of the night, they could schedule a procedure. Additionally, doctors wouldn't have to rush patients into an operating room, giving them time to make sure their vital signs are stable or any infection in their body is dealt with. "It is a milestone," he said.

In the past few years, other machines have landed on the market to improve the way organs — such as kidneys, lungs, hearts and livers — are stored. But Klassen said he does not believe any of these machines are used to extend transplant time into days.

"This differs from what has been done before," he said, adding the Swiss researchers "have really extended the [transplant] window quite dramatically."

Clavien's team — a consortium of Swiss doctors and researchers from University Hospital Zurich, the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich — began working on their liver storage machine roughly six years ago. The device externally stores a human liver at 98.6 degrees and has machines attached to it that mimic heart, lung and kidney functions. Tubes attached to the liver can provide hormone and nutrient infusions, while flushing out toxins and providing the organ with antibiotics to keep it healthy while awaiting transplant.

A machine created by Swiss researchers that can keep livers outside the body in humanlike conditions for up to 10 days. (University Hospital Zurich)

But after making the machine, researchers had to prove it works. To do so, they found a liver available for donation in Europe. It was destined to be discarded because it had a tumor, but with three days to assess it in their machine, the researchers found the tumor to be benign and plied it with antibiotics to get it healthy. Once suitable for transplant, they put it into a patient. The study released this week noted the patient is not showing any adverse symptoms from the surgery, indicating the machine successfully stored the organ, researchers said.

Shane Ottmann, a transplant expert and assistant professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, said the machine is promising.

In the current system, where livers are stored over ice, the “preservation clock" can run out before doctors overcome logistical hurdles for an operation, such as coronavirus testing. They can also have limited time to improve the state of an organ to ensure it is suitable for donation.

“There are some livers that currently are not being used in the United States that could be used if you didn’t run out the clock," he said. “This technology would help salvage some of those livers from discard.”

AMAZON SMILE

Sign in to Amazon Smile and select Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico.

Amazon will make a donation to OTAP quarterly.

Or copy and paste this address to your browser:

Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3654972

OTAP Mission Statement

The mission of Organ Transplant Awareness Program is to promote organ donation and support transplant community members including transplant candidates, donor families, living organ donors, transplant recipients, and transplant families. We promote organ donation by participating in a variety of community events. Our support group meets once a month for those who need support or are seeking information about the transplant process. We also advocate for social policies that increase organ donation.