

ASMHTP Connections

A quarterly newsletter for those interested in the minority perspective in health care and transplantation.

American Society of Minority Health and Transplant Professionals

Annual ASMHTP Conference Held in Birmingham, Alabama

Mark your calendars!

2003 ASMHTP Conference

Sept. 17-19

San Antonio, TX

The tenth annual ASMHTP conference was held in Birmingham, AL, with nearly 100 participants. The local organ procurement organization, Alabama Organ Center, served as host to this incredible gathering of health professionals from around the country.

The conference provided a forum for education, research, and networking amongst the attendees who are involved in various aspects of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Incoming president, Janice Whaley, outlined her goals for the upcoming year. They include restructured committees, creation of a multicultural task force, funding initiatives through federal grants and OPOs, networking with individuals and related organizations, and increased membership.

Participants heard from national organizations including

the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO), DoT/HRSA, Coalition on Donation, and UNOS. AOPO shared information related to its new multicultural task force,



A beautiful view of the city of Birmingham.

multimedia education campaign specifically geared to the Hispanic and Latino populations was shared.

Additional conference topics included Community Education Initiatives, the Life and Times of a Transplant Coordinator, Cultural Competency, Renal Transplantation in African-Americans, the Future in Gene Therapy, and five abstract presentations (see page 3).

Conference participants toured the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, which gained national prominence in 1963 after it was bombed resulting in the deaths of four girls. They also toured the Civil Rights Institute, which has gained a renowned reputation for chronicling the civil rights era and human rights around the world (see page 3).

The 2003 ASMHTP Annual Meeting has been set for September 17-19 in San

and data related to referral, request, and consent rates by race. DoT/HRSA updated the group about educational activities. The Coalition on Donation provided two firsts: the first-ever national multimedia education campaign specifically for the African-American/Black communities was unveiled; and the first-ever national

Request for Proposals

As ASMHTP prepares for the future, we are outlining a five-year plan. To date, sites have been chosen for our 2003 through 2005 Annual Meetings. To meet the goals of a five-year plan, we are requesting proposals to host the ASMHTP Annual Meeting for 2006 and 2007. If you are interested in hosting the meeting in your city, send your proposal to: ASMHTP, 12 River Bend Place, Jackson, Mississippi 39232.

ASMHTP Annual Meeting sites:

- 2003 – San Antonio, Texas – September 17-19, 2003
- 2004 – Gulfport, Mississippi
- 2005 – San Diego, California
- 2006 – Proposals being accepted
- 2007 – Proposals being accepted

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Janice Whaley— Building a Future for ASMHTP



ASMHTP President, Janice Whaley, presents seven points towards the future success of ASMHTP.

For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, we would like to introduce you to ASMHTP's new president, Ms. Janice Whaley.

Janice is currently the Manager of Tissue Recovery Services— North Alabama for the Alabama Organ Center.

Janice has been involved in organ and tissue recovery for the past 10½ years. She is

currently responsible for managing the tissue recovery program for the north Alabama region. This includes all aspects of tissue recovery and supervising a staff that consists of Procurement Transplant Coordinators and Per Diem Tissue Recovery Technicians. Janice is a member of numerous transplant-related organizations. She is currently the Co-Chair for APOPO's Task Force on Multicultural Issues, a

member of the ABTC Board Examination Committee, NATCO, AATB, and most importantly, the President of the American Society of Minority Health and Transplant Professionals, ASMHTP.

In her spare time, Janice enjoys reading, gospel music, tennis, working out at the gym, and playing with her two Yorkshire Terriers, Max and Minnie.

Committees: The Heart and Soul of ASMHTP

Membership is the foundation of any organization and the ASMHTP committees are the mortars which help build upon the base. Committees consist of members who volunteer their time to recommend, implement, communicate, and solidify the role of ASMHTP, both today and for the future.

The Nominating Committee is co-chaired by Kelvin Satcher and Teisha Campbell. The committee offers a slate of candidates for board and officer vacancies.

The By-Laws Committee is co-chaired by Patricia Myrick Woods and Remonia Chapman. Revisions to the current By-laws are underway and will be submitted to the membership for review.

The Treasurer, Rudolph C.

Morgan, chairs the Finance Committee. The committee is responsible for ASMHTP's fiscal management and budget.

The Fundraising Committee is co-chaired by Tina LeVert and Shawnte' Williams. This committee will seek financial partners to help ASMHTP implement programs and produce materials.

Membership is co-chaired by Harold Lockett and Jeff Thomas. The committee intends to increase membership 40% over the next year, as well as update membership materials.

The Planning Committee, co-chaired by Yoli Montemayor and Tommy Frieson, will be responsible for planning the next Annual Meeting.

Public Relations is co-chaired by Tereasa Parks-Thomas and Sandy Shih. The committee will work to promote the organization, establish relationships with health-related agencies, and publicize conferences and/or workshops conducted by ASMHTP.

The Research Committee is co-chaired by Cliff McClenney and Victoria Dent and will work to encourage members to produce abstracts, position papers, posters, etc., on issues relating to minorities and donation/transplantation.

Strategic Planning is chaired by Marilyn Campbell. The Strategic Planning Committee is a new committee formulated for the long term planning of the ASMHTP. This committee will strive to find strategies for the

life of the organization. Strategic Planning will collaborate with the Planning Committee as that committee plans for the Annual Meetings.

The Multicultural Education Task Force is co-chaired by Debbie Gibbs and Renee Hawthorne. This task force is charged with the responsibility of designing and implementing a workshop and related materials to improve the donation rates among minorities. Recovery coordinators, designated requestors, and anyone who has, or will in the future, approach family members of potential Asian, African-American, or Hispanic/Latino donors, will benefit from this program.

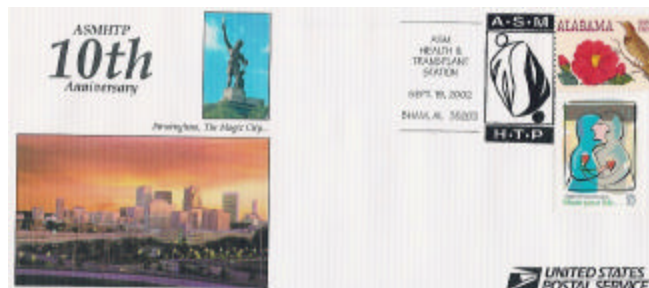
Postal Cachet Dedicated to ASMHTP 10th Anniversary

Pictorial Cancellations/Cachet are postmarks offered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to commemorate local community events. The local Postmaster and the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service in Washington, D.C. approves pictorial cancellations.

Pictorial cancellations are provided upon request to

collectors and through mail-back services of the USPS. Pictorial cancellations are announced in each of the Postal Bulletins through news releases distributed to the press and philatelic publications throughout the world.

It should also be noted that the ASMHTP's pictorial cancellation/cachet is a



ASMHTP Visits Sixteenth Street Baptist Church

ASMHTP members were left speechless as they visited and listened to the history of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The church marks the site where four young Black girls were killed when a bomb exploded in the church basement on September 15, 1963. This bombing came as a result of heightened tensions in the city after a federal court ordered its schools to be integrated. Governor George Wallace chose to defy this order and urged his followers to do the same.

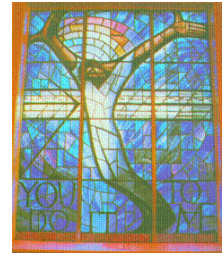
Though city authorities were not sympathetic to blacks, no city officials braved the crowds to

attend the funeral services. More than 8,000 mourners of both races attended. This event was one of the most tragic occurrences of American history; but, as a result, was instrumental in helping to ensure the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

ASMHTP members were amazed by the symbolic incidents that occurred at the time of the bombing: The image of Jesus' face was knocked cleanly out of the only surviving stained glass window in the church's east wall, and the clock stopped at exactly 10:22 a.m.

Grief from this tragedy extended around the world. The people of Wales sent a stained glass window to the church as an expression of sympathy for their loss.

A small museum is now in the basement of the church with pictures and memorabilia from this disaster and other civil rights acts from that time. Souvenirs were made available for purchase in support of keeping the tours and information about this phenomenal event open to the public.



Stained glass window sent by the people of Wales to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented annually to honor an individuals who have exemplified dedication, commitment, and promoted research towards minority recipients in donation and transplantation. Dr. Arnold G. Diethelm was ASMHTP's first honoree.

Dr. Diethelm's career at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) began in 1967. He joined the Department of Surgery at the invitation of Dr. John Kirklin. A

native of Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Diethelm received his B.A. Degree from Washington State University in 1953 and his M.D. Degree from Cornell Medical College in 1958. Dr. Diethelm accepted the challenge of building a nationally recognized transplantation program from the ground up.

His commitment to the African-American population during a time of racial strife was not easy, but he persevered and adhered to his principles. Today, African-Americans are

transplanted at a rate commensurate with Caucasians at UAB.

Under Dr. Diethelm's leadership, UAB's renal transplant center has become the busiest and one of the largest in the nation.

Dr. Diethelm is a husband, father, and an avid Alabama football fan. In June of this year, Dr. Diethelm received a liver transplant. It was indeed an honor for ASMHTP to have Dr. Diethelm as the first recipient of this award.



Dr. Diethelm receiving his award from ASMHTP president, Janice Whaley.

Abstracts Presented at Conference

Five wonderful abstracts were presented at this year's ASMHTP annual conference. Each topic inspired great discussions among the participants. Below is a list of the abstracts presented:

Wida S. Cherikh, PhD - Trends in Living Donor Kidney Transplants: Do Minorities Benefit; Decreased Access to Renal Transplants in African Americans: Is sensitization an issue?

Teresita Zaragoza, MSW - The Key Role of Culturally Similar Community Outreach Coordinators/Requestors in the Organ Donation Process

Rev. Harold J. Lockett, M. Div. - The Gift Exchange Theory: An understanding of the exchange process in the donation of organs and tissues for transplantation

Arnold I. Serota, M.D., F.A.C.S - Renal Transplantation in Native Americans: An Arizona Experience

Christopher Bryan, PhD - Graft Survival of Kidneys from A2/A2B Donors into B patients is equivalent to ABO compatible (B and O to B) Transplantation

Kudos to the presenters!

For information on how to submit an abstract to be presented at the 2003 conference, please contact Cliff McClenney at mcclence@unos.org



**American Society of Minority Health
and Transplant Professionals**

American Society of Minority Health and
Transplant Professionals
12 River Bend Place
Jackson, Mississippi 39232

Phone: 866-ASMHTP-1
866-276-4871
Fax: 601-933-1006

Check us out on the web:
www.asmhtp.org

The mission of the American Society of Minority Health and Transplant Professionals is to promote organ and tissue donation and transplantation among minorities and to serve in a national advisory capacity for research and education on these and other health-related issues.

ASMHTP Connections is a newsletter provided quarterly by ASMHTP to its members and friends. We welcome articles for consideration in future issues of ASMHTP Connections or suggestions for articles. Please submit these to the ASMHTP offices.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission in the transplant and health care community!

ASMHTP Membership—Why not?

Dear ASMHTP Member:

It is now time to prepare to renew our 2003 membership by paying our dues as soon as possible. Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. We need your support and involvement.

As you know, the 10th Anniversary Celebration convened in Birmingham, Alabama. However, you may not know that it was a smashing success! There was the renewal of old friendships, the meeting of new acquaintances, the experience of an enlightening meeting, and the fun of having a grand time in historic Birmingham, "The Magic City." Everyone would agree that we all experienced some of that wonderful magic back in September!

For those of you who did not attend this last meeting, we understand very well that conflicts do occur. However, we certainly missed your presence and hope to see you at the 2003 meeting in San Antonio, Texas, September 17 – 19, 2003. From all indications from the host committee, this will be an even bigger and better meeting—with more information and more excitement.

Again, thanks to everyone for your continued membership and involvement in the ASMHTP organization. We appreciate you and definitely look forward to seeing you next year in San Antonio, Texas, "The City of the Alamo!!!"

Sincerely,

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Harold Lockett, Chair, LifeLink
of Georgia*

*Jeffrey Thomas, Co-Chair,
Mississippi Organ Recovery
Agency*

*Lou Esther Perry, African-
American Task Force*

*Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue
Donor Network*

*R.D. Brown, National Marrow
Donor Program*
