



# ASMHTP Connections

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

*American Society of Multicultural Health and Transplant Professionals*

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## 2004 ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 27-29, 2004 DUE TO HURRICANE IVAN



Hurricane Ivan stifled travel and business in Biloxi, Mississippi, and its surrounding areas. As a result, the ASMHTP Annual Meeting has been rescheduled and will be held October 27-29, 2004. Please call the Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel at (800) 946-2946 or (228) 436-2946 to rebook your hotel stay.

All Annual Meeting registrations will be carried over to the new date. If you are unable to attend, please contact Leigh Brown at UNOS Conference Planning and Travel at (804) 782-4836, or e-mail her at [brownlc@unos.org](mailto:brownlc@unos.org). Encourage others to attend!!!

## The President's Corner



It has been a very busy and productive time serving ASMHTP, and I thank you all for your continued support and the projects that each committee is working on. As you can imagine, the Planning Committee for the annual conference is actively involved in finalizing those details. We are finalizing the clinical topics and securing exhibitors and sponsors for the meeting.

In addition, ASMHTP partnered with the Office of Minority Health for "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day." Please visit [www.omhrc.gov/healthgap/2004drday.htm](http://www.omhrc.gov/healthgap/2004drday.htm) to learn more about this initiative, which was held September 21, 2004.

Congressional staff in Washington, D.C., received a briefing about the transplant system, and I was able to share ASMHTP information with them.

I was also invited by DHHS Secretary Tommy Thompson to represent ASMHTP at the Commemoration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 held July 13 in Washington, D.C.

ASMHTP's web site, [www.asmhtp.org](http://www.asmhtp.org), has been upgraded and, with its new facelift, launched in September. We extend much gratitude and a special thanks to Michelle Tolliver and the UNOS IT department for all of their hard work in making our new web site become a reality.

Keep the faith! Encourage your colleagues, and help more people become familiar with donating life through organ and tissue donation.

Cliff McClenney  
 President



## ASMHTP Supports “Take a Loved One to the Doctor’s Day”



Are you already taking charge of your health? If so, help a family member or friend do the same thing. Regular health care, including preventive care, can enhance and extend the lives of those you love. That is why September 21st was Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day. It was a chance to encourage those you love to visit a health professional – or at least to make an appointment to visit one. Community-sponsored health events were held throughout the country on this day. It is a great way to show you care. When your loved ones are connected with the right medical care, they can find out about their health concerns. Certain health problems can be prevented and others can be treated. Please help those you love do something good for their health. Go with them to the doctor or make an appointment to see how they can take care of their health. Circle this date on your calendar for next year!

### Abstract Presentations—Sharing, Learning, Creating (Part III)

At last year’s Annual Meeting, a total of 16 abstracts were accepted: Three oral presentations and 13 poster presentations. Each of these abstracts fit the theme of the meeting which was: Bridging the Gap: Consent Among Diverse Populations. In each issue of ASMHTP Connections, we will present the summaries of a few of these presentations. Enjoy!

#### Using K/DOQI Guidelines for Chronic Kidney Disease to Identify, Assess, and Treat Kidney Dysfunction in all Solid Organ Transplant Recipients.

*C. Atkins, C. Paykin, N. Swick. National Kidney Foundation, Inc., New York.*

This study determined that transplant coordinators can use the Chronic Kidney Disease guidelines to provide proactive treatment to recipients of all organs in order to slow the progression of kidney disease, help prevent complications of kidney dysfunction, and ultimately delay or prevent the need for re-transplantation or an additional organ transplant (kidney). An understanding of K/DOQI stages can help prevent candidates with kidney dysfunction from becoming too ill to receive a transplant and can assist with timely scheduling of living kidney donor transplant.

#### HLA Mismatching and the Development of Anti-HLA Sensitization: Analysis of the UNOS Kidney Waiting List.

*Wida S. Cherikh, Ph.D., Maureen A. McBride, Ph.D., James J. Wynn, M.D. UNOS, Richmond, Virginia and Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia.*

This study examined the association between first transplant HLA mismatch and panel reactive antibody (PRA) at re-listing and the relationship between recipient ethnic group and subsequent anti-HLA sensitization.

The findings showed that patients receiving a mismatched transplant had a slight increased risk of anti-HLA sensitization compared to receiving an O-ABDR MM graft. The additional risk of anti-HLA sensitization with further degrees of HLA MM is slight and may not be significant enough to justify including

lesser levels of HLA matching in the kidney allocation algorithm.

Increase in sensitization level at re-list was associated with higher degrees of HLA MM and was greater for African Americans or Hispanics compared to Caucasians, and smaller for Asians compared to Caucasians.

#### Renal Transplant Education Program for the Hispanic Community.

*Tatiana Alvarez, RN, BSN, CCTC; Jennifer Hinkis, RN, BSN, CCTC; Carmen Flores, RN. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Newark, New Jersey.*

This abstract reviewed implementation of a community outreach program for the Hispanic community by implementing a plan that incorporates the patient and family as a unit. The “Did You Know” campaign included materials that were distributed to physician offices and dialysis centers statewide in Spanish and English. A patient and family symposium was held where evaluations were conducted. Results included an increase in the living donor program and improved compliance long-term outcomes.

#### “Link Up For Life”: An Initiative to Educate High School Students about Organ and Tissue Donation.

*L. Peoples, Mid-South Transplant Foundation, Memphis, Tennessee.*

This abstract reviewed a targeted education program for high school students that resulted in increasing awareness of donation among that target population, and motivating teens to generate a family discussion.

### Announcements

For those who just can’t wait to find out, here are the future meeting locations for the ASMHTP Annual Conference:

2005—San Francisco, California



2006—Detroit, Michigan



## More than Half of Donor Increase in 2003 from Minorities

Richmond, VA. – Data compiled by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) as of May 21, 2004, showed that there were 13,270 deceased and living organ donors in 2003. This represents an increase of 3.6% over the 12,807 organ donors in 2002. In 2003, there were 154 more Black donors and 149 more Hispanic donors than in 2002. This means that 65% of the 463 additional donors in 2003 were Black or Hispanic.

When the data were subset to deceased donors, there were 268 more donors in 2003 than in 2002. Seventy-seven (29%) of the 268 were from Black donors and 105 (39%) were from Hispanic donors. Thus, 68% of the total increase in deceased donation in 2003 were from either Black or Hispanic donors.

When the data were subset to living donors, there were 195 more donors in 2003 than in 2002. Seventy-seven (39%) of the 195 were from Black donors and 44 (23%) were from Hispanic donors. Thus, 62% of the total increase in living donations in 2003 were from either Black or Hispanic donors.

The increase in donors in 2003 occurred in the midst of intensified efforts to promote both public commitment to organ donation and health professionals' support of the donation process. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has taken a leadership role by continuing a workplace-based public educational campaign and launching an initiative to raise donation rates among the nation's largest hospitals. Other significant efforts include national public awareness campaigns targeted for minorities sponsored by the Coalition on Donation and the state and local based advocacy of the nation's 59 organ procurement organizations.

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) is operated under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Division of Transplantation, by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). The OPTN brings together medical professionals, transplant recipients, and donor families to develop organ transplantation policy.

### Don't Forget National Donor Sabbath

November 12-14, 2004



### ASMHTP Committee Reports

#### Fundraising Committee: *Chair: Shawnte Williams*

The Fundraising Committee would like to encourage members to submit information on potential sponsors/exhibitors for a commitment to ASMHTP. Thanks to all of the members who provided information regarding sponsors/exhibitors for the 2004 meeting.

#### Membership Committee: *Chair: Jeff Thomas*

The Membership Committee was very active this year recruiting new members and encouraging past members to renew their membership. As a result, membership numbers are up, but not yet at our goal. We would like to invite everyone from the transplant and donation communities to join us at our annual conference in Biloxi, Mississippi. It will be filled with educational opportunities for everyone. Remember, there is strength in numbers; join ASMHTP today.

#### Public Relations Committee: *Chair: Tereasa Parks-Thomas*

The PR Committee is always looking for exciting news for the ASMHTP Connection Newsletter. If you have something that you would like to share, please send it to us.

#### Planning Committee: *Chair: Tommy Frieson*

The 2004 Annual Meeting is Ready, Set, Go. All is in place and we want everyone to come and have a great time.

#### Multicultural Education Task Force: *Chair: Debbie Gibbs*

The Multicultural Committee has some exciting news. They have produced a new brochure for ASMHTP. It focuses on living donation but also contains general information including a description of the organization, resource guide, and a pitch for career opportunities in the procurement/transplant field.

10,000 copies of the brochure are being printed, compliments of Roche. Each person attending the ASMHTP conference in October will be given a copy. In addition, members will receive a copy in the mail along with a form to order more. The committee also plans to distribute the brochures through the UNOS traveling exhibit.

Kevin Smolen, a graphic designer with UNOS, designed the brochure to complement the new and improved ASMHTP web site, which he also designed. Both have been a long time in the making but are well worth the wait! Thanks to the committee for its hard work in making this project a reality and to Roche for providing the funding.



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**See You There!!!**

ASMHTP 12th Annual Meeting:

“Expanding the Scope of ASMHTP”

Rescheduled for:

October 27-29, 2004

Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Resort and Spa  
Biloxi, Mississippi

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*The mission of the American Society of Multicultural 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 healthcare community!*

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