

# AOPO 2025 Annual Meeting

June 22 – 24 | Denver, CO | #AOPOAM25



## AGENDA

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

# AOPO 2025 Annual Meeting

June 22 – 24 | Denver, CO | #AOPOAM25



**MONDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

## PLENARY SESSIONS

*Open to all registered attendees*

**Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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*  
AOPO Board, At Large Member



**Welcome to the 42<sup>nd</sup> AOPO Annual Meeting:  
50K in 2026**

**Kristen Deyling**  
Compliance & Learning Development Specialist  
*Lifebanc*  
AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair


### Connect to Purpose

**8:40 AM – 8:55 AM**





**Connect to Purpose**



## President's Address

<p><b>8:55 AM – 9:30 AM</b></p>  	<p><b>President's Address</b></p> <p><b>Dorrie Dils</b>          President/CEO  <i>Gift of Life Michigan</i>  <b>AOPO President</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b>  <b>Steve Miller</b>          CEO  <i>AOPO</i></p>	
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## Validated Metrics

<p><b>9:30 AM – 10:30 AM</b></p>  	<p><b>Empowering Transparency: Independent Validated Metrics to Elevate OPO Performance</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Jan Finn</b>          President/CEO  <i>Midwest Transplant Network</i>  <b>Validated Metrics Task Force Co-Chair</b>  <b>AOPO Leadership Development Committee</b></p> <p><b>Barry Massa</b>          CEO  <i>Network for Hope</i>  <b>Validated Metrics Task Force Co-Chair</b></p> <p><b>Speakers from Econometrica</b></p>	
<p><b>10:30 AM – 11:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Energizing Break with Exhibitors</b></p>	

## Advocacy

<p><b>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b></p>  	<p><b>The Power of Advocacy: Marching Forward with New Updates</b></p> <p><b>Susan Mau Larson</b>            Chief Administrative Officer  <i>LifeSource</i>  <b>AOPO Advocacy Committee Chair</b></p> <p><b>Lisa Paolillo</b>            Chief Legal Officer  <i>New England Donor Services</i>  <b>AOPO Advocacy Committee Vice Chair</b></p>	
<p><b>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Lunch with Exhibitors</b></p>	
<p><b>12:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>OPO CEO Lunch and Annual Business Meeting <i>(Closed Session for member OPO CEOs only)</i></b></p>	
<p><b>12:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Medical Directors Lunch and Meeting <i>(Closed Session)</i></b></p>	

## Breakout Impact Sessions Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

TIME 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM	A - Impact Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM
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### Collaborative Partnerships

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaborative Partnerships</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	<p style="color: #76C73A;"><b>Diverse Voices; Unified Cause: The Impact Various Positions Have on Donation</b></p> <p><b>Sara Russo (Tentative)</b> Hospital Partnership Liaison <i>Network for Hope</i> <b>OPO Hospital Liaison and Hospital Employed In-house Donation Coordinators: A Unique Powerhouse</b></p> <p><b>Sadie Everts (Tentative)</b> Manager of Organ Services <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> <b>From Hospice to Hope: The DCD Pathway to Life-Saving Donations</b></p> <p><b>Jeremy Lemmons</b> Manager of Hospital Development <i>ARORA</i> <b>Hospital/OPO Collaboration: The Building of a Cohesive Donor Management Team</b></p>	
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### DCD, NRP & Preservation

<p><b>DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	<p style="color: #E67E22;"><b>Go With the Flow: The Life-Saving Impact of NRP</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Nathan Fine</b> Transplant Partnership Manager <i>Donor Network of Arizona</i> <b>Implementation of an OPO-driven Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Program: Lessons Learned, Lives Saved</b></p> <p><b>John Edwards</b> Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations <i>Gift of Life Donor Program</i> <b>OPO Based Normothermic Regional Perfusion Program - A Shifting Landscape</b> <b>AOPO NRP Task Force Chair</b></p>	
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<b>Data &amp; Innovation</b>	
<p><b>Data &amp; Innovation OPO Operations</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Optimizing Data Collaboration and Intelligence: Driving Business Insights, Automation, and Interoperability for Greater Impact</b></p> <p><b>Bo Allen</b> Software Engineer <i>Donor Alliance</i> <b>Enhancing Data Collaboration and Automation through a Versatile Data Sharing Platform</b></p> <p><b>Cassie Hertert</b> Director of Information Systems <i>Donor Alliance</i> <b>Why, When, and Where: Aligning Process Knowledge &amp; Business Intelligence</b> AOPO Data Committee</p> <p><b>Andrew Sigond</b> Director of Hospital &amp; Community Services <i>Center for Donation &amp; Transplant</i> <b>Increase Referrals, Authorizations, Donors, and Transplants via Interoperability</b></p>

<b>Organ Allocation &amp; Utilization</b>	
<p><b>Organ Allocation and Utilization</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Urine Luck: Smarter Kidney Allocation Strategies That Work</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Casey O'Brien</b> Lead Organ Procurement Coordinator <i>Lifesharing</i> <b>No Kidney Left Behind: Regional Strategies for High KDPI Allocation</b></p> <p><b>Lina Elasmr</b> Organ Procurement Coordinator <i>Lifesharing</i> <b>No Kidney Left Behind: Regional Strategies for High KDPI Allocation</b></p> <p><b>Jenny Beelke</b> Procurement Transplant Coordinator <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> <b>Innovative Allocation Models: Accelerating Access to Kidney Transplants</b></p>

**Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support**

<p><b>Peer, Partner &amp; Donor Family Support</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23rd</b> <b>1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>More is More: Coming Together for Better Outcomes</b></p> <p><b>Micah Hare (Tentative)</b> Family Service Coordinator II <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> <b>Bridging Sales Skills with Family Services in Organ Donation: A Compassionate Approach</b></p> <p><b>Ian Butts (Tentative)</b> Family Support Supervisor <i>Versiti</i> <b>Dual Approaching: Using Authorization Data to Optimize Strengths</b></p> <p><b>Yessenia Mata (Tentative)</b> Family Services Coordinator II <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> <b>More Time, More Lives: How Increased Case Time Transforms Tragedy Into Hope</b></p>	
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## 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 (Tentative)**

Organ Recovery Coordinator  
*Sierra Donor Services*

**Critical Role of Triage in Referral Management**

#### **Amy Sanchez (Tentative)**

Clinical Resource Supervisor  
*Nevada Donor Network*

**Mastering the Flow: How Triage Coordinators Revolutionize Referral Management**

**AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee**



## Training & Education

<p><b>Training &amp; Education</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23rd</b> 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Transforming Training: Innovative Strategies to Elevate Donor Management and Clinical Expertise</b></p> <p><b>Felicia Garcia</b> Organ Procurement Clinical Educator <i>Midwest Transplant Network</i> <b>Implementation of Simulation in OPO Staff Development APOO Programs &amp; Education Committee</b></p> <p><b>Theresa A. Daly</b> Vice President <i>Gift of Life Institute</i> <b>Unique Physician Training on Determination of Brain Death and Family Communication Impacts Physicians Skills and Confidence</b></p> <p><b>Liz Peterson</b> Clinical Training Program Manager <i>LifeCenter Northwest</i> <b>Revolutionizing Donor Management Training: Integrating Virtual Reality Simulation to Enhance Clinical Competence and Confidence</b></p>	
<p><b>2:30 PM – 3:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Energizing Break with Exhibitors</b></p>	

**Breakout Impact Sessions**  
**Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

<b>TIME</b> 3:05 PM – 4:00 PM	<b>B - Impact Sessions</b> Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	<b>ROOM</b>
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**Collaborative Partnerships**

<p align="center"><b>Collaborative Partnerships</b></p> <p align="center">Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:05 PM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Scoring for Life: The Role of Sports in Promoting Organ Donation</b></p> <p><b>Sarah Sonn</b>          Director of Communications  <i>LifeSource</i>  <b>Barely half of Minnesota men are organ donors. A former Vikings player and kidney recipient says that's not enough</b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b>          Title  <i>LifeLink of Georgia</i>  <b>LifeLink of Georgia Unveils Historic Partnership with University of Georgia Athletes</b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b>          Title  <i>LifeLink of Florida</i>  <b>How Tragedy and Hope Intertwined with the Florida-Georgia Rivalry</b></p>	
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## DCD, NRP & Preservation

### DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM

#### **DCD: Data, Compassion and Don't Make It Difficult**

Enhancing data visibility, integrating palliative care, and expanding provider roles are transforming the DCD process. Improved data access optimizes decision-making, palliative involvement ensures compassionate care, and broadening pronouncement responsibilities streamlines workflow, making DCD more efficient and patient centered.

#### **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  
*May 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**

## OPO Operations

### OPO Operations

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
3:05 PM – 4:00 PM

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

#### **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**

#### **Susan Allen (Tentative)**

Senior Hospital Services Specialist  
*UW Organ and Tissue Donation*

**Emotional Support Group to Improve Employee Wellness and Engagement**

## Organ Allocation & Utilization

### Organ Allocation and Utilization

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
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 Supervisor  
*Network for Hope*

**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**

<p><b>Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>3:05 PM – 4:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Equity in Donation: Bridging the Gap</b></p> <p><b>Courtney Clyde (Tentative)</b> Family Support Educator <i>Versiti</i> <b>A New Kind of FOA: Family Practices for Accessibility</b></p> <p><b>Nikki Chalsma (Tentative)</b> Manager, Hospital Development <i>Versiti</i> <b>Impact Summit: Bridging Gaps in Donation and Advancing Health Equity</b></p>	
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**Increased Utilization**

<p><b>Increased Utilization</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>3:05 PM – 4:00 PM</b></p> <div data-bbox="198 1123 456 1434" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p><b>Maximizing Impact: Leveraging HMP for Greater Utilization</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Jenna Woodley</b> Product Manager <i>Organ Recovery Systems</i> <b>Working Together: Using HMP to Increase Utilization</b></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p>	
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## Training & Education

<p><b>Training &amp; Education</b></p> <p>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:05 PM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Enhancing Workplace Success: Embracing Neurodiversity and Strengthening Communication</b></p> <p><b>Jillian Vos</b> Clinical Training Coordinator <i>Gift of Hope</i> <b>Improving Outcomes by Supporting Organizational Neurodivergence</b></p> <p><b>Amanda Miller</b> Organ Recovery Specialist <i>Versiti</i> <b>Communication is Key: A Retrospective Study on Why Clear Communication During Employee Onboarding is Important</b></p>	
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**Breakout Impact Sessions**  
**Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

<b>TIME</b> 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>C - Impact Sessions</b> Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	<b>ROOM</b>
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**Collaborative Partnerships**

<p><b>Collaborative Partnerships</b></p> <p>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>You've Got a Friend in Me: How Working Together Makes Everyone More Successful</b></p> <p><b>Sherri Morgan-Johnson, RN, BSN, MHSA, FAC-COR III</b>  Nurse Consultant, Division of Kidney Health  <i>The Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS)</i>  <b>Strengthening Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) and Transplant Program Relationships to Improve Kidney Transplantation</b></p> <p><b>Joe Paparo (Tentative)</b>  Senior Hospital Services Coordinator  <i>Gift of Life Donor Program</i>  <b>Collaboration to Break Down Barriers to Organ Donation: A Transplant Center and OPO's Partnership to Address Community Fears and Misconceptions</b></p>	
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**DCD, NRP & Preservation**

<p><b>DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation</b></p> <p>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Huddle Up! How Better Communication is Saving More Lives</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Meg O'Donnell</b>  Advanced Practice Provider  <i>UW Organ and Tissue Donation</i>  <b>Donor Management Steering Committee: Front-line Coordinator Approach to Improving Donor Management</b></p> <p><b>Angela Borrer</b>  Supervisor of Organ Services  <i>Nevada Donor Network</i>  <b>Better Organs, Fewer Hiccups: How Daily Leader Huddles Are Saving Lives (and Time!)</b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b>  OPO Clinical Supervisor  <i>Versiti</i>  <b>VITAL Meetings- Valuing Interactions Through AnaLysis</b></p>	
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## OPO Operations

### Innovation OPO Operations

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM

**INDUSTRY  
INSIGHT**

  
Specialist Direct

### Advancing Organ Assessment: AI-Powered Telepathology and Cloud-Based Innovations in Donor Biopsy Analysis – Panel Discussion

#### Seigo Nishida (Tentative)

Professor

*Westchester Medical Center / New York Medical College*

**Development of a HIPPA compliant cloud-based Donor Liver Biopsy  
assessment using Artificial Intelligence Technology**

#### Ryosuke Misawa (Tentative)

Assistant Professor

*Westchester Medical Center / New York Medical College*

**Development of artificial intelligence-based technology for analysis of donor  
kidney biopsy**

#### TBA (VATB/CAOP) (Tentative)

Title

*OPO*

**Mobile Telepathy**

**Moderator:**

#### Scott Rombach (Tentative)

Founder & CEO

*Specialist Direct*

## Organ Allocation & Utilization

### Organ Allocation and Utilization

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM

**INDUSTRY  
INSIGHT**

**CompuMed™**

### 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**

<p><b>Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Unveiling the Truth: Battling Misinformation with Integrity</b></p> <p><b>Catherine DeAppolonio</b> General Counsel &amp; Government Affairs <i>NJ Sharing Network</i> <b>The Regulatory Rodeo: Wrangling Your Way Through Investigations</b></p> <p><b>Salama Gallimore</b> General Counsel &amp; Advisor on Government Affairs <i>Midwest Transplant Network</i> <b>The Regulatory Rodeo: Wrangling Your Way Through Investigations</b> AOPO Advocacy Committee</p> <p><b>Robert Stears</b> Senior Advisor <i>Science in Donation &amp; Transplant</i> <b>Successes and Challenges in Battling Misinformation: A Multifaceted Communications Approach</b></p>	
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**Research Authorization**

<p><b>Research Authorization</b></p> <p><b>Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 4:05 PM – 5:00 PM</p> <div data-bbox="198 1377 454 1747" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  </div>	<p><b>From Authorization to Advancement</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Gina Dunne Smith</b> Executive Director <i>IIAM</i> <b>Expanding Donation Authorization Language to Include Genetic Research and Genetic Testing Can Increase Placement of Non-Transplant Donor Gifts</b></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p>	
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## AI in Rescue Pathways

### AI in Rescue Pathways

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
4:05 PM – 5:00 PM

**INDUSTRY  
INSIGHT**



### 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 (Tentative)

Chief Technology Officer  
*Valiant AI*

**Use of AI Models to Identify Kidneys for Rescue Path Allocation**

#### Speaker

Title  
*OPO*



**Breakout Impact Sessions**

*Open to all registered attendees*

**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Collaborative Partnerships**

<p><b>Collaborative Partnerships</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM – 9:25 AM</p>	<p><b>Turning the Tide of Medical Mistrust: How Working Hand in Hand with Communities Can Help Build Trust</b></p> <p><b>Audrey Holtzman (Tentative)</b> Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager <i>Network for Hope</i> <b>OPO Partners With Health Agency to Bring Preventative Health Education to Black Men</b> AOPO DEIB Committee</p> <p><b>Randy Presant (Tentative)</b> Vice President Public Affairs &amp; Family Services <i>Gift of Life Donor Program</i> <b>Data-driven, People-focused, Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Outreach</b></p> <p><b>Demia Kandi (Tentative)</b> Executive Diversity Consultant <b>A Model for Change: Amplifying Black Voices in Organ Donation Through Collaborative Partnerships</b></p>	
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## DCD, NRP & Preservation

### DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM

**INDUSTRY  
INSIGHT**



### 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.

#### Kayla Rohrbaugh

Ex-Vivo Clinical Specialist

*Lung Bioengineering*

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

#### Speaker

Title  
OPO

## OPO Operations

### OPO Operations

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM

**INDUSTRY  
INSIGHT**



### 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?

#### Sagar Munjal, MD (Tentative)

Chief Medical Officer  
*Ossium Health*

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

#### Speaker

Title  
*OPO*

## Organ Allocation & Utilization

### Organ Allocation and Utilization

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
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**

<p><b>Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM – 9:25 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Mass Appeal with Mass Media: Engaging Diverse Audiences with Positive Messaging and Emotional Connections</b></p> <p><b>Carlos Jasso</b> Public Relations Manager / Creative Services Manager <i>Donor Connect</i> <b>Stories of Hope</b></p> <p><b>Katelynn Metz</b> Community Outreach Coordinator <i>Center for Organ Recovery &amp; Education</i> <b>The Pitt</b></p> <p><b>E'Tiffany Jones (Tentative)</b> Head of Public Engagement, Communications &amp; Strategic Partnerships <i>OneLegacy</i> <b>OneLegacy Inspires Hollywood</b></p>	
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## Donor Care Units

### Donor Care Units

2-Hour Session

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
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 (Tentative)

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

#### Michael Harmon (Tentative)

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

**Abstract Title**

**Speakers TBD**

**DEIB Workshop**

**DEIB Workshop**

**2-Hour Session**

**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM – 10:25 AM**

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

**Speaker TBA**

Title  
*OPO*

**Speaker TBA**

Title  
*OPO*

**Speaker TBA**

Title  
*OPO*

*draft*

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

Collaborative Partnerships		
<b>Collaborative Partnerships</b>  Tuesday, June 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM	<b>Title</b>  <b>Speaker TBA</b> Title <i>OPO</i>  <b>Speaker TBA</b> Title <i>OPO</i>	

DCD, NRP & Preservation		
<b>DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation</b>  Tuesday, June 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM	<b>From ‘Oops’ to Optimized: Solving the Infectious Disease Testing Puzzle</b> 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.  <b>Chelsea Douglas (Tentative)</b> Organ Recovery Coordinator <i>Network for Hope</i> <b>Undetectable Results to Positive Outcomes: A DCD Hope Act Donor</b>  <b>Hillary Akana (Tentative)</b> Quality Control Manager <i>Eurofins Donor &amp; Product Testing</i> <b>Discrepant Infectious Disease Results, Now What?</b>	

**UNION Data**

<p><b>UNION Data</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM</p>	<p><b>Unlocking Insights: A Collaborative Session to Define the Business Questions UNION Should Answer</b></p> <p>Description.</p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p>	
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## Organ Allocation & Utilization

### Organ Allocation and Utilization

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
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**

##### Tara Psencik

Chief Clinical and Chief Executive Officer  
*Turn Medical, LLC*

**Improving oxygenation and increasing the number of lungs for transplantation from organ donors with atelectasis and hypoxemia with the use of an automated prone positioning device**

**Peer, Partner & Donor Family Support**

<p><b>Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM – 10:25 AM</p>	<p><b>Guiding the Gift: Mentorship and Knowledge Sharing for External Partners</b></p> <p><b>Brett Milam (Tentative)</b> Community Relations Associate <i>Network for Hope</i> <b>OPO Creates Orientation and Quiz to Educate Driver's License Agency Employees About Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation and Their Role Within the Process</b></p> <p><b>Sondra Tootell</b> Community Relations Program Manager <i>Cascade Life Alliance</i> <b>"Your Choice, Their Chance" - Comprehensive Organ Donation Education for Diverse Student Communities</b></p> <p><b>Gina Martin</b> Forensic Liaison <i>Gift of Hope Organ &amp; Tissue Donor Network</i> <b>Value of having our Partners Mentor Other Entities within their Organizations</b></p>	
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## Donor Care Units

### Donor Care Units

#### 2-Hour Session

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
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 (Tentative)**

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

#### **Michael Harmon (Tentative)**

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

#### **Speakers TBD**



**DEIB Workshop**

<p><b>DEIB Workshop</b></p> <p><b>2-Hour Session</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM – 10:25 AM</p>	<p><b>DEIB Workshop: What It Is and Is Not For Your OPO</b> <b>2-Hour Session – <i>Cont'd</i></b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p>	
<p>10:30 AM – 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Energizing Break with Exhibitors &amp; Poster Abstract Authors.</b> <b>Be sure to stop by and ask them questions!</b></p>	


**Breakout Impact Sessions**  
**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

<b>TIME</b> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>F - Impact Sessions</b> Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	<b>ROOM</b>
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**Collaborative Partnerships**

<p><b>Collaborative Partnerships</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Driving Toward a Better Partnership: Exploring Connections with our EMS Partners</b></p> <p><b>Jared Roorda (Tentative)</b> Organ Donation Specialist <i>Versiti</i> <b>OPO and EMS System Partnerships</b></p> <p><b>Madelyn Clark (Tentative)</b> Partner Relations Coordinator <i>Iowa Donor Network</i> <b>Challenge Coin Program for EMS Partners</b></p>	
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**DCD, NRP & Preservation**

<p><b>DCD, uDCD, NRP, and Preservation</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p> <div style="border: 2px solid #003366; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p align="center"><b>INDUSTRY INSIGHT</b></p>  </div>	<p><b>Perfuse It or Lose It? The Debate Over Machine Preservation</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Jennifer Guzman (Tentative)</b> Director of Marketing <i>Bridge to Life</i> <b>Bridging Perspectives: Advancing Organ Machine Perfusion and Preservation Across OPOs and Transplant Centers</b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b> Title OPO Abstract Title</p>	
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## OPO Operations

<p><b>OPO Operations</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Innovative Approaches in Organ Donation: Case Insights, Process Enhancements, and Next-of-Kin Advocacy</b></p> <p><b>Allie Bonadies</b> AOC <i>Cascade Life Alliance</i> <b>Lower Limb Cryoamputation in BD Donor with Devascularization Injury After MCC – A Case Review</b></p> <p><b>Jenny Beelke</b> Procurement Transplant Coordinator <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> <b>Dedicating Expertise: Improving Culture Recording and Reporting in Organ Donation</b></p> <p><b>John Edwards</b> Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations <i>Gift of Life Donor Program</i> <b>A Novel Strategy for Organ Procurement Organization Driven Search for Legal NOK</b> AOPO NRP Task Force Chair</p>	
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## Organ Allocation & Utilization

### Organ Allocation and Utilization

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:05 AM – 12:00 PM

#### Swipe Right on These Kidneys: Smarter Matches, Better Outcomes

Maximizing kidney utilization means making smarter, faster matches. This session explores how expedited placement algorithms, remote pathology tools, and innovative allocation strategies are improving the use of high-KDPI and hard-to-place kidneys—ensuring more organs find their perfect match.

##### 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**  
AOPO 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**

<p><b>Peer, Partner, and Donor Family Support</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Unexpected Heroes – Expanding the Boundaries of Organ Donors</b></p> <p><b>Samantha Taylor</b> Donation Support Specialist Supervisor <i>UW Organ and Tissue Donation</i> Just say, "Yes, yes we can."</p> <p><b>Kayla Statz</b> Organ Procurement Coordinator <i>UW Organ and Tissue Donation</i> Just say, "Yes, yes we can."</p> <p><b>Amy Sanchez</b> Clinical Resource Supervisor <i>Nevada Donor Network</i> <b>Organ Donation: Because Even Heroes Need a Good Network</b> AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee</p>	
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**Referral Management**

<p><b>Referral Management</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Title</b> Description.</p> <p><b>Jake Miles, MD (Tentative)</b> Medical Director <i>Paragonix Technologies</i> <b>Controlled Hypothermic Preservation Facilitates Reallocation of High-Risk Donor Livers in the Settling of Late Declines</b></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p>	
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## Training & Education

<p><b>Training &amp; Education</b></p> <p>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Echoing Excellence: A Heartfelt Journey into Echocardiogram Training</b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b> DCU Specialist <i>Midwest Transplant Network</i> <b>Echoing Excellence: A Heartfelt Journey into Echocardiogram Training</b></p> <p><b>Speaker TBA</b> Title <i>OPO</i> Abstract Title</p>	
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12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>Networking Lunch with Exhibitors</b>	
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>OPO In-House Counsel Lunch and Meeting</b> <i>(Closed Session for member OPO Counsel only)</i>	
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>AOPO Foundation Board Lunch and Meeting</b> <i>(Closed Session)</i>	

# AOPO 2025 Annual Meeting

June 22 – 24 | Denver, CO | #AOPOAM25



TUESDAY, JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## PLENARY SESSIONS

Open to all registered attendees

Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

Time	Session	Room
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### Welcome Back!

1:30 PM – 1:35 PM  
Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>



#### Welcome Back!

##### Kristen Deyling

Learning and Development Specialist  
*Lifebanc*

**AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair**

### Plenary Session

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM  
Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>



#### 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	
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<b>Plenary Session</b>		
<p><b>3:00 PM – 3:40 PM</b> Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Plenary Session</b> Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b>Title</b></p> <p><b>Speaker</b> Title <i>OPO</i></p>	




<b>Incoming President’s Address</b>		
<p><b>3:40 PM – 4:00 PM</b> Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></p>  	<p><b>Incoming President’s Address &amp; Award</b></p> <p><b>Jeff Trageser</b> Executive Director <i>Lifesharing</i> <b>AOPO Incoming President</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Steve Miller</b> CEO <i>AOPO</i></p>	



## Plenary Session

<p><b>4:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b>  <b>Plenary Session</b>  <b>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Title</b></p> <p><b>Speaker</b>          Title  <i>OPO</i></p>	
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## Closing Remarks

<p><b>5:00 PM</b></p>  	<p><b>Closing Remarks – Leave in ACTION!</b></p> <p><b>Kristen Deyling</b>          Learning and Development Specialist  <i>Lifebanc</i>  <b>AOPO Programs &amp; Education Committee Chair</b></p> <p><b>Brooke Garvis</b>          Manager, Corporate Education &amp; Development  <i>Midwest Transplant Network</i>  <b>AOPO Programs &amp; Education Committee Vice Chair</b></p>	
<p><b>5:30 PM – 7:30 PM</b>  <b>Social Event</b>  <b>Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></b></p> 	<p><i>Join Us!</i></p> <p>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!</p>	

