

AOPO 2025 Annual Meeting

June 22 – 24 | Denver, CO | #AOPOAM25



AGENDA

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 22 nd		Room
6:45 AM – 1:30 PM	Golf Classic benefitting the AOPO Foundation <i>Separate registration required.</i>	
8:30 AM – 7:00 PM	Registration Open	
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Data Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Public Affairs Meeting <i>(OPO members only)</i>	
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Advocacy Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	DEIB Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Finance Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Information Technology & Data Communities of Practice	
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Education & Training Community of Practice	
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Financial Management Community of Practice <i>(Closed meeting for OPO Finance staff only)</i>	
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Hospital Development Community of Practice	
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Strategic Planning Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Leadership Development Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	OPO Impact Committee <i>(Committee members only)</i>	
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	AOPO OPTN Engagement Task Force <i>(Task Force members only)</i>	
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	President's Reception <i>(Invitation Only)</i>	
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	GRAND OPENING RECEPTION IN THE EXHIBIT HALL – ALL ATTENDEES	Exhibit Hall

APOPO 2025 Annual Meeting

June 22 – 24 | Denver, CO | #APOAM25



MONDAY, JUNE 23RD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PLENARY SESSIONS

Open to all registered attendees

Monday, June 23rd

Time	Session	Room
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration Open	
7:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors	

Welcome!

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM



Welcome to Denver!

Jennifer Prinz

President/CEO

Donor Alliance

APOPO Board, At Large Member

**Welcome to the 42nd APOPO Annual Meeting:
50K in 2026**



Kristen Deyling

Compliance & Learning Development Specialist

Lifebanc

APOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair

Connect to Purpose



8:40 AM – 8:55 AM



Connect to Purpose

Julia Renz

President

Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA) at CU Boulder

2-time Heart Recipient

Validated Metrics

8:55 AM – 9:55 AM

Empowering Transparency: Independent Validated Metrics to Elevate OPO Performance

AOPO is partnering with Econometrica, Inc., a research and management firm, to advance CMS's progress in developing independently validated metrics for measuring OPO performance. With 54 OPOs committed, this initiative is a major step toward strengthening the organ donation and transplantation system. We are advocating for strong metrics that will offer the public a true picture of OPO performance, accurately defining its role in saving lives and delivering valuable data insights that support our system partners and oversight bodies.



Jan Finn

President/CEO
Midwest Transplant
Validated Metrics Task Force Co-Chair
AOPO Leadership Development Committee



Barry Massa

CEO
Network for Hope
Validated Metrics Task Force Co-Chair



Jean O'Connor, JD, DrPH, FACHE

Director of the Health Practice Group
[ECONOMETRICA, INC.](#)

President's Address

9:55 AM – 10:30 AM

President's Address

Join us for the President's Address, where Dorrie Dills, President of AOPO, will share reflections on the past year's accomplishments. This session will highlight key initiatives, celebrate member contributions, and explore the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Don't miss this inspiring and unifying moment as we come together to reaffirm our mission and energize our collective path forward.



Dorrie Dills

President/CEO
Gift of Life Michigan
AOPO President



Moderator:


Steve Miller

CEO
AOPO





10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors

Advocacy

<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Monday, June 23rd</p> <div data-bbox="290 613 391 735"></div> <div data-bbox="290 758 391 879"></div> <div data-bbox="298 913 399 1035"></div>	<p>The Power of Advocacy: Updates, Insights, and Inspirations</p> <p>Join us for an inspiring session that explores how advocacy continues to shape progress and policy in our communities. This plenary will highlight the latest developments, tools, and strategies that empower advocates to amplify their impact. From grassroots mobilization to legislative wins, discover how collective action is driving meaningful change—and how you can be part of the movement.</p> <p>Susan Mau Larson Chief Administrative Officer <i>LifeSource</i> AOPPO Advocacy Committee Chair</p> <p>Lisa Paolillo Chief Legal Officer <i>New England Donor Services</i> AOPPO Advocacy Committee Vice Chair</p> <p>Mark Tudor CEO <i>ARORA</i> AOPPO Advocacy Committee</p>	
<p>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</p>	<p>Networking Lunch with Exhibitors</p>	
<p>12:00 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	<p>OPO CEO Lunch and Annual Business Meeting <i>(Closed Session for member OPO CEOs only)</i></p>	
<p>12:00 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Medical Directors Lunch and Meeting <i>(Closed Session)</i></p>	

Breakout Impact Sessions Monday, June 23rd		
TIME	A - Impact Sessions	ROOM
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships		
Collaborative Partnerships Monday, June 23rd 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM    	<p>Turning the Tide of Medical Mistrust: How Working Hand in Hand with Communities Can Help Build Trust</p> <p>By working together, healthcare systems and OPO's can better understand and meet the unique needs of diverse populations, ensuring that care is both effective and culturally sensitive. The focus is on building genuine relationships, engaging in transparent communication, and empowering communities through education and involvement. This approach aims to transform healthcare delivery, making it more inclusive and trustworthy for all.</p> <p>Audrey Holtzman Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager <i>Network for Hope</i> OPO Partners With Health Agency to Bring Preventative Health Education to Black Men AOPO DEIB Committee</p> <p>Randy Presant Vice President Public Affairs & Family Services <i>Gift of Life Donor Program</i> Data-driven, People-focused, Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Outreach</p> <p>Demia Kandi Executive Diversity Consultant A Model for Change: Amplifying Black Voices in Organ Donation Through Collaborative Partnerships</p> <p>Moderator: leesha Johnson Director of Community Outreach and AMAT President <i>Infinite Legacy</i></p>	

DCD, uDCD, NRP & Preservation

DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Monday, June 23rd
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM



Go With the Flow: The Life-Saving Impact of NRP

NRP is reshaping the organ recovery landscape, increasing utilization, reducing non-use, and ensuring broader access to high-quality grafts. This session explores how OPO-driven NRP programs are improving equity, cost efficiency, and consistency in practice—leading to more life-saving transplants and a future where more DCD donors can contribute to the gift of life.

Nathan Fine

Transplant Partnership Manager

Donor Network of Arizona

Implementation of an OPO-driven Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP)

Program: Lessons Learned, Lives Saved

John Edwards

Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations

Gift of Life Donor Program

OPO Based Normothermic Regional Perfusion Program - A Shifting Landscape

AOPO NRP Task Force Chair

AOPO 2025 Annual Meeting

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Data & Innovation

Data & Innovation

Monday, June 23rd
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM



Bo Allen

Software Engineer

Donor Alliance

Enhancing Data Collaboration and Automation through a Versatile Data Sharing Platform



Cassie Hertert

Director of Information Systems

Donor Alliance

**Why, When, and Where: Aligning Process Knowledge & Business Intelligence
AOPO Data Committee**



Andrew Sigond

Director of Hospital & Community Services

Center for Donation & Transplant

Increase Referrals, Authorizations, Donors, and Transplants via Interoperability



Christian Rivas

Director of Products & Services

InVita Healthcare Technologies

Increase Referrals, Authorizations, Donors, and Transplants via Interoperability

Organ Allocation & Utilization

Organ Allocation and Utilization

Monday, June 23rd
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM



Urine Luck: Smarter Kidney Allocation Strategies That Work

Maximizing kidney utilization requires innovation, collaboration, and a fresh approach to allocation. This session explores regional strategies for placing high-KDPI kidneys and cutting-edge allocation models designed to accelerate transplant access, ensuring that more kidneys find the right recipients faster.

Casey O'Brien

Lead Organ Procurement Coordinator
Lifesharing

No Kidney Left Behind: Regional Strategies for High KDPI Allocation

Lina Elasmr

Organ Procurement Coordinator
Lifesharing

No Kidney Left Behind: Regional Strategies for High KDPI Allocation

Jenny Beelke

Procurement Transplant Coordinator
Nevada Donor Network

Innovative Allocation Models: Accelerating Access to Kidney Transplants

Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 23rd
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM



More is More: Coming Together for Better Outcomes

In an efficiency-driven world, it can be easy to move through cases as fast as possible. When giving the gift of life through donation, more time can drive better outcomes. Compassion coupled with effective sales skills, along with the time necessary to guide bereaved families through the donation process, can be an effective way to increase peer, hospital, and family support.

Micah Hare

Family Service Coordinator II
Nevada Donor Network

Bridging Sales Skills with Family Services in Organ Donation: A Compassionate Approach

Yessenia Mata

Family Services Coordinator II
Nevada Donor Network

More Time, More Lives: How Increased Case Time Transforms Tragedy Into Hope

Amber Nicely

Family Services Coordinator II
Nevada Donor Network

More Time, More Lives: How Increased Case Time Transforms Tragedy Into Hope

Referral Management

Referral Management

Monday, June 23rd
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM



Triage and Triumph: The Art of Managing Mayhem

Effective referral management is the foundation of a successful OPO. This session explores how dedicated triage teams, innovative referral strategies, and community-based OPO teams are streamlining the process, strengthening hospital partnerships, and increasing donor authorization assuring that no life-saving opportunity is missed.

Jason Villar

Director, Hospital Development, Family Care, Transplant Center Relations
LifeSource

Community based OPO teams driving Regional Authorization & Donation Success



Linda Freeman

Clinical Manager
Sierra Donor Services

Critical Role of Triage in Referral Management



Amy Sanchez

Clinical Resource Supervisor
Nevada Donor Network

Mastering the Flow: How Triage Coordinators Revolutionize Referral Management
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee



Training & Education

<p>Training & Education</p> <p>Monday, June 23rd 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</p>   	<p>Transforming Training: Innovative Strategies to Elevate Donor Management and Clinical Expertise</p> <p>This comprehensive session explores innovative training methods that enhance the skills, confidence, and effectiveness of physicians and OPO staff. Topics include specialized physician training for brain death determination and family communication, the integration of virtual reality simulation in donor management education, and the implementation of simulation-based learning in OPO staff development. Attendees will gain insights into how these cutting-edge approaches improve clinical competence, decision-making, and team collaboration in high-stakes environments. By leveraging immersive training techniques, healthcare professionals can enhance their ability to navigate complex medical and ethical situations, ultimately leading to better patient care and improved organ donation outcomes.</p> <p>Felicia Geraci Organ Procurement Clinical Educator <i>Midwest Transplant</i> Implementation of Simulation in OPO Staff Development AOPO Programs & Education Committee</p> <p>Theresa A. Daly Vice President <i>Gift of Life Institute</i> Unique Physician Training on Determination of Brain Death and Family Communication Impacts Physicians Skills and Confidence</p> <p>Liz Peterson Clinical Training Program Manager <i>LifeCenter Northwest</i> Revolutionizing Donor Management Training: Integrating Virtual Reality Simulation to Enhance Clinical Competence and Confidence</p>	
<p>2:30 PM – 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Energizing Break with Exhibitors</p>	
<p>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>OPO Stakeholder Group Meeting with Econometrica <i>(Closed session)</i></p>	

Breakout Impact Sessions Monday, June 23rd		
TIME	B - Impact Sessions	ROOM
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships		
Collaborative Partnerships Monday, June 23rd 3:05 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>Diverse Voices; Unified Cause: The Impact Various Positions Have on Donation</p> <p>Exploring new ideas opens up endless possibilities and promotes growth and innovation by embracing fresh perspectives. This session will discuss how organ procurement organizations evaluate their processes to identify opportunities for maximizing both internal talent and external partnerships, ultimately increasing the chances for organ donation.</p> <p>Sara Russo Hospital Partnership Liaison <i>Network for Hope</i> OPO Hospital Liaison and Hospital Employed In-house Donation Coordinators: A Unique Powerhouse</p> <p>Sadie Everts Manager of Organ Services <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> From Hospice to Hope: The DCD Pathway to Life-Saving Donations</p> <p>Jeremy Lemmons Manager of Hospital Development <i>ARORA</i> Hospital/OPO Collaboration: The Building of a Cohesive Donor Management Team</p>	



DCD, NRP & Preservation

DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Monday, June 23rd
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM



Joel Baucom

Director, Partner Engagement

HonorBridge

Enhancing Outcome Visibility for Decisions Regarding Pursuit of DCD
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee



Molly Svendsen

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Physician Fellow

Mayo Clinic

The Role of Palliative Medicine in Donation after Circulatory Death



Michelle Moring

Senior Hospital Relations Liaison

Versiti

Sending an Attending For DCD Pronouncement - Do You Have To?
AOPO Programs & Education Committee



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OPO Operations

OPO Operations

Monday, June 23rd
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM



Empowering Growth: Education, Mentorship, and Well-Being for a Stronger Future

Personal and professional growth requires more than just knowledge—it's about nurturing the whole individual. These featured programs provide staff with the tools, strategies, and inspiration needed to thrive in both their personal lives and careers.

Robin Ohkagawa

Senior Director, Education & Development
New England Donor Services
Donation Academy



Judy Hardin

Manager, Inclusion & Culture
New England Donor Services
Mentorship: Developing the Next Generation of Leaders



Ali Erickson

Chief Administrative Officer
New England Donor Services
Mentorship: Developing the Next Generation of Leaders



Caroline Ferra

Hospital Services Specialist
UW Organ and Tissue Donation
Emotional Support Group to Improve Employee Wellness and Engagement

Organ Allocation & Utilization

Organ Allocation & Utilization

Monday, June 23rd
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM



Kidney You Not: Optimizing Kidney Allocation for More Transplants

Optimizing kidney allocation requires innovation, adaptability, and data-driven strategies. This session explores key approaches to improving placement efficiency, overcoming allocation challenges, and maximizing transplant opportunities.

Matthew Van Hauter

Organ Recovery Manager

Network for Hope

Improving Outcomes: How Hard-to-Place Kidneys Became Transplantable



Chris Jaynes

CEO

34 Lives

Improving Outcomes: How Hard-to-Place Kidneys Became Transplantable



Larry Suplee

Vice President, Transplant Information Center

Gift of Life Donor Program

Long Term Impact of KAS 250 (2021) on Pre-Recovery Placement Efficiency

AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee



Bailey Heiting

OPO Manager

Versiti

Improved Kidney O:E through Rescue Pathways

AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee

Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support

Monday, June 23rd
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM



Equity in Donation: Bridging the Gap

This session explores the critical intersection of organ, eye, and tissue donation with health equity, focusing on the systemic barriers faced by under-served communities. Through data-driven analysis and community engagement strategies, this session aims to equip participants with tools to promote equitable access, build trust, and foster culturally responsive approaches. Join us to learn how collaboration across sectors can bridge the gap and ensure that all communities have the opportunity to give and receive the gift of life.

Sara Pace Jones

Executive Vice President, Strategy & Mission Performance
Donor Network of Arizona
AOPO IMPACT Committee

Susan Mau Larson

Chief Administrative Officer
LifeSource
AOPO Advocacy Committee Chair

Nikki Chalsma

Manager, Hospital Development
Versiti
Impact Summit: Bridging Gaps in Donation and Advancing Health Equity

Innovation

Innovation

Monday, June 23rd
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM



The Abdominals: Rescue Pathways with Precision and a Touch of Tech

In this session, we will explore new organ preservation technologies that can help facilitate successful reallocation of organs in the setting of late declines and reduce organ non-utilization rates.

Jake Miles, MD (Tentative)

Medical Director
Paragonix Technologies
Controlled Hypothermic Preservation Facilitates Reallocation of High-Risk Donor Livers in the Settling of Late Declines

Nathan Fine

Manager, Organ Utilization
Donor Network of Arizona

Training & Education

Training & Education

**Monday, June 23rd
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM**



Enhancing Workplace Success: Embracing Neurodiversity and Strengthening Communication

This dynamic poster session explores innovative strategies to strengthen workforce engagement, retention, and inclusivity in clinical settings. Presenters highlight evidence-based approaches to onboarding, structured feedback mechanisms, and supportive communication practices that foster team cohesion and improve outcomes. A particular focus is given to understanding and accommodating neurodivergent healthcare professionals, offering insights into creating more inclusive and effective work environments. Join us to discover how thoughtful process design and inclusive practices can elevate team performance and professional satisfaction across healthcare organizations.

Jillian Vos

Clinical Training Coordinator

Gift of Hope

Improving Outcomes by Supporting Organizational Neurodivergence

Amanda Beck

Organ Recovery Specialist Educator

Versiti

Communication is Key: A Retrospective Study on Why Clear Communication During Employee Onboarding is Important

Breakout Impact Sessions Monday, June 23 rd		
TIME 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM	C - Impact Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM

Collaborative Partnerships

<p>Collaborative Partnerships</p> <p>Monday, June 23rd 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM</p>  	<p>You've Got a Friend in Me: How Working Together Makes Everyone More Successful</p> <p>Placing the emphasis on the power of collaboration and teamwork in achieving success. By supporting and working closely with one another, individuals and groups can reach greater heights than they could alone. Focusing on the benefits of mutual support, shared goals, and collective effort, highlighting how friendships and partnerships can enhance productivity, creativity, and overall well-being.</p> <p>Joe Paparo Senior Hospital Services Coordinator <i>Gift of Life Donor Program</i> Collaboration to Break Down Barriers to Organ Donation: A Transplant Center and OPO's Partnership to Address Community Fears and Misconceptions</p> <p>Joe DiMartino (joseph.dimartino@tuhs.temple.edu) Associate Vice President of Nursing <i>Temple University</i> Collaboration to Break Down Barriers to Organ Donation: A Transplant Center and OPO's Partnership to Address Community Fears and Misconceptions</p>	
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DCD, NRP & Preservation

DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Monday, June 23rd
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM



Huddle Up! How Better Communication is Saving More Lives

Effective communication is key to a successful donation process. This session highlights how OPOs have improved teamwork and efficiency through strategic huddles, interdisciplinary meetings, and real-time collaboration, ensuring no donation opportunity is missed.

Meg O'Donnell

Advanced Practice Provider

UW Organ and Tissue Donation

Donor Management Steering Committee: Front-line Coordinator Approach to Improving Donor Management

Angela Borrer

Supervisor of Organ Services

Nevada Donor Network

Better Organs, Fewer Hiccups: How Daily Leader Huddles Are Saving Lives (and Time!)

Stacey Hay

Data Analyst

Versiti

VITAL Meetings- Valuing Interactions Through AnaLysis

OPO Operations

Innovation OPO Operations

Monday, June 23rd
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM



Lisa Stocks

Executive Vice President
OneLegacy



Todd Hubler

VP/Executive Director
LifeNet Health



Tracy Giddens-Jarrett

Director, Organ Recovery Services
LifeNet Health



Moderator:

Scott Rombach

Founder & CEO
Specialist Direct

Advancing Organ Assessment: Mobile Telepathology Solutions in Donor Biopsy Analysis

What if you could guarantee slide preparation and access to timely, accurate, and consistent biopsy interpretations on every case? Hear how OPOs are doing just that through the use of Mobile Telepathology solutions which remove the barriers associated with hospital biopsy slide preparation. By leveraging unique technology and training courses, hear how OPOs are innovating to facilitate more lifesaving gifts.



Organ Allocation & Utilization

Organ Allocation and Utilization

Monday, June 23rd
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM



A.I. Have a Good Feeling About This: Smarter Organ Allocation

Artificial intelligence is revolutionizing organ allocation and recovery by enhancing decision-making and efficiency. This session explores how AI-driven models are improving kidney rescue allocations and increasing lung recovery and transplant rates through data consolidation and predictive tools.

Luis F. Angel, MD

Director of Lung Transplantation
NYU Langone

Increasing Lung Recovery and Transplant Rates through Data Consolidation and AI Tools



Alisha Jackson

Director of Organ Services
ConnectLife

Increasing Lung Recovery and Transplant Rates through Data Consolidation and AI Tools



Dan DiSante

Director of Clinical Operations
Center for Donation & Transplant

Increasing Lung Recovery and Transplant Rates through Data Consolidation and AI Tools



Moderator:

Lee Keddie

President & CEO
CompuMed



Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support

Monday, June 23rd
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM



Unveiling the Truth: Battling Misinformation with Integrity

With the rise in negative publicity and scrutiny surrounding organ donation, OPOs must proactively address issues, investigations and inquiries. This session will discuss skills, processes and resources to reduce potential organizational risks, counter disinformation and highlight facts with integrity and credibility.

Catherine DeAppolonio

General Counsel & Government Affairs

NJ Sharing Network

The Regulatory Rodeo: Wrangling Your Way Through Investigations



Salama Gallimore

General Counsel & Advisor on Government Affairs

Midwest Transplant

The Regulatory Rodeo: Wrangling Your Way Through Investigations

AOPO Advocacy Committee



Robert Stears

Senior Advisor

Science in Donation & Transplant

Successes and Challenges in Battling Misinformation: A Multifaceted Communications Approach



Research Authorization

Research Authorization

Monday, June 23rd
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM



From Authorization to Advancement

Amending the Authorization Form to include genetic research and genetic studies introduces another layer of transparency for the donor family or LNOK while also increasing the opportunity to place non-transplant organs with researchers who require explicit language for this key area of medical research.

Shelagh Hodson

Director, Family Services
Infinite Legacy

Nick Olden

Research Program Manager
Gift of Life Michigan

Moderator

Gina Dunne Smith

Executive Director
IIAM

Expanding Donation Authorization Language to Include Genetic Research and Genetic Testing Can Increase Placement of Non-Transplant Donor Gifts



AI in Rescue Pathways

AI in Rescue Pathways

Monday, June 23rd
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM



Using AI in Kidney Rescue Pathways

As the persistent trend of underutilized deceased donor kidneys continues to present challenges OPOs are enhancing their efforts to identify characteristics that significantly influence the allocation process. This initiative is essential for maximizing the utilization of deceased donor kidneys and ensuring their allocation to recipients most likely to benefit.

Lirim Ashiku

Chief Technology Officer
Valiant AI

Use of AI Models to Identify Kidneys for Rescue Path Allocation

Vikram Abrol

Business Intelligence Solutions Architect
Mid-America Transplant





Breakout Impact Sessions

Open to all registered attendees

Tuesday, June 24th

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration Open	
7:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors	
TIME 8:30 AM – 9:25 AM	D - Impact Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM

Collaborative Partnerships

Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM



Sarah Sonn

Director of Communications
LifeSource

Barely half of Minnesota men are organ donors. A former Vikings player and kidney recipient says that's not enough



Tracy G. Ide

Manager, Public Affairs
LifeLink of Georgia

LifeLink of Georgia Unveils Historic Partnership with University of Georgia Athletes



Carolyn Hostetler

Hospital Development Manager
Tennessee Donor Services (New role on June 9th)

DCD, NRP & Preservation

DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM



Preserve and Protect: Giving Organs a Fighting Chance

Advancements in organ preservation are improving transplant potential by extending viability and optimizing allocation. Controlled hypothermic preservation with LVG is increasing the reallocation of high-risk donor livers, while centralized EVLP assessment is refining lung evaluation and utilization, ensuring more organs reach recipients in need.

Tiffany Schnobrich Perez

Procurement Transplant Coordinator
Nevada Donor Network

Matthew Ellison

Manager of Organ Recovery
ARORA

Moderator:

Kayla Rohrbaugh

Ex-Vivo Clinical Specialist
Lung Bioengineering

Effect of Lung Graft Retrieval and Ischemia Time on EVLP Acceptance Outcome



OPO Operations

OPO Operations

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM



Bone Marrow – The New Frontier?

It's been reported that expanding access to allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT), especially for patients who are ethnically diverse, is feasible as the outcomes of using mismatch unrelated donors (MMUD) along with post-transplant cyclophosphamide are similar to those obtained using a related haploidentical donor. A significant unmet need remains in the timely provision of suitable unrelated donor grafts. Is on demand cryopreserved bone marrow product the new frontier?

Ryan Nelson

Manager, Tissue Recovery Optimization
Donor Network of Arizona



Nick Olden

Research Program Manager
Gift of Life Michigan



Moderator:

Sagar Munjal, MD, MS

Chief Medical Officer / Senior Vice President
Ossium Health

**Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation using Deceased Donor
Derived Cryopreserved Bone Marrow: A Potential Alternative Graft Source
for Patients With Unmet Need**



Organ Allocation & Utilization

Organ Allocation and Utilization

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM



BMI? More Like 'Be More Inclusive'

Expanding donor eligibility means challenging outdated criteria and embracing new possibilities. This session explores how OPOs are rethinking donor selection based on function over form, maximizing organ and tissue donation opportunities, and ensuring more lives are saved through innovative and inclusive approaches.

Gena Mayer, PhD

Donation Logistics and Allocation Administrator
We Are Sharing Hope SC
Donors Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Denise Baker

Procurement Transplant Coordinator
Nevada Donor Network
Turning "No" Into "Whoa" - Rethinking Donor Eligibility Four Organs At a Time

Donna Mortensen

Clinical In-House Supervisor
Donor Network of Arizona
Exploring Organ and Tissue Donation Potential in the Setting of Anencephaly

Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM



Mass Appeal with Mass Media: Engaging Diverse Audiences with Positive Messaging and Emotional Connections

How have OPOs successfully worked with the television and film industries, and social media platforms, to present organ donation with levity, sensitivity and accuracy? Hear how they have capitalized on the power of video to engage large audiences, and view excerpts of some of their exceptional work.

Katelynn Metz

Community Outreach Coordinator
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
The Pitt

E'Tiffany Jones

Head of Public Engagement, Communications & Strategic Partnerships
OneLegacy
OneLegacy Inspires Hollywood

Donor Care Units

Donor Care Units

2-Hour Session

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 10:25 AM



Organ Donor Care Units – A Panel Discussion 2-Hour Session

Dedicated organ donor care units are rapidly emerging across the national landscape. These units have demonstrated benefits to both the organ procurement process and outcomes, as well as to the field of transplantation. With these positive outcomes we are also presented with unique challenges ranging from care delivery and staffing to the financial implications of the cost report.

There is much to learn from the various models and approaches to dedicated organ procurement spaces. Join this workshop as we work to form a collaborative learning community for organ donation and transplantation professionals with an interest in sharing tactical information and ideas about organ donor care centers with a group of peers.

Anjali Basu

Chief Administrative Officer and Executive Director Transplant and Organ Donor Center
Rush University Medical Center

Michael Harmon

Vice President, Organ Operations
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

Speakers TBD

DEIB Workshop

DEIB Workshop

2-Hour Session

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 10:25 AM



Teresa Aguiar

HR Director, People and Culture

Donor Connect

AOPO DEIB Committee Vice Chair



Ingrid Palacios

Manager of Multicultural Community Outreach Program

New England Donor Services

AOPO DEIB Committee Immediate Past Chair



Audrey Holtzman

Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager

Network for Hope

AOPO DEIB Committee



Aisha Ghori Ozaki

Director, DEIBC

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network



AOPO DEIB Committee

Breakout Impact Sessions Tuesday, June 24 th		
TIME 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM	E - Impact Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM

Collaborative Partnerships

<p>Collaborative Partnerships</p> <p>Tuesday, June 24th 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM</p>  	<p>Benefits and Risks of Bringing Your Auto/Fleet Program In-House: An Insurance Perspective</p> <p>OPOs rely heavily on transportation to deliver on their mission, which is to recover organs for transplant purposes. Fleet and driver safety are paramount to mitigate risks like accidents, liability, and delays that could endanger lives. Attendees will learn: 1. Common Enterprise Risks Associated with Transportation for OPOs; 2. the Importance of a Structured Driver Safety Program; 3. Key Components of an Effective Driver Safety Program; and 4. Safe Use of Ride Share and the Benefits/Risks of Outsourcing Rides.</p> <p>Gina Matarazzo Managing Director <i>Sallop Insurance, Inc.</i></p> <p>Tracy Angelo Assistant Vice President, Risk Management Group <i>AWAC Services Company</i></p>	
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DCD, NRP & Preservation

<p>DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation</p> <p>Tuesday, June 24th 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM</p>  	<p>From ‘Oops’ to Optimized: Solving the Infectious Disease Testing Puzzle</p> <p>From HIV-positive heart transplants to the challenges of false-positive infectious disease results, OPOs must navigate complex testing uncertainties. This session explores lessons learned, best practices for managing discrepant lab results, and strategies to ensure safe and successful organ allocation.</p> <p>Chelsea Douglas Organ Recovery Coordinator <i>Network for Hope</i></p> <p>Undetectable Results to Positive Outcomes: A DCD Hope Act Donor</p> <p>Hillary Akana Quality Control Manager <i>Eurofins Donor & Product Testing</i></p> <p>Discrepant Infectious Disease Results, Now What?</p>	
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UNION Data

UNION Data

Tuesday, June 24th
9:30 AM – 10:25 AM



Metrics to Meaning: Using Questions and Comparative Data to Inform Practices

Better data informs better decisions. But it's not just about the numbers—it's about what question they answer! In this session, we'll show how starting with questions can drive improvement using a new expanded UNION dashboard. A refreshed UNION interface will help guide us towards answers to reoccurring business questions and reveal opportunities to dive deeper into shared practices.

Noell Olsen

Manager of Business Intelligence
Cascade Life Alliance
AOPO Data Committee

Robbie Glazner

Director of Business Intelligence
Donor Network of Arizona
AOPO Data Committee

Organ Allocation & Utilization

Organ Allocation and Utilization

Tuesday, June 24th
9:30 AM – 10:25 AM



Live Lung and Prosper: Techniques That Go the Extra Air Mile

Enhancing lung transplantation requires strategic donor management, innovative protocols, and advanced technology. This session highlights collaborative approaches, physiology-based pulmonary management, and automated positioning techniques that are improving oxygenation and increasing the number of lungs available for transplant.

Alicia Miller

Senior Advanced Practice Donation Coordinator
LifeSource

OPO and DCU collaboration to improve lung donor management and increase lung transplantation rates

Matt Ellison

Manager of Organ Recovery
ARORA

Pulmonary Management in the Brain Dead Donor: The Outcomes of Physiology Based Protocols

Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 24th
9:30 AM – 10:25 AM



Guiding the Gift: Mentorship and Knowledge Sharing for External Partners

Providing culturally sensitive high school education to students of color, educating DMV employees about their role in organ donation, and mentoring key stakeholders in autopsy cases to guide the gift of organ donation.

Carolyn Williams

Community Outreach Coordinator
Cascade Life Alliance

"Your Choice, Their Chance" - Comprehensive Organ Donation Education for Diverse Student Communities

Claire Bailey

Community Outreach Coordinator
Cascade Life Alliance

"Your Choice, Their Chance" - Comprehensive Organ Donation Education for Diverse Student Communities

Brett Milam

Community Relations Associate
Network for Hope

OPO Creates Orientation and Quiz to Educate Driver's License Agency Employees About Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation and Their Role Within the Process

Gina Martin

Partner Relations
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

Value of having our Partners Mentor Other Entities within their Organizations

Moderator:

Angie Hockman

Professional Services Liaison
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

Donor Care Units

Donor Care Units

2-Hour Session

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 10:25 AM



Organ Donor Care Units – A Panel Discussion 2-Hour Session – *Cont'd*

Dedicated organ donor care units are rapidly emerging across the national landscape. These units have demonstrated benefits to both the organ procurement process and outcomes, as well as to the field of transplantation. With these positive outcomes we are also presented with unique challenges ranging from care delivery and staffing to the financial implications of the cost report.

There is much to learn from the various models and approaches to dedicated organ procurement spaces. Join this workshop as we work to form a collaborative learning community for organ donation and transplantation professionals with an interest in sharing tactical information and ideas about organ donor care centers with a group of peers.

Anjali Basu

Chief Administrative Officer and Executive Director Transplant and Organ Donor Center
Rush University Medical Center

Michael Harmon

Vice President, Organ Operations
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

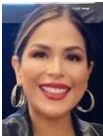
Speakers TBD

DEIB Workshop

DEIB Workshop

2-Hour Session

Tuesday, June 24th
8:30 AM – 10:25 AM



DEIB Workshop: What It Is and Is Not For Your OPO **2-Hour Session – *Cont'd***

Join us for an interactive and insightful workshop aimed at tackling some myths and misunderstandings surrounding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). An engaging panel will feature voices from the clinical, donor family, hospital development, HR, and community outreach perspective and explore various experiences to foster a deeper understanding of DEIB in action.

Teresa Aguiar

HR Director, People and Culture

Donor Connect

AOPO DEIB Committee Vice Chair

Ingrid Palacios

Manager of Multicultural Community Outreach Program

New England Donor Services

AOPO DEIB Committee Immediate Past Chair

Audrey Holtzman

Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager

Network for Hope

AOPO DEIB Committee

Aisha Ghorl Ozaki

Director, DEIBC

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

AOPO DEIB Committee

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors & Poster Abstract Authors.
Be sure to stop by and ask them questions!

Breakout Impact Sessions Tuesday, June 24 th		
TIME	F - Impact Sessions	ROOM
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships		
<div> Collaborative Partnerships Tuesday, June 24th 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM </div> <div>   </div> <div>  </div>	<div> Driving Toward a Better Partnership: Exploring Connections with our EMS Partners The synergy between Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is crucial for enhancing organ donation efforts. This collaboration aims to bridge communication gaps, ensuring that EMS teams are well-informed about the critical role they play in the donation process. Learn how two OPOs are working with their local EMS to develop more robust partnerships. </div> <div> Jared Roorda Organ Donation Specialist <i>Versiti</i> OPO and EMS System Partnerships </div> <div> Madelyn Clark Partner Relations Coordinator <i>Iowa Donor Network</i> Challenge Coin Program for EMS Partners </div>	

DCD, NRP & Preservation

DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Tuesday, June 24th
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM



Perfuse It or Lose It? The Debate Over Machine Preservation

This interactive debate brings together experts from OPOs and transplant centers to discuss the benefits, challenges, and feasibility of widespread adoption, covering cost, scalability, training, and regulatory considerations.

Anji Wall, MD, PhD

Transplant Surgeon
Medical Director, BSW Transplant Center for Innovation, Science, Policy,
Research and Ethics
Baylor Scott 7 White Health
Baylor University Medical Center

Sean Forquer

Program Director, Perfusion Services
Southwest Transplant Alliance

Moderator:

Mauricio Carvalho

Vice President, Medical & Scientific Affairs
Bridge to Life

**Bridging Perspectives: Advancing Organ Machine Perfusion and
Preservation Across OPOs and Transplant Centers**



OPO Operations

OPO Operations

Tuesday, June 24th
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM



Innovative Approaches in Organ Donation: Case Insights, Process Enhancements, and Next-of-Kin Advocacy

Join us for a session that blends clinical complexity, process improvement related to culture reporting, and an innovative approach to locating legal next of kin (LNOK) when traditional methods fall short. Each topic highlights dedicated efforts to maximize the gift of donation—resulting in more organs transplanted and more lives saved.

Allie Bonadies

AOC

Cascade Life Alliance

Lower Limb Cryoamputation in BD Donor with Devascularization Injury After MCC – A Case Review

Jenny Beelke

Procurement Transplant Coordinator

Nevada Donor Network

Dedicating Expertise: Improving Culture Recording and Reporting in Organ Donation

John Edwards

Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations

Gift of Life Donor Program

A Novel Strategy for Organ Procurement Organization Driven Search for Legal NOK

AOPO NRP Task Force Chair

Organ Allocation & Utilization

Organ Allocation and Utilization

Tuesday, June 24th
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM



Luke Shen, MD

Transplant Surgeon

Texas Organ Sharing Alliance

**Utilization and Outcomes of Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) >50%
Allografts Using A Rescue Pathway Algorithm
AOP Board, Medical Advisor**



Tracy Giddens-Jarrett

Director, Organ Recovery Services

LifeNet Health

**The Role of the Portable CryoStat/Remote Pathology in Deceased Donor
Kidney Biopsies and Allocation**



Amy McDonough

Organ Process Manager

LifeSource

Organ Utilization-Increasing hard-to-place kidney utilization



Allen Paulsen

Clinical Resource Supervisor II

LifeSource

Organ Utilization-Increasing hard-to-place kidney utilization

Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support

Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 24th
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM



Unexpected Heroes – Expanding the Boundaries of Organ Donors

Vent dependent patients at home transitioning to CMO and Senate Bill 109 authorizing coroners to release unidentified patients for organ donation.

Samantha Taylor

Donation Support Specialist Supervisor
UW Organ and Tissue Donation
Just say, "Yes, yes we can."

Adam Schneider-Price, DNP

Manager, Clinical Quality and Compliance
UW Organ and Tissue Donation
Just say, "Yes, yes we can."

Amy Sanchez

Clinical Resource Supervisor
Nevada Donor Network
Organ Donation: Because Even Heroes Need a Good Network
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee

Shahira Hamed

Manager of Family Services
Nevada Donor Network
Organ Donation: Because Even Heroes Need a Good Network

Dustin Wright

Referral and Provider Development Specialist
Nevada Donor Network
Organ Donation: Because Even Heroes Need a Good Network

Moderator:

Angie Hockman

Professional Services Liaison
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

Improving Utilization

Improving Utilization

Tuesday, June 24th
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM



Maximizing Impact: Leveraging HMP for Greater Utilization

With recent changes to allocation and the growing prevalence of medically complex kidney donors, there has been a heightened interest in the utilization of HMP, particularly for kidneys imported from distant OPOs. As centers face challenges in integrating these services in-house, OPOs have adopted various strategies to facilitate the use of HMP for these kidneys.

Andrew Wielgat

Perfusion Coordinator
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

Larry Suplee

Vice President, Transplant Information Center
Gift of Life Donor Program

Moderator:

Perry Turner

Managing Director
Organ Recovery Systems

Working Together: Using HMP to Increase Utilization



Training & Education

<p>Training & Education</p> <p>Tuesday, June 24th 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p>  	<p>Echoing Excellence: A Heartfelt Journey into Echocardiogram Training</p> <p>Hear how OPOs have successfully trained their staff to obtain complete echocardiogram studies, providing additional skill sets and growth opportunities for clinicians working in Donor Care Units.</p> <p>Emily Freund Organ Procurement DCU Clinical Specialist <i>Midwest Transplant</i></p> <p>Echoing Excellence: A Heartfelt Journey into Echocardiogram Training</p> <p>Shane Oakley Advance Practice Organ Recovery Coordinator <i>Donor Alliance</i></p> <p>Donor Alliance's Experience in Echo Training</p>	
<p>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</p>	<p>Networking Lunch with Exhibitors</p>	
<p>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</p>	<p>OPO In-House Counsel Lunch and Meeting <i>(Closed Session for member OPO Counsel only)</i></p>	
<p>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</p>	<p>AOPPO Foundation Board Lunch and Meeting <i>(Closed Session)</i></p>	



PLENARY SESSIONS

Open to all registered attendees

Tuesday, June 24th

Time	Session	Room
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Welcome Back!

1:30 PM – 1:35 PM
Tuesday, June 24th



Welcome Back!

Brooke Garvis

Manager, Corporate Education & Development
Midwest Transplant
APOPO Programs & Education Committee Vice Chair

Engaging Donor Heroes

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday, June 24th



Engaging Donor Heroes: Creative Strategies to Connect and Inspire Giving

Jim Rodrigue, PhD

Director, Data Research & Insights / Professor Emeritus, Harvard Medical School
New England Donor Services

Downward Pressures on Donor Designation Rates and Donation Attitudes



Patrick Wells-O'Brien

Vice President, Communications and External Relations
Gift of Life Michigan
Impact of Adding the Donor Registry Question to State Income Tax Forms



Matthew Cooper, MD

Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery
Medical College of Wisconsin
DLA Board Chair
EPIC Partnership

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors

APOPO Foundation

3:00 PM – 3:10 PM
Plenary Session
Tuesday, June 24th



Research Focused on Improving Organ and Tissue Donation for Transplant

The APOPO Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting research focused on improving all aspects of organ and tissue donation for transplantation. Learn how you can get involved!

Joe Nespral, MD

President/CEO, *Texas Organ Sharing Alliance*
 Board Chair
APOPO Foundation

Roxane Cauwels

Director of Program Operations, *APOPO*
 Executive Director
APOPO Foundation

Incoming President's Address

3:10 PM – 3:45 PM
Tuesday, June 24th



Incoming President's Address & Lifetime Achievement Award

This session marks the ceremonial and strategic transition of leadership within APOPO. As the new President, Jeff Trageser will outline the vision, values, and priorities that will guide the association in the coming year. Attendees will gain insight into the strategic direction, including upcoming initiatives, key areas of focus, and the commitment to driving growth and innovation to saving more lives.

Jeff Trageser

Executive Director
Lifesharing
APOPO Incoming President

Moderator:

Steve Miller

CEO
APOPO

Advancing Metrics

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM
Plenary Session
Tuesday, June 24th



Advancing Metrics that Matter: Aligning Strategy & Performance

With academic appointments in both the medical school and the school of public health's division of epidemiology and community health at the University of Minnesota, Jon's research interests include the epidemiology of solid organ transplantation, performance metrics, health disparities, health policy, and patient-centered reporting of healthcare quality data.

Jon Snyder, PhD, MS

Director of Transplant Epidemiology
Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute

Closing Remarks

5:00 PM



Closing Remarks – Leave in ACTION!

Kristen Deyling

Learning and Development Specialist
Lifebanc

AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair



Brooke Garvis

Manager, Corporate Education & Development
Midwest Transplant

AOPO Programs & Education Committee Vice Chair

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Social Event
Tuesday, June 24th



Join Us!

Relax and celebrate a successful Annual Meeting at AOPO's "Mile High Biergarten!" Enjoy beverages, lite fare, and activities while toasting both old and new friends and colleagues. Themed apparel is encouraged, though not required. So, don your favorite lederhosen, Bavarian hat, or dirndl and join us for what is certain to be a fun and memorable evening!

