

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

Committee

Kenneth W. Kizer

Co-Chair

Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H., (Chair) currently serves as the Chief Health Care Transformation Officer and Senior Executive Vice President for Atlas Research. He has been elected to both the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Public Administration. Dr. Kizer is a highly experienced physician executive whose diverse professional experience includes senior leadership positions in the public and private sectors, academia, and philanthropy. He has previously served as founding President and CEO, National Quality Forum; Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and chief executive officer of the nation's largest healthcare system, during which time he engineered the internationally acclaimed transformation of the Veterans Healthcare System in the late 1990s; founding Chairman, President and CEO, Medsphere Systems Corporation, a leading commercial provider of subscription-based health information technology; founding Director, Institute for Population Health Improvement and Distinguished Professor, University of California, Davis; inaugural Chief Medical Officer, California Department of Managed Health Care; Director, California Department of Health Services; and Director, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, where he was the architect of the state's EMS and trauma care systems in the early 1980s. During his record tenure as California's top health official he won high praise for orchestrating the state's response to the then new HIV/AIDS epidemic, implementing California's famed Tobacco Control Program and the '5-a-Day' for Better Nutrition Program that was later adopted for national implementation, pioneering Medicaid managed care, and restructuring many of the state's public health programs. He also has served on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and as Chairman of The California Wellness Foundation. Dr. Kizer has longstanding interests in organ transplantation stemming from his experience as a practicing emergency physician, public health official, and health system leader, as well as his personal experiences as the husband of a multiple times organ transplant recipient. He has a deep understanding of the anxieties and difficulties families experience while waiting for an organ.

Itai Ashlagi

Member

Itai Ashlagi, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at the Management Science and Engineering Department at Stanford University. Dr. Ashlagi's research interests include game theory and the design and analysis of marketplaces. He specializes in matching markets, such as kidney paired donation, organ allocation, school choice, and the National Resident Matching Program. Dr. Ashlagi is a recipient of the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award and is recognized as a Franz Edelman Laureate for his outstanding contributions to kidney paired donation. Before joining Stanford University, he was an assistant professor of Operations Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management and, prior to that, a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard Business School. Dr. Ashlagi received his Ph.D. in Operations Research from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Dr. Ashlagi serves as a consultant for Rejuvenate Healthcare, LLC, a company working with healthcare providers, payers, and patients to facilitate kidney transplants.

Charles Bearden

Member

Charles Bearden, P.A., C.P.T.C. has been a practicing PA for over 48 years. He has the distinction of being the longest practicing organ recovery/transplant coordinator in the United States with 44 years of coordinating over 2500 heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, and intestinal organ transplants. Mr. Bearden is currently an advisory board member for Clinical Consulting Associates. Prior to beginning his Physician Associate studies, Mr. Bearden worked as a Cardiovascular Technician at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, GA and trained under Dr. J. Willis Hurst. Dr. Hurst was starting the PA Program at Emory and encouraged him to apply to the first Physician Associate Program class at the Emory University School of Medicine in 1971. He was accepted and at the age of 19 began his PA education. He served as class vice president and graduated in 1973. He made the highest score in his class on the first National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Certifying Examination for PAs held in 1973. In 1974, Mr. Bearden served on the NBME Committee to validate the first PA National Board Examination. He was NCCPA certified in both Primary Care (1975) and Surgery (1980). In 1978 he co-founded and co-directed the first Organ Bank in Atlanta and remained with the Atlanta branch of DCI until 1988 when he relocated to their Chattanooga, TN, office. Mr. Bearden remained with DCI Donor Services until 2002 when he accepted a position as a Traveling Organ Recovery Coordinator with Clinical Consulting Associates (CCA). In 2007, Mr. Bearden became one of the first Virtual Organ Transplant Coordinators in the country for CCA and he continues his work today. He has been certified by the American Board of Transplant Coordination for 34 years. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Organize.org and was a participant in the 2016 White House Summit on Organ Donation and Transplantation. In 2019 he was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Physician Assistant of the Year by the Veterans Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. "For his concern, caring, and devotion towards patients, profession, and country his commitment is our profession's future."

Alexander M. Capron

Member

Alexander M. Capron, LL.B., is a University Professor at the University of Southern California where he teaches Public Health Law and Policy, Bioethics, and Torts, and occupies the Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics in the Gould School of Law, is Professor of Medicine and Law in the Keck School of Medicine, and is Co-Director of the Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics. He previously taught at Georgetown University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University. His ten books and hundreds of articles cover a wide range of topics in law, medicine, and ethics; he has written on human organ transplantation since 1972, including, with Jay Katz, *Catastrophic Diseases: Who Decides What* (1975, paperback 1978). Capron received a BA from Swarthmore College and an LLB from Yale University, where he was an officer of the Yale Law Journal. He was appointed by Congress as the chair of the Biomedical Ethics Advisory Committee, and by President Bill Clinton as a member of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. From 1980 to 1983 he was the Executive Director of the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research, which was established by Congress and appointed by Presidents Carter and Reagan; in one of its dozen reports, *Defining Death: The Medical, Legal and Ethical Issues in the Determination of Death* (1981), the commission set forth the Uniform Determination of Death Act which it had developed with three medical and legal organizations. From 2002-06, he served as Director of the Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law at the World Health Organization, where he co-led its global work on human organ, tissue, and cell transplantation. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Law Institute and an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Hastings Center. He has served as President of the American Society for Law, Medicine and Ethics and of the International Association of Bioethics. Professor Capron currently serves as a member of an advisory panel on ethics and public policy for a National Science Foundation-funded Engineering Research Center (ERC) at the University of Minnesota on Advanced Technologies for the Preservation of Biological Systems (ATP-Bio). The panel examines the issues that may arise in research on means to preserve and use human and non-human cells, tissues, and organs, publishes the results of its analysis, and provides advice to ATP-Bio investigators about such matters but has no operational authority for the ERC or its investigators.

Bernice Coleman

Member

Bernice Coleman, Ph.D., A.C.N.P.-B.C., F.A.H.A., F.A.A.N. is Director of the Nursing Research Department and Performance Improvement Department, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and a Nurse Practitioner for the Heart Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support at the Cedars-Sinai Smidt Heart Institute. She is a member of AHA Leadership Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing, past chairperson of the Nursing Health Science and Allied Health Council of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, and a member of the Nominating Committee for the International Society of Nurses in Genetics. Dr. Coleman was a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation. She researches health disparities with a focus on exploring the racial outcomes of post-heart transplantation African and Caucasian Americans. Dr. Coleman is a board-certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with a Master of Science in Nursing from the Yale School of Nursing and a PhD from the UCLA School of Nursing. She has completed postdoctoral studies in the HLA Laboratory at Cedars-Sinai and the NINR Summer Genetics Institute. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and has presented her work in heart transplantation nationally and internationally.

Leigh A. Dageforde

Member

Leigh Anne Dageforde, M.D., M.P.H. is an abdominal organ transplant (liver, kidney, and pancreas) and hepatobiliary surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital who specializes in the care of patients with end stage kidney and liver disease needing organ transplantation, living kidney donors, pancreas transplant patients, and patients with liver and biliary cancer. Dr. Dageforde attended medical school at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and completed her general surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She completed her fellowship in Abdominal Organ Transplantation and HPB surgery at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition to liver, kidney and pancreas transplantation, her clinical interests also include living kidney donation and treatment of liver and biliary cancer. Dr. Dageforde completed her Master of Public Health degree at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with a focus on research in improving access to transplantation. She serves on national committees in both the Association of Academic Surgery and the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Most recently she was appointed as the co-chair of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons Pipeline Taskforce focusing on the development of the rising surgical workforce in transplant surgery with an emphasis on mentorship of medical students and residents.

Sue Dunn

Member

Sue Dunn, R.N., M.B.A. is the former chief executive officer of Donor Alliance. She led the Denver-based organ procurement organization (OPO) serving Colorado and Wyoming for more than 15 years, and retired in June 2020. Ms. Dunn joined Donor Alliance in 1989, after five years as an organ procurement coordinator in Minnesota. She served as the organization's vice president of Organ Procurement Operations/Compliance and Regulatory Affairs before being named CEO in 2004. She also served as OPTN and UNOS board president from 2018-2019, leading semiannual meetings of the board, as well as chairing the Executive Committee and UNOS' Corporate Affairs Committee. She is formerly the president of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) and has served on numerous industry boards and committees. Ms. Dunn previously (until June 2020) served in an unpaid capacity on the Board of Directors for AlloSource, a nonprofit tissue processor. Under Ms. Dunn's leadership, Donor Alliance was recognized as a 2018 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awardee, the only non-profit organization that year, and the second organ procurement organization to be recognized. She has earned widespread recognition for her leadership at Donor Alliance, and was awarded the 2021 Baldrige Foundation Excellence in Leadership Award in the nonprofit sector. Ms. Dunn received her Bachelor of Science, Nursing in 1978 from Creighton University and her Masters in Business Administration in 2005 from Regis University. She currently mentors OPO leaders through the Gift of Life Transplant Institute's Art and Science of Leadership Program and serves an unpaid advisor to the UNOS Corporate Affairs Committee.

Robert D. Gibbons

Member

Robert D. Gibbons, Ph.D. is the Blum-Riese Professor of Biostatistics and a Pritzker Scholar at the University of Chicago. He has appointments in the Departments of Medicine, Public Health Sciences and Comparative Human Development. He also directs the Center for Health Statistics. Dr. Gibbons is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the International Statistical Institute, and the Royal Statistical Society, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific papers and six books. His statistical work spans the areas of longitudinal data analysis, item response theory, environmental statistics and drug safety and has led to thousands of applications in the biological and social sciences. Dr. Gibbons has received life-time achievement awards from the American Statistical Association, the American Public Health Association and Harvard University. He is a founder of the Mental Health Statistics section of the American Statistical Association. Dr. Gibbons has coauthored many publications, including "Full-Information Item Bi-Factor Analysis," "Waiting for Organ Transplantation," and "Weighted Random-Effects Regression Models with Application to Inter-Laboratory Calibration." He earned his Ph.D. in statistics and psychometrics from the University of Chicago and his B.A. in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Denver.

Elisa J. Gordon

Member

Elisa J. Gordon, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Professor in the Department of Surgery-Division of Transplantation, Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research, and Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Gordon completed her doctorate in Medical Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University. Thereafter, she completed a Fellowship in Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Gordon obtained her Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois, Chicago, specializing in Community Health Sciences. She is a Fellow of the American Society for Applied Anthropology, and the American Society of Transplantation. Dr. Gordon has received funding from the NIH, HRSA, DOD, and VA as Principal Investigator for her research on organ transplantation and donation, reducing health disparities in access to health care and health outcomes, and developing culturally targeted interventions to enhance patients' informed consent and treatment decision making. She was recognized as an Expertscape world expert in patient education (2021). Dr. Gordon served as the Chair of the UNOS Ethics Committee (2017-2020), and as an appointed member of the American Society of Transplantation's Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, and Access to Life (IDEAL) Task Force (2020-2021). She currently serves as the co-Chair of the American Society of Transplantation's Psychosocial and Ethics Community of Practice, an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Transplantation, member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and member of the federal Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA).

Renee Landers

Member

Renée Landers, J.D. is a Professor of Law, Faculty Director of the Health and Biomedical Law Concentration, and Faculty Director of the Masters of Science in Law Life Sciences program at Suffolk University Law School in Boston. She was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the National Academy of Social Insurance during her fall 2018 sabbatical leave. She was also the President of the Boston Bar Association in 2003-2004, and was the first woman of color and the first law professor to serve in that position. Professor Landers has worked in private practice and served as Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Justice during the Clinton Administration. Professor Landers served as Chair of the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice of the American Bar Association in 2016 - 2017 and chaired the Section's Nominating Committee in 2018 - 2019. She is a Trustee of the Massachusetts General Hospital and a former Trustee of New England Donor Services and the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary. In 2019, she rejoined the board of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts and became President of the Board beginning in July 2020. Recently, she co-chaired the Boston Bar Association's Task Force on Judicial Independence which issued a report in August 2019. She was a member of the Massachusetts Commission on Judicial Conduct and served as Vice Chair of the Commission from 2009 to 2010. She also served on the task force that drafted the revised Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct effective in 2016 and currently is a member of the Committee on Judicial Ethics which advises judges on compliance with the Code. Previously, she was a member of the Supreme Judicial Court's committees studying gender bias and racial and ethnic bias in the courts.

Mario Macis

Member

Mario Macis, Ph.D. is a Professor of Economics at the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School. He is also a Core Faculty member of the Hopkins Business of Health Initiative, Affiliate Faculty at the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, and Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Dr. Macis is an applied economist and his work focuses on how economic incentives interact with psychological factors and social norms to drive individual behavior and policy-relevant outcomes. His main research interests are in prosocial behavior, ethics and economics, and experimental economics. Much of his recent research involved multi-disciplinary collaborations with medical and public health scholars and psychologists. He regularly engages with policy makers and practitioners, including national and international agencies as well as associations related to blood, plasma, stem cell, and organ donation. In particular, he conducted studies in partnership with the American Red Cross and the National Marrow Donor Program. His work was published in leading academic journals including the American Economic Review, Management Science, the Journal of Health Economics, and the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, and Science. Dr. Macis has been a consultant for the World Bank, the International Labor Organization, the National Marrow Donor Program, and the United Nations Development Program.

Jewel Mullen

Member

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A. is Associate Dean for Health Equity at University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, as well as an associate professor in the school's population health and internal medicine departments. She also serves as Director of Health Equity at Ascension Seton to help meet health equity goals across its system. Mullen is an internist, epidemiologist, public health expert and the former principal deputy assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). While at HHS, she also served as the acting assistant secretary for health and acting director of the National Vaccine Program Office. Prior to HHS, she served as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Her career has spanned clinical, research, teaching and administrative roles focused on improving the health of all people, especially those who are underserved. She is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in building effective community-based chronic disease prevention programs and for her commitment to improving individual and population health by strengthening coordination between community, public health and health care systems. A former President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Dr. Mullen is a current member of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Editorial Board, the ChangeLab Solutions Board of Directors, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Policies for Action National Advisory Committee which she chairs. She also is a member of the Study Committee on the Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine; and a former member of the Advisory Committee to the CDC Director and its subcommittee on health disparities. Dr. Mullen received her bachelor's and Master of Public Health degrees from Yale University where she also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in psychosocial epidemiology. She graduated from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and completed her residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and completed intensive and advanced bioethics courses at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

Neil R. Powe

Member

Neil R. Powe, M.D., M.P.H., MBA serves as leader of the University of California San Francisco Medicine Service at the Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, a leading Medicine department in a public hospital with strong basic, clinical and health services research programs focused on major diseases affecting diverse patients locally, nationally and globally. His interests are in improving discovery, education and clinical practice in medicine, making academic organizations function better, enhancing scholarship and multidisciplinary collaboration, and developing future talent and leadership in the health professions. He has a particular interest in cultivating young scientists who are addressing major problems in science, health and health care delivery. His primary intellectual pursuits involve kidney disease patient-oriented research, epidemiology, disparities, and outcomes and effectiveness research. His research unites Medicine and Public Health with the goals of saving and improving quality of human lives. It involves the knowledge of fundamental discoveries in biology and clinical medicine to advance the health of patients and populations affected by kidney disease. He has conducted research on disparities in organ donation and interventions to improve access to kidney transplantation. Dr. Powe earned his medical degree at Harvard Medical School and his master's in public health at Harvard School of Public Health. He completed residency, was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar and completed his master's in business administration at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dorry L. Segev

Member

Dorry Segev, M.D., Ph.D., as of February 1, 2022, is Professor of Surgery and Population Health and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery, New York University. Previously, Dr. Segev was the Marjory K. and Thomas Pozefsky Professor of Surgery and Epidemiology and Associate Vice-Chair of Surgery at Johns Hopkins University. He is the founder and director of the Epidemiology Research Group in Organ Transplantation (ERGOT), the largest and most prolific group of its kind in the world. Dr. Segev was the first to demonstrate the survival benefit of incompatible kidney transplantation across the United States, and is responsible for the first HIV-to-HIV transplants in the United States. His NIH-funded research includes kidney exchange, desensitization, long-term donor risk, access to transplantation, expanding transplantation including HIV+ donors, geographic disparities, post-transplant outcomes, and the intersection between transplantation and gerontology. With a graduate degree in biostatistics, Dr. Segev focuses on novel statistical and mathematical methods for simulation of medical data, analysis of large healthcare datasets, and outcomes research. Dr. Segev is a senior staff member for the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) as well as an advisor to a number of pharmaceutical companies about ways to improve solid organ transplantation through machine learning, big data, risk prediction and clinical decision-making tools.

Dennis Wagner

Member

Dennis Wagner, M.P.A. has served as the Principal and Managing Director for Yes And Leadership, LLC since October of 2020. In this capacity he has served as a speaker and session leader at in-person and online events for a wide array of organizations such as the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, the Gift of Life Institute for Organ Donation and Transplantation, the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, the National Association of State Pharmacy Associations, the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and others. Dennis and his colleagues also organize and conduct engaging, highly-interactive and content-rich Board meetings, state and national conferences and other events aimed principally at supporting leadership development, quality improvement, action learning and results for participating organizations. Dennis currently serves in an uncompensated capacity on the expert advisory panel of the recently formed Kidney Transplant Collaborative and provides expertise in grant applications for new funding opportunities. Dennis is the former director of the iQuality Improvement and Innovation Group in the CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality. Dennis and his team supported healthcare providers who are using systematic quality improvement to make care better in tens of thousands of hospitals, nursing homes, clinical practices and communities across the nation. This team of public and private quality improvers actively work to spread the best practices of highest performers, so that “best practices become common practice.” Prior to his most recent role at CMS, Dennis served as the Associate Director for Campaign Leadership in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), and as Deputy Director and then Acting Director of the CMS Office of Clinical Standards and Quality. Dennis was successful in supporting cross-Departmental work to develop and announce a major national Departmental & Presidential Kidney Health Initiative, which included CMS Innovation Center initiatives to support, increased kidney procurement and utilization. While at HRSA’s Division of Transplantation, Dennis led a series of major national initiatives, including the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative, from 2003-2007 to increase the donation and transplantation of organs. This work generated unprecedented and lasting national increases in organ donation over this four-year period. In addition to numerous honors and awards from CMS, HHS, HRSA and EPA, Dennis is a recipient of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (known as the “Sammies”) 2016 Federal Employee of the Year Award. Dennis received his B.A. and M.P.A. degrees from Montana State University.

James B. Young

Member

James B. Young, M.D. is Cleveland Clinic's Executive Director of Academic Affairs and Academic Vice-Dean, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He also holds the George and Linda Kaufman Chair in the Heart and Vascular Institute. He was the Medical Director of the Kaufman Center for Heart Failure, which he and a former surgical colleague established in 1998 at Cleveland Clinic. After joining Cleveland Clinic in 1995, Dr. Young was named Head of Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Medicine. He is an internationally recognized heart failure and heart transplant cardiologist with an interest in mechanical circulatory support devices. Dr. Young has participated in more than 150 clinical trials as an investigator and has served as the U.S. principal or co-principal investigator for many multicenter clinical trials. He has published more than 700 manuscripts and several textbooks. A member of many professional associations, Dr. Young served as a board member and past president of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, and as a board member of the Heart Failure Society of America and the American Society of Transplantation. Dr. Young earned a BA with honors in biology from the University of Kansas, where he was a resident of Stephenson Scholarship Hall. He matriculated to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where he was awarded his medical degree, cum laude, and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He completed his clinical training at Baylor Affiliated Hospitals. Dr. Young is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, American College of Physicians, American Heart Association and the European Society of Cardiology. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the sub-specialty Boards of Cardiovascular Disease and Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation.