



## HOWARD SURGEON CALLS FOR MORE BLACK ORGAN DONORS

By Nicole C. Edwards  
Black College Wire

The call came in at 11:15 p.m. A kidney was available from Trisha Banks, a 48-year-old white woman who had multiple medical problems and died of a massive stroke. Her kidneys weren't perfect, but Courtney Knight, a plus-sized, 34-year-old black woman had only a short time to live. She needed a kidney transplant.



Dr. Clive Callender

The ambulance carrying Banks' dead body arrived at Howard University Hospital. The paramedics asked Dr. Tenesia Lindsey, Knight's transplant surgeon, if she wanted Banks' kidney for her patient. The doctor decided to use Banks' kidney to save Knight's life despite the risk. She'd been waiting for 10 years.

Seven months later, Knight is full of energy, plays with her kids, and is getting her jewelry business off the ground.

It's a scary prospect many black patients in need of organ transplants face daily because of the number of African Americans who recoil at the thought of donating their organs, even in death. For example, the average waiting time for kidneys for transplants into black patients drives transplant surgeons to consider kidneys of lower quality. Surgeons are reporting that around the country, there is a disproportionate need for kidneys by African Americans and an under-representation of African Americans as kidney donors.

*Continued page 3*

### VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

#### In this issue:

Lead Story	<b>1,3</b>
ASMHTP Joins Progress in Transplantation	<b>1</b>
The President's Corner	<b>2</b>
ASMHTP Committee Members	<b>3</b>
2007 Year in Review	<b>3</b>

### NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008

2008 ASMHTP Board of Directors	<b>2</b>
2008 Advisory Board	<b>2</b>

## ASMHTP JOINS PROGRESS IN TRANSPLANTATION

American Society of Multicultural Health and Transplant Professionals has once again attained another milestone. We are now Journal Associate members of Progress

in Transplantation. As members of the official journal of the Transplant community ASMHTP will be the voice of diversity that comprises not only our organization but donation and transplantation at large.

Through in depth articles we will be able to publish research and be key players in establishing standards of practice.

**Volume 6**  
**Issue 1**  
**Page 1**

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tommy Frieson  
President

Victoria Dent  
President Elect

Tina Evans-Caines  
Immediate Past President

Jeff Thomas  
Treasurer

Angie Engerson  
Secretary

Members at Large

Sandy Andrada

Remonia Chapman

Monica James

Yoli Montemayor

Cathy Olmo

Kelvin Satcher

Marie Veve

Jeffrey Grahams

2008 ADVISORY BOARD

Ruth Duncan Bell  
Life Link Foundation

Scott Brubaker  
AATB

Jan Finn  
NATCO

Debbie Gibbs  
Donate Life America

Rene Hawthorne  
One Legacy, California

Bobby Howard  
Life Link Foundation

Jack Lynch  
Gift of Hope, Chicago

Cliff McClenney  
UNOS

Thomas Mone  
AOPO/One Legacy

Rudy Morgan  
Georgia Cancer Foundation

Howard Nathan  
Gift of Life, Philadelphia PA.

Paul Schwab  
AOPO

Janice Whaley  
LifeGift, Houston TX.

TAKING ASMHTP TO THE NEXT LEVEL

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*"Knowing yourself, finding your true purpose, is the essence of life."*

I always tell people that I am a servant, first. In whatever role I fulfill. My commitment to transplantation is an integral part of my life. As a proud father and husband, I believe family and friends are critical to my life. I am thankful for my wife Cassandra, who has always supported my passion and commitment to helping others through Organ and Tissue donation. I feel blessed, and honored to be elected President of ASMHTP.



2008 President Tommy Frieson.

Our goal, as a multicultural organization is to serve health and transplant professionals by providing leadership in a national capacity on matters of diversity facing the transplant industry

**I believe...** deeply in the power of others. Teamwork is the foundation of successful organizations. As President of ASMHTP I will encourage teamwork throughout all aspects of our organization. In order to help ASMHTP successfully achieve our organizational and community goals I am implementing the V.I.S.A. principles.

**Vision** – – An Organization that enhances the discipline of transplantation to positively impact the profession for people of multicultural diversity.

**Integrity** – An Organization where all operations, finances and programs meet the highest standards possible.

**Structure** – An Organization with the infrastructure to carry out its mission in a manner that is inclusive, accessible and responsive to its members.

**Accountability** – An Organization liable to its members and to the diverse communities that it serves.

As ASMHTP prepares for the future we will have systems in place that are built on these standards. This will allow ASMHTP to grow and be a model for best practice in the transplant community. ASMHTP is the only organization in transplant whose membership is reflective of the community in which we serve. Our Diversity makes us all uniquely qualified not only to address the concerns of our diverse healthcare providers but also provide care for donor families and transplant recipients in some of the most difficult times in their lives.

In the coming year, ASMHTP will focus on education, and collaboration. We plan on creating a new educational format that addresses key concerns in the areas of Consent, Hospital Development and Tissue. Our partnerships with AOPO, AATB, NATCO, Donate Life America, HRSA and others will collectively make us stronger. We will partner with the aim of building on successes in our practice. ASMHTP has already started accomplishing their goal with the establishment of our advisory board.

Lastly, I would like to encourage ASMHTP members to submit their ideas and local newsworthy events so that we can share them nationally through our newsletter.

Tommy Frieson  
2008 ASMHTP President

## 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we highlight our successes for 2007, I want to thank all of the ASMHTP members and sponsors for their continued support of the organization. The following is a summary of the accomplishments that the ASMHTP Board of Directors and Committees have made for the 2006-2007 term:

### **Membership**

Through our recruitment efforts were able to increase our membership by 42 a record number for the organization. The membership committee also developed a new organizational membership level and as of August 2007 added:

California Transplant Donor Network Gift of Hope Lifenet Health Washington Regional Transplant Consortium

### **Partnerships**

Our partnerships have yielded some great results, such as:

The Johns Hopkins University study on a Multimodular Educational Initiative on Renal Transplantation. This is created to assist nephrologists and nurses with the challenges of high risk patients.

Invitations to exhibit at AOPO, NATCO and Kidney and Urology Foundation of America annual meetings.

Appointed San Antonio Donor Family member Henrietta Peynado to represent ASMHTP at the Texas Organ, Tissue and Eye Donor Council

Collaborated with the University of Michigan Transplant Center to promote Camp Michitanki. A summer camp for children ages 8-16 who have had an organ transplant.

Through our networking efforts, Our fundraising us to break yet another record, providing the funds to necessary to achieve our goals.

### **Future Plans**

The 2008 term has begun and key steps are in place to ensure continued success. The foundation being laid for an Employment opportunities page on our website which will include links to UNOS and AOPO.



2007 President Tina Caines

## HOWARD SURGEON CALLS FOR MORE BLACK ORGAN DONORS

It's a situation that worries Dr. Clive O. Callender, chairman of the department of surgery at Howard University Hospital and founder of the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP). When he first started doing surgeries there were eight African-American donors per one million people, he said. Today, there are more than 40 per million. That is progress, but not enough, Callender said. "Blacks are winning the race from the cradle to the grave, and that's not a race we want to be winning." There are

five main reasons blacks are so reluctant to donate organs, according to Callender: lack of information, religious myths and misperceptions about transplantation. Callender said distrust for the healthcare system is quite widespread in the black community, fearing being used as "guinea pigs" for scientific experimentation. Racism with doctors, believing that their organs and tissues will go to whites instead of blacks is also a major factor, he said.

Callender understands these concerns and has held focus sessions with 20 to 70 people attending from all ethnic backgrounds where a medical professional, donor and recipient answer questions and dispel myths. He said by the end of these sessions, attendees voluntarily sign up to be donors.

Complete article can be found on  
[Blackcollegewire.org](http://Blackcollegewire.org)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
MULTICULTURAL  
HEALTH & TRANSPLANT  
PROFESSIONALS

700 N. 4th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Tel: 866-ASMHTP-1 (866-276-4871)  
Fax: 804-782-4816  
E-mail: [info@asmhtp.org](mailto:info@asmhtp.org)



Coming Soon!  
New Website 2008



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

2008 Annual Meeting  
September 17th – 19th



**SPECIAL THANKS**

*The American Society of Multicultural Health and Transplant Professional would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support. Because of your generosity we have been able to educate thousands of people in transplant and healthcare at large.*

We are committed to  
saving lives through organ  
and tissue donation.  
And we are proud to be  
members of ASMHTP.

[www.donatelifeny.org](http://www.donatelifeny.org)



For a full listing of our supporters  
or to join ASMHTP  
please visit our website:

[WWW.ASMHTP.ORG](http://WWW.ASMHTP.ORG)

Volume 6  
Issue 1  
Page 4