



ASSOCIATION OF ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Saving and improving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation

2024

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



A Milestone Year of Saving Lives

As we reflect on a record-breaking 2024, marking the 14th consecutive year of growth in deceased donation, I am thrilled to present AOPO's Year in Review. This annual publication highlights the incredible work of our members and partners, showcasing AOPO programs, educational initiatives, media presence, advocacy efforts, and impactful collaborations—all made possible by our shared mission of increasing organ donation in order to save more lives.

In 2024, an extraordinary 45,000 organs were recovered and transplanted, saving over 39,000 lives through deceased donation. These milestones reflect the generosity of donors and their families, as well as you and your team's dedication to educating the public on the importance of donation while also working with other donation and transplantation stakeholders to ensure we honor the gift.

The achievements detailed in this report, combined with the tireless efforts of our passionate members, bring us closer to realizing our goal of 50,000 annual organs transplanted in 2026. With fewer than 5,000 annual organs transplanted to go, this goal - set in 2021 to drive national improvement efforts - feels more attainable than ever.

Together, with continued innovation, expanded collaborations, a focus on health equity, and a commitment to maximizing organ utilization, we are poised to reach our goal. AOPO is strategically focused on being the leading voice advocating for organ donation and all who can benefit from transplant, optimizing OPO effectiveness to ensure maximized outcomes for every donation opportunity, and strengthening AOPO's organizational capacity to meet current and future needs.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions to this lifesaving mission. Your work is inspiring, impactful, and truly makes a difference in the lives of so many people across the country.



Steve Miller, MBA, CAE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Miller".



Mission

Lead the nation's organ donation community to save more lives.



Vision

Pursuing the day when every donation opportunity results in lives saved.

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AOPO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2024-2025 AOPO Board of Directors is elected by its members, with terms beginning each year in June. Representing members from across the country, the **Board of Directors** provides leadership and strategic direction for the Association.



Dorrie Dils
President

Gift of Life Michigan



Jeff Trageser
President-Elect

Lifesharing



Colleen McCarthy
Past President

Versiti Organ & Tissue



Terry Shambles
Secretary-Treasurer

Midwest Transplant Network



Luke Shen, MD
Medical Advisor

Texas Organ Sharing Alliance



**Stephanie Pouch, MD,
MS, FAST**
Medical Advisor-Elect

LifeLink of Georgia



Clint Hostetler
At Large Member

LifeShare of Oklahoma



Jennifer Prinz
At Large Member

Donor Alliance



Kevin Stump
OPO Representative

Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency



Christy Tosney
OPO Representative

DonorConnect



Kurt Shutterly
OPO Representative

Center for Organ Recovery & Education



Rick Hasz
OPO Representative

Gift of Life Donor Program

AOPO STAFF

The **AOPO team** is a committed, professional group of individuals dedicated to providing support, resources, and information to help save lives through organ and tissue donation. Reach out to us at any time - we are here for you!



Megan Cantwell
Program Manager



Roxane Cauwels, MBA
Director of Program Operations
Executive Director, AOPO
Foundation



Laura Collins
Event Planner



Jenny Daigle, MS
Director of
Communications



Max Daniel, MSW
Data Analyst



Robert Falb
Director of
Government Affairs



Mary Delaney Fox
Public Affairs Coordinator



Steve Miller, MBA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer



Kimberly Mydland, CAE
Chief Operating Officer



Denise Sears
Senior Program Manager



Setareh Soltani-Nia
Manager of Brand & Social Media



Katie Sturgeon
Office Assistant

AOPO FOUNDATION

The **AOPO Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to advancing research and innovation in organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Through its efforts, the Foundation supports the development of new knowledge and practices to further the mission of saving lives. In 2024, the Foundation opened its first grant cycle to fund impactful research initiatives.



**ASSOCIATION OF ORGAN
PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS
FOUNDATION**



Mission

Advancing research focused on improving all aspects of organ and tissue donation for transplantation.



Joe Nespral, MD, CPTC
President

Texas Organ Sharing Alliance



Tasha Flowers, CPA, CGMA
Secretary-Treasurer

ARORA



Terry Shambles
Secretary-Treasurer Elect

Midwest Transplant Network



Suzanne Conrad

Iowa Donor Network



Kyle Herber

Live On Nebraska



Bill Leinweber

*National Disease Research
Interchange (NDRI)*



Lori Markham

*Midwest Transplant
Network*



Tom Mone

*OneLegacy
Foundation*



Michael Moritz, MD

*Gift of Life Donor
Program*



Marty Sellers, MD

*Gift of Life Donor
Program*

2024 INDUSTRY PARTNERS

AOPO is grateful for the ongoing and generous support from our **Industry Partner** organizations. Click on each partner's logo to learn more about their contributions to advancing organ donation and transplantation.

PLATINUM LEVEL



GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



2024 COMMITTEE LEADERS

We are grateful for the chairs, vice chairs, and members of our eight AOPO Committees. Their dedication and collaborative efforts have been vital to advancing our mission and achieving meaningful progress this year.

Advocacy



Salama Gallimore
Chair

Midwest Transplant Network



Susan Mau Larson
Vice-Chair

LifeSource

Samantha Blaz *Lifesharing*

Danielle Burmarch *HonorBridge*

Theresa Daly *Lifelink Foundation*

Michael Kenney *Center for Organ Recovery and Education*

Anne Krueger *Versiti Organ and Tissue*

Lisa Paolillo *New England Donor Services*

Kevin Stump *Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency*

Craig Van de Walker *Cascade Life Alliance*

Jan Weinstock *Gift of Life Donor Program*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging



Ingrid Palacios
Chair

New England Donor Services



Clifton McClenney
Vice-Chair

Life Alliance

Teresa Aguiar *DonorConnect*

Serena Altamirano *Donor Alliance*

AJ Gardener *Center for Organ Recovery and Education*

Kyla Aquino Irving *Sierra Donor Services*

Ieasha Johnson *Infinite Legacy*

Cassandra McLendon *Legacy of Hope*

Melissa Montrope, PhD *Life Alliance*

Matt Niles *Network for Hope*

Michael Pollock *LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services*

Nichole Salaam *LifeSource*

Data



Brandon McKown
Chair

New England Donor Services



Kristin Delli Carpini
Vice-Chair

Gift of Life Michigan

Nicole Berry *LifeNet Health*

Greg Collins *Iowa Donor Network*

Robert Glazner *Donor Network of Arizona*

Stacey Hay *Versiti Organ and Tissue*

Christy Keahey *Legacy of Hope*

Rachael Ketcham *LifeShare of Oklahoma*

Paula Lawrence *LifeLink Foundation*

Bruno Mastroianni *Center for Organ Recovery and Education*

Caitlin Miller *Gift of Life Michigan*

Jennifer Muriett *Donor Alliance*

David O'Hara *NJ Sharing Network*

Noell Olsen *Cascade Life Alliance*

Andre Romain *Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency*

Tom Seto *OneLegacy*

Alicia Skeen *Infinite Legacy*

Christy Tonsey *DonorConnect*

Mike Vazquez *Lifesharing*

Finance



Terry Shambles
Chair

Midwest Transplant Network

Barbara Drobney *Lifebanc*

Tasha Flowers *ARORA*

Dawn Hense *Versiti Organ and Tissue*

Sal LaMantia *NJ Sharing Network*

Kirk Mizelle *HonorBridge*

Elena Sandoval *Lifesharing*

2024 COMMITTEE LEADERS

Leadership Development



Sara Levinson
Chair

Nevada Donor Network



Jeff Wisniewski
Vice-Chair

Gift of Life Michigan

Jan Finn *Midwest Transplant Network*
Jill Grandas *DCI Donor Services*
Faith Hilterbrand *Lifeline of Ohio*
Todd Hubler *LifeNet Health*
Leonard Licina *Legacy of Life Hawai'i*
Kelsie McClendon *Donor Network of Arizona*
Jason Morton *LifeShare Network*
Susan Rabel *LifeLink of Florida*
Andrew Shunk *Tennessee Donor Services*
Caitlin Stephen *Gift of Hope*
Kevin Stump *Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency*

OPO IMPACT



Melinda Locklear
Chair
HonorBridge



Blanca Cohen
Vice-Chair
OneLegacy

Joel Baucom *HonorBridge*
Sara Bowman *DonorConnect*
Debra Cooper *Lifebanc*
Kayla Forman *Iowa Donor Network*
Robbie Glazner *Donor Network of Arizona*
Emily Goldbloom *Infinite Legacy*
Grace Harcek *Donor Alliance*
Bailey Heiting *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Cassie Hertert *Donor Alliance*
Christy Houston *Midwest Transplant Network*
Sara Pace Jones *Donor Network of Arizona*
Jennifer McNary-McIlvain *Mid-South Transplant Foundation*
Gwen O'Shaughnessy *Gift of Life Donor Program*
Jaclyn Russe *Nevada Donor Network*
Carolyn Welsh *NJ Sharing Network*
Brandon Williams *LifeSource*

Programs & Education



Jessica Yokubeak
Chair

Center for Organ Recovery and Education



Kristen Deyling
Vice-Chair

Lifebanc

Jessica Brown *Network for Hope*
Brooke Garvis *Midwest Transplant Network*
Stephanie Gonzalez *Lifesharing*
Melissa Hengesteg *Iowa Donor Network*
Angela Hockman *Center for Organ Recovery and Education*
David Johnson, Jr. *HonorBridge*
Jenna LaSota *Network for Hope*
Michelle Moring *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Jaclyn Russe *Nevada Donor Network*
Julie Schneider *Iowa Donor Network*
Mita Shah, MD *Lifesharing*
Megan R Sopher *HonorBridge*
DeAnna Strand *Gift of Life Michigan*

Strategic Planning



Jeff Trageser
Chair
Lifesharing

Mike Anderson *UW Organ and Tissue Donation*
Kenny Boyd *Infinite Legacy*
Suzanne Conrad *Iowa Donor Network*
Dave DeStefano *We Are Sharing Hope SC*
Dorrie Dils *Gift of Life Michigan*
Jan Finn *Midwest Transplant Network*
Santokh Gill *LifeCenter Northwest*
Kevin Gramlich *ConnectLife*
Colleen McCarthy *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Andrew Mullins *Lifeline of Ohio*
Sean Van Slyck *Sierra Donor Services*
Chuck Zollinger *DonorConnect*

SAVING LIVES BY THE NUMBERS

2024: FOURTEEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF LIFESAVING WORK

The 2024 **year-end data** from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) highlights record-breaking increases in organ donation and transplantation. These numbers represent more than statistics — they reflect stories of generosity, hope, and lives transformed. Behind every donor is a story of generosity that lives on, and behind every transplant is a life forever changed.



16,988

DECEASED

ORGAN DONORS

↑ 4%

INCREASE
FROM 2023



45,217

ORGANS

TRANSPLANTED

↑ 3.7%

INCREASE
FROM 2023

14th

CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF
INCREASED DECEASED
ORGAN DONATION

132

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS
PERFORMED EVERY DAY
ON AVERAGE

23.5%

INCREASE IN DONATION
AFTER CIRCULATORY
DETERMINATION OF
DEATH (DCDD) DONORS

HONORING THE GIFT OF LIFE

AOPO deeply appreciates the heroes who have selflessly donated organs, eyes, and tissues, touching many lives and providing hope to those awaiting transplants. We proudly host the annual **Donor Remembrance Day**, to honor these individuals and their families, recognizing their generous contributions as a core part of our mission.



Lisa Marie Beverly

NJ Sharing Network (New Providence, NJ)

“Lisa passed away unexpectedly at the age of 40. She knew early on as an ICU nurse that she wanted to be an organ donor. Five lives have been changed forever and she impacted many others with her tissue donation. She gave the ultimate and everlasting gift of life and will always be in our hearts. Thankful for the NJ Sharing Network for their support.”



Donor
Remembrance
Day
APRIL 30TH

Donor Hero Spotlight



Isabella Rose Gonzalez

“Bella was the embodiment of innocence and grace. The world was her stage, and every moment was a performance of love and passion. Bella's final and most generous act of giving back was being an organ donor and providing the gift of sight.”



Adam Cox

Infinite Legacy
(Baltimore, MD and Falls Church, VA)

“Adam dedicated his life to saving the lives of many strangers throughout his career. I miss Adam so very much, but I am comforted by the fact that he lives on through others by being an organ and tissue donor. I will forever be thankful for everyone at Infinite Legacy for the support they have given me during a tough time.”



2024 AOPO Donor Remembrance Day - Honoring Donor Heroes

Donor Hero Remembrance Garden

AOPO Donor Remembrance Day received **800+** Donor Hero dedications this year with over **3,200** stories shared in the garden!

AOPO IN THE MEDIA

Throughout the past year, AOPO continued to raise awareness and amplify the message of organ donation and transplantation through strategic media outreach, shining a light on our lifesaving mission.



NPR released a two-part segment focused on the organ donation process and Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP). AOPO helped coordinate the media opportunity, and reporter Rob Stein shadowed the donation process and NRP cases at Tennessee Donor Services. The final stories highlight the benefits of NRP and the care OPOs take in honoring donors and saving lives.

Part One:

[Doctors Try a Controversial Technique to Reduce the Transplant Organ Shortage](#)

Part Two:

[Transplant Surgeons Are Using a New, Controversial Procedure to Retrieve Organs](#)



Dr. Marty Sellers and his team from Tennessee Donor Services perform a NRP organ recovery. Jessica Tezak for NPR

TRANSPLANTS

How We Can Transplant More Donated Organs and Save More Lives



A look into the bold solutions underway to address the rising issue of organ nonuse.



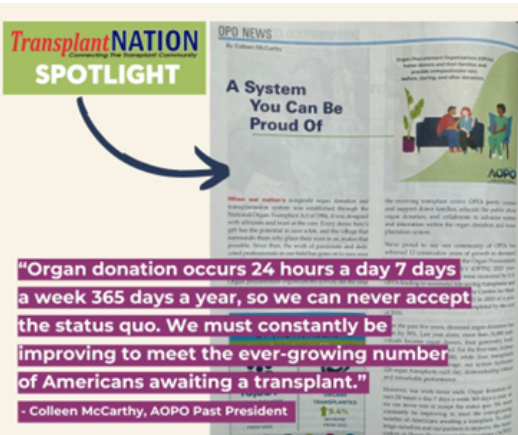
Dorrie Dils
President, Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO)



mediaplanet

[“How We Can Transplant More Donated Organs and Save More Lives”](#)

AOPO joined Mediaplanet’s national **[Donation & Transplant Campaign](#)**, featured in USA Today. AOPO President Dorrie Dils contributed an editorial discussing the rise in organ nonuse, particularly with kidney donations, and highlighting solutions underway.



AOPO was featured in **[Transplant Life Foundation’s TransplantNATION](#)** magazine, a publication dedicated to inspiring stories of courage and innovation in the donation and transplant community. The article, titled **[“A System You Can Be Proud Of,”](#)** authored by AOPO’s Immediate Past President, Colleen McCarthy, highlights the dedication and strength of OPOs in saving lives.

AOPO IN THE MEDIA

AOPO PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS



Press Releases

- [AOPO Commemorates 40th Anniversary of Federal Law Creating the U.S. Organ Donation and Transplantation System and Saving Over 1 Million Lives](#)
- [AOPO Highlights Disturbing Crisis: Thousands of Kidney Patients who Died Waiting for Organs in 2023 Could Have Been Saved](#)
- [AOPO Receives 2024 Power of Associations Gold Award for Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCU\) & OPO Task Force](#)
- [AOPO Names 2024-2025 President and Board of Directors](#)
- [AOPO Recognizes OPO Leader Jan Finn with Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [U.S. Organ Procurement Organizations are Strong, CMS Rule Threatens Future Success of Donation System](#)
- [U.S. Organ Procurement Organizations Recovered Over 43,000 Organs Which Were Successfully Transplanted in 2023, Marking Thirteen Years of Consistent Growth in Deceased Donation](#)

Statements

- [Statement From Donation and Transplant Community](#)
- [AOPO Response to NPR Segment on Kentucky Organ Donor Case](#)
- [AOPO Statement in Support of Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act](#)
- [Transplant Advocates: Campaign of Misinformation Causing Drop in Registered Organ Donors and Threatening Lives of Patients](#)
- [The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations Applauds New ARPA-H Project to Address Nonuse of Donor Kidneys](#)
- [AOPO Statement on OPTN Modernization Contract Awards](#)
- [AOPO Statement on House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Hearing Claim & Determination of Death Clarification](#)
- [AOPO Statement on Organ Transplantation Hearing by House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee](#)
- [AOPO Statement on Kidney Assessment in Black Donors to Prevent Organ Nonuse](#)
- [AOPO Supports the Passage of the FAA Reauthorization Bill](#)
- [The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations Refutes The Washington Post's Framing of OPO Operations](#)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The AOPO Advocacy Committee works to promote effective policies that enhance organ donation and transplantation in the U.S. By collaborating with policymakers in Congress and allied stakeholders, they help ensure a strong, ethical donation system focused on saving more lives.

AOPO's 2024 Congressional Fly-In Was a Big Success!

During the AOPO Annual Advocacy Day, over 50 AOPO members representing 22 OPOs met with 77 Members of Congress and their staff. These discussions highlighted the vital role OPOs play in their communities and within the donation and transplantation system.



OneLegacy

Tom Mone, Rep. Julia Brownley's Office



LifeShare of Oklahoma

Clint Hostetler, Jeff Orlowski, Rep. Stephanie Bice, Katy Smith



HonorBridge

Danielle Bumarch, Chuck Heald, Rep. Greg Murphy, Kirk Mizelle



Barry Massa (Network for Hope), Colleen McCarthy (Versiti), and Steve Miller (AOPO)

AOPO's State Legislation and Regulation Tracking Service

AOPO, in collaboration with the Eye Bank Association of American (EBAA), and the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), introduced an exclusive benefit for members: a state legislation and regulation tracking service through Statescape. This offering enables OPO members to monitor the progress of key legislation and regulations in the states of their choosing.



OPO Congressional Connect Program



AOPO launched the Congressional Connect program to strengthen relationships between OPO members and federal legislators. This initiative aims to position OPOs as trusted resources for policymakers, fostering support for organ donation advocacy and advancing transplantation policy.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

AOPO RESPONSE LETTERS

Comments and Letters to CMS



- [July 2024 - AOPO Responds to CMS IOTA Proposal](#)
- [February 2024 - AOPO Response to CMS Pancreas for Research Definition Clarification Memo](#)

Comments and Letters to Congress



- [October 2024 - AOPO Cosigns Letter to Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act Sponsors](#)
- [September 2024 - AOPO has submitted a statement for the hearing record](#)
- [April 2024 - AOPO Joint Letter on FY25 HRSA OPTN Appropriations](#)

Comments and Letters to HHS



- [October 2024 - AOPO Supports HOPE Act Proposed Rule](#)

Comments and Letters to HRSA



- [November 2024 - AOPO Response to NRP Critical Comment Letter](#)
- [September 2024 - AOPO OPTN Modernization Priorities](#)
- [March 2024 - AOPO Response: OPTN & Contractor Boards](#)
- [March 2024 - Joint Letter to HRSA on OPTN Modernization Initiative](#)

Comments and Letters to OPTN



- [November 2024 - AOPO Comments on OPTN Bylaws Change Proposal](#)
- [September 2024 - AOPO Response to OPTN 2024 Summer Policy Proposals](#)
- [October 2024 - AOPO Endorses OPTN “Graft Survival Performance Metric” Proposal](#)
- [March 2024 - AOPO Comments on OPTN 2024 Winter Policy Proposals](#)

Advancing Organ Transportation



AOPO is working to enhance organ transportation efficiency by calling for regulatory changes to permit “above the wing” organ transport on commercial flights and advocating for safe, innovative transportation methods such as drone utilization.

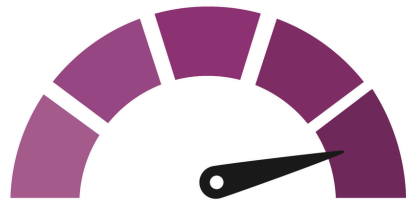
- [September 2024 - AOPO Outreach to Southwest Airlines on Organ Transport Suspension](#)
- [June 2024 - FAA Committee Thank you Letter](#)
- [June 2024 - AOPO stakeholder letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation \(DoT\) and the FAA Administrator](#)
- [June 2024 - Workgroup To Assess Donor Organ Air Travel, From Cargo To Cabin](#)
- [March 2024 - AOPO Endorses Senate “Above the Wing” Approach](#)
- [January 2024 - Stakeholder Sign-On Letter for “Above Wing” in FAA the Reauthorization Bill](#)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

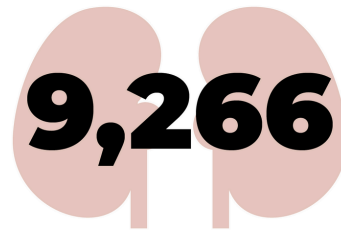
ADDRESSING ORGAN NONUSE

AOPO remains committed to reducing organ nonuse and ensuring every viable organ has the opportunity to save a life. Through advocacy efforts, public awareness initiatives, and collaboration with key stakeholders, we strive to overcome barriers and improve organ utilization nationwide.

THE REALITY OF KIDNEY NONUSE



83% increase in kidney nonuse over the last five years



9,266 kidneys were recovered but not transplanted in 2024 alone

Contributing Factors of Kidney Nonuse



Allocation and Matching System

Time Constraints

Transportation Logistics

Transplant Center Resources and Staffing Shortage

Organ Quality

Donation Growing at a Faster Rate than Transplant



Learn More About Organ Nonuse
www.aopo.org/50k-transplants/organ-utilization

Based on OPTN Data as of January 13, 2025. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

AOPO Response Comments and Letters

- [September 2024 - ARPA-H Funds Project on Kidney Utilization](#)
- [May 2024 - AOPO Comment on Protocol 1: Expeditious Placement of Kidneys](#)
- [February 2024 - AOPO Response to OPTN Expedited Variance Placement Proposal](#)

COLLABORATING TO SAVE LIVES

In our commitment to save more lives, AOPO has forged impactful collaborations with various partner organizations, aligning our efforts to save more lives. These partnerships are pivotal in driving innovations and strategies that significantly advance our mission in organ donation and transplantation.



AOPO is a **co-sponsor** of the **HRSA DoNation Campaign**, aimed at promoting organ donation in workforces across the United States. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of registered donors from all communities.



AOPO, in partnership with the Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance (**The Alliance**) and the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (**AMAT**), launched a complimentary webinar series titled, **“Community Connection: Interreligious Dialogues on Organ Donation and Transplantation”**. Recordings of the series are available on The Alliance’s **website**.



AOPO partnered with **Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA)** for their second annual **Campus Challenge**. SODA teams from high schools, colleges, and graduate schools hosted registration drives and educational events and volunteered with their OPO to educate their fellow students about the importance of organ donation.

Congratulations to the Campus Challenges winners: Warren County Career Center - Atrium Campus, University of Colorado Boulder, and Duke University School of Medicine.

23,389

PEOPLE EDUCATED ABOUT ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONATION

278

PEOPLE REGISTERED AS ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONORS

COLLABORATING TO SAVE LIVES

JOINT MEETINGS

Transplant Growth Collaboratives



In 2024, several OPOs hosted Transplant Growth Collaboratives, endorsed by the OPTN Expeditious Action Task Force. These events featured leading industry experts, including representatives from some of the nation's top-performing transplant programs, who shared valuable insights and strategies to overcome barriers to transplantation. A total of five Transplant Growth Collaboratives were held, bringing together OPOs, transplant programs, and hospital leaders to exchange successful practices and drive improvements in transplantation rates.



John Edwards, Clinical Operations Administrator at Gift of Life Donor Program, presenting findings from the AOPO NRP Task Force survey on NRP practices at OPOs.

AOPO, along with **ASTS**, **AST**, **Gift of Life Institute**, and **The Alliance**, hosted the **2024 National Collaboration Forum** in Denver, Colorado, focusing on “Developing National NRP Best Practices and Approaches.”

The event brought together leading experts from various sectors of the donation and transplantation community for an intensive two-day forum dedicated to normothermic regional perfusion (NRP). Participants engaged in insightful discussions and collaborative efforts to identify and advance best practices, ensuring the continued evolution and effectiveness of NRP methodologies.

DEIB: PROGRESS AND PARTNERSHIPS

AOPO's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) is essential to creating an equitable donation and transplantation system. By fostering strategic partnerships and inclusive practices, we aim to ensure our mission reaches and resonates with all communities.

HBCU Programs

AOPO collaborates with Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Medical Schools to develop pilot programs that increase the representation of Black health professionals in the organ donation and transplantation field. These programs also focus on public outreach, providing education and awareness to communities of color.



Tennessee Donor Services
an extraordinary commitment to science, health and hope



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
Infinite
Legacy



OneLegacy
saving lives through
organ, eye & tissue donation

MOREHOUSE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

LifeLink
of Georgia

HBCU in the Media



“Morehouse School Of Medicine Partners With LifeLink Of Georgia To Combat Organ Donation Disparities”

“Program to Train More Black Surgeons in Organ Donation, Transplants to Combat Racial Disparities”

AOPO Receives ASAE Power of Associations Gold Award



AOPO was honored with the 2024 Power of Associations Gold Award from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) for the HBCU-OPO Task Force. The award, ASAE's highest honor, recognizes associations that go beyond their core mission to make a meaningful impact on America and the world.

EDUCATING TO ADVANCE DONATION

AOPO is committed to advancing education and collaboration within the organ donation and transplantation community, empowering members to implement best practices and save more lives.

882 donation professionals attended the AOPO Annual Meeting



Donyale Padgett, PhD, Dianna Deis, Nichole Salaam, DeAndre Lipscomb



AOPO 2024 President's Address - Dorrie Dils



AOPO's IMPACT (Improvement in Action) aims to administer an OPO needs assessment and equip OPOs with recommendations and tools to operate more efficiently and effectively. In 2024, the program educated 5 new OPOs, totaling 11 OPOs since the program's inception.



AOPO CEO, Steve Miller with AOPO Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Jan Finn and Immediate Past-President, Colleen McCarthy



Texas Organ Sharing Alliance CEO, Joe Nespral



Earlier this year, AOPO introduced a new AOPOplus platform to enhance networking, knowledge sharing, and member engagement, providing access to community forums, resources, webinars, and event information. The AOPOedu online webinar series recordings are available for our members on [AOPOplus](#).

DRIVING RESEARCH INNOVATION

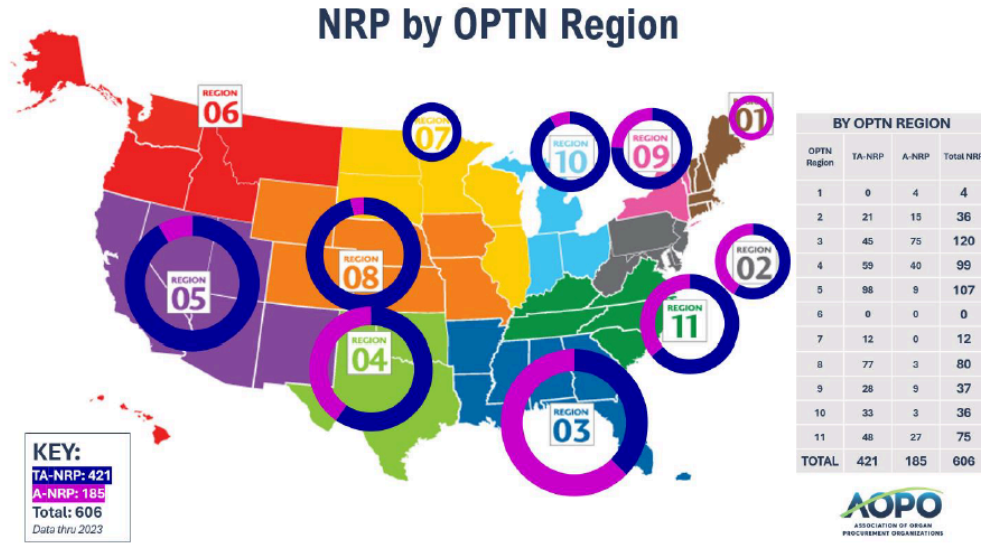
Research and innovation are central to AOPO's mission of advancing organ donation and transplantation. Through groundbreaking studies and collaborative efforts, we address challenges, refine practices, and work to save more lives.

AOPO Research Published in JAMA



Normothermic Regional Perfusion Experience of Organ Procurement Organizations in the US

Marty T. Sellers, MD, MPH; Jennifer L. Philip, MD; Aleah L. Brubaker, MD, PhD; Roxane L. Cauwels, MBA; Kristopher P. Croome, MD, MS; Jordan R. Hoffman, MD; Nikole A. Neidlinger, MD, MBA; Andrea M. Reynolds, BFA; Anji E. Wall, MD, PhD; John M. Edwards, RN



The AOPO research, Normothermic Regional Perfusion Experience of Organ Procurement Organizations in the US, was published in JAMA on October 24, 2024.

This nationwide survey, conducted with full OPO participation, assessed NRP practices through 2023 and highlighted the need for standardized guidelines to increase organ availability. As NRP adoption expands, understanding its impact on donor hospitals, transplant centers, donor families, and recipients remains critical. To support this growth, the AOPO NRP Task Force is actively developing best practices to guide OPOs.

AOPO NRP Task Force



The AOPO NRP Workgroup was established in July 2023 by the AOPO Board of Directors to guide the operationalization of NRP. This diverse group, comprising experts with experience in OPOs, transplant centers, and perfusion, focuses on developing effective practices, professional development strategies, and public education initiatives to enhance the success and understanding of NRP.

DATA INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

The AOPO Data Committee brings together leaders in data and business intelligence from the OPO community to collaborate on impactful projects and reports. The dedication of OPO data professionals is instrumental in transforming analysis into actionable insights that advance organ donation and transplantation.

CMS Metrics Task Force



The CMS Metrics Task Force is responsible for scoping, modeling, building, launching, and validating a predictive tool to help OPOs assess their own performance in relation to the CMS performance report.

100% of OPOs participate in the CMS Metrics Project

AOPO UNION Data Project



The UNION Data Project consists of 40 OPOs committed to utilizing comparative data to derive business intelligence insights from their OPOs and their peers. The data set has grown over 900,000 records and includes various aspects of business continuity that OPOs need to drive process improvements in the industry.

40 OPOs have committed to the UNION Data Project

ACIN System Migration



Throughout 2024, AOPO staff implemented enhancements and successfully transitioned the ACIN system in-house. Extensive testing and refinement have enhanced the management of organ recovery personnel confirmation. A dedicated task force finalized the minimum standards for entering recovery personnel, including third-party staff, ensuring a seamless and effective system.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN LEADERSHIP

In 2024, AOPO staff members were recognized for their outstanding contributions and leadership in advancing organ donation and transplantation. These honors reflect their dedication to excellence and their commitment to saving more lives.

AOPO Program Manager, Megan Cantwell was honored with the **Association Women Technology Champions (AWTC)** Leadership Award. This award recognizes exceptional career achievements and leadership in association technology, celebrating individuals who drive advancements and make a lasting impact beyond their organizations.



AOPO Director of Communications, Jenny Daigle, was selected as a participant in the exclusive **ASAE Next Gen Association Summit**. This honor recognizes her leadership potential and provides opportunities to build skills, expand her network, and drive meaningful impact within the association community.

AOPO CEO Steve Miller was honored with the prestigious **"Association Leadership Stars"** award by **DCA Live**. This recognition celebrates Steve's exceptional leadership and dedication to advancing organ, eye, and tissue donation, driving AOPO's mission to save more lives.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

AOPO connects with communities nationwide through engaging social media content that raises awareness about organ donation and transplantation. Follow us to join the conversation and help save lives.

500+

SOCIAL POSTS

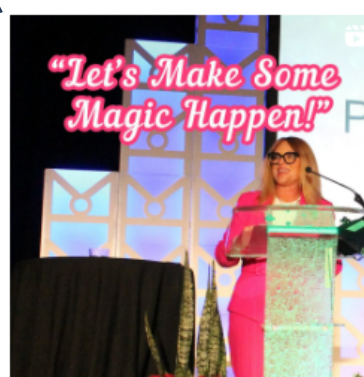
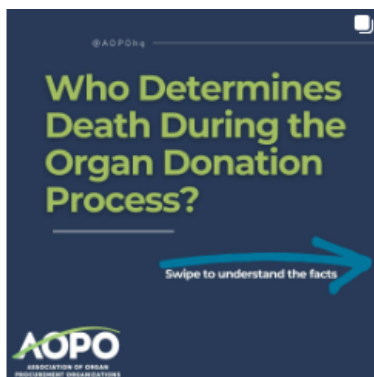
1,800+

NEW FOLLOWERS

331,628

IMPRESSIONS ACROSS ALL SOCIAL PLATFORMS

#AOPO50K



Stay Connected!

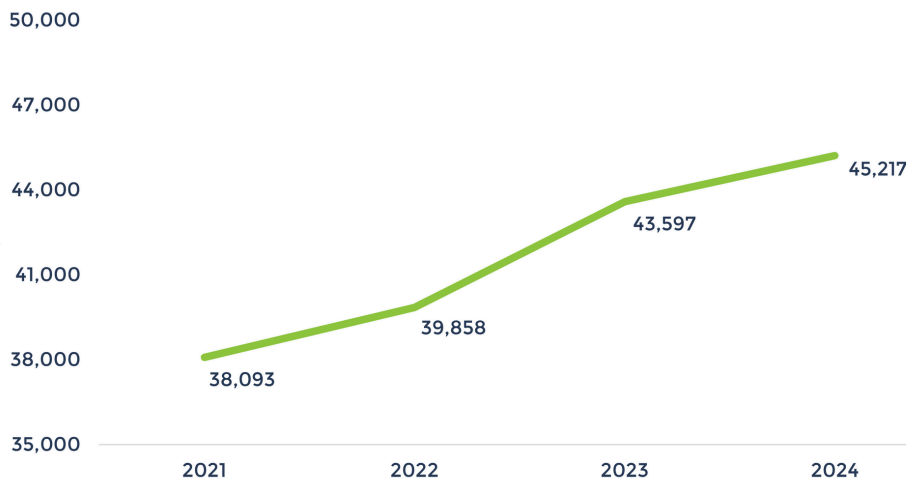


ON THE PATH TO 50,000 ANNUAL ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

2024 represents a milestone in our journey toward achieving 50,000 annual organ transplants in 2026. With just under 5,000 transplants to go, our progress demonstrates the dedication of our members and the generosity of donors and their families. By continuing to expand collaboration, drive innovation, maximize organ utilization, and reduce health inequities, we remain steadfast in our mission to honor the gift of life and save even more lives.



Organs Transplanted From Deceased Donors



EXPAND COLLABORATION

DRIVE INNOVATION

MAXIMIZE ORGAN UTILIZATION

REDUCE HEALTH INEQUITIES

Register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor:
RegisterMe.org/AOPO50K

Stay informed about news and updates:
www.aopo.org/50K-Transplants