

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

HEALTH AND MEDICINE DIVISION

Board on Health Sciences Policy

Board on Health Care Services

**The Committee on A Fairer and More Equitable,
Cost-Effective, and Transparent System of Donor Organ
Procurement, Allocation, and Distribution**

April 16, 2021

11:00 AM – 3:45 PM ET

Virtual Public Webinar

11:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction**

KENNETH W. KIZER, *Committee Chair*
Chief Healthcare Transformation Officer
Senior Executive Vice President
Atlas Research

SESSION I: INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES OF ORGAN PROCUREMENT, ALLOCATION, & DISTRIBUTION

Session objectives:

- Discuss lessons the U.S. can learn from global transplant leaders about more efficient distribution, increased utilization, and more equitable allocation of deceased donor organs.
- Identify specific policies, practices, and incentives used successfully by other countries that could potentially be adapted to improve the U.S. organ transplant system.

Questions for Speakers:

- *Policy making:* Who is responsible for policy-making around deceased donor organ procurement, allocation, and distribution in your country? How are policies developed and any disagreements among stakeholders addressed?
- *Increasing transplants:* How has your country responded to the challenge of increasing the number of organs available for transplant?
- *Allocation:* How are deceased donor organs allocated among individuals on the waitlist in your country? How is equity considered in allocation schemes?
- *Utilization:* How are deceased donor organs determined as acceptable to use in your country? Do individual physicians and hospitals consider organ offers individually for each patient?
- *Implementation:* What were the barriers to implementing organ allocation policies in your country? What implementation barriers would you see in the United States?

SESSION I – CONTINUED

Moderator: Kenneth W. Kizer

11:10 a.m. **Lessons from Canada**

JOHN GILL
Professor of Medicine
University of British Columbia
President-Elect, American Society of Transplantation

11:25 a.m. **Lessons from Israel**

JACOB LAVEE
Director, Heart Transplant Unit
Sheba Medical Center
Professor of Surgery
Tel Aviv University

11:40 a.m. **Discussion with Committee (20 minutes)**

12:00 p.m. **Lessons from the UK**

GABRIEL ONISCU
Director, Edinburgh Transplant Centre
Consultant Transplant Surgeon and Honorary Reader in Transplantation
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

12:15 p.m. **Lessons from Eurotransplant**

AXEL RAHMEL
Medical director
Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation

12:30 p.m. **Lessons from Spain**

BEATRIZ DOMINGUEZ-GIL
Director General
Organización Nacional de Trasplantes

12:45 pm. **Discussion with Committee Members (20 minutes)**

1:05 p.m. **Session Wrap-Up**

KENNETH W. KIZER, *Committee Chair*
Chief Healthcare Transformation Officer
Senior Executive Vice President
Atlas Research

1:10 p.m. **Break (40 minutes)**

SESSION II: EXPLORING DISPARITIES AND INEQUITIES IN PATIENT REFERRAL, EVALUATION, & WAITLIST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Session Objectives:

- Examine how patients get referred to organ transplant specialists, evaluated by specialists, and placed on a waitlist for a deceased donor organ.
- Explore the areas along this clinical pathway where barriers and biases exist and discuss possible solutions to making the process more equitable.

Questions for Speakers:

- Is the process of patient referral for organ transplant equitable, and if not, which populations experience adverse disparities? Where exactly in the process are patients from these populations not referred for transplants and why? What system-level actions could be taken to prevent disparities in referrals and mitigate inequitable outcomes?
- Once patients have been referred to a transplant program, do similar problems occur in the process of evaluating and listing them as candidates for transplantation?
- Are any of the disparities and inequities in patient referral and evaluation for a transplant organ-specific?
- What role does implicit bias play in patients having trouble gaining access to an organ transplant waitlist and actually receiving a transplant? How can such biases be addressed?
- How does waitlist management by transplant centers and referring hospitals/physicians affect underrepresented groups' access to transplantation? Could particular policies and practices be adopted to manage waitlists more efficiently and effectively and also contribute to alleviating disparities in access to organ transplant?

Moderator: Kenneth W. Kizer

1:50 p.m. **Working Toward a More Equitable Patient Referral and Waitlist System for Kidney Transplantation**

AMY WATERMAN
Professor in Residence, Division of Nephrology
UCLA Health

SESSION II - CONTINUED

2:05 p.m. **Working Toward a More Equitable Patient Referral and Waitlist System for Liver Transplantation**

MALAY SHAH
Surgical Director, Liver Transplant Program
University of Kentucky, School of Medicine

2:20 p.m. **Bias Associated with Allocation of Heart Transplant and Other Advanced Heart Failure Therapies**

KHADIJAH BREATHETT
Assistant Professor
University of Arizona, School of Medicine

2:35 p.m. **Discussion with Committee Members (20 minutes)**

2:55 p.m. **Waitlist Management Techniques – Experience from the COIN Project and Beyond**

ANDREA TIETJEN
AVP, Transplant Administrative Services
Saint Barnabas Medical Center

3:10 p.m. **Addressing Inequities through Improved Waitlist Management**

GISELLE GUERRA
Medical Director, Kidney Transplant Program
Miami Transplant Institute

3:25 p.m. **Discussion with Committee Members (20 minutes)**

3:45 p.m. **Session Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

KENNETH W. KIZER, *Committee Chair*
Chief Healthcare Transformation Officer
Senior Executive Vice President
Atlas Research