



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 21, 2026		Room
6:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Golf Classic benefitting the AOPO Foundation <i>Separate registration required.</i>	
8:30 AM – 7:00 PM	Registration Open	Level 3
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Public Affairs Meeting <i>OPO members only</i>	TBD
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Community Engagement Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TBD
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Advocacy Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TBD
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Data Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TBD
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! Donation Services Workshop <i>DFS, HD, Clinical, Edu & Training</i>	TBD
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! Donor Care Units	TBD
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	HR Community of Practice <i>Closed meeting for OPO HR staff only</i>	TBD
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! Tissue Services Workshop <i>Content and speakers provided by:</i> 	TBD
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! DMG Workgroup	TBD
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Financial Management Community of Practice <i>Closed meeting for OPO Finance staff only</i>	TBD
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Leadership Development Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TBD
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	OPO IMPACT Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TBD
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Information Technology & Data Communities of Practice	TBD
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	AOPO OPTN Engagement Task Force <i>Task Force members only</i>	TBD
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	President's Reception <i>Invitation Only</i>	TBD
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	GRAND OPENING RECEPTION IN THE EXHIBIT HALL – ALL ATTENDEES	Exhibit Hall A

AOPO 2026 Annual Meeting

June 21 - 23 | Orlando, FL | #AOPOAM26

MONDAY, JUNE 22ND
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PLENARY SESSIONS

Open to all registered attendees

Monday, June 22nd

Time	Session	Room
7:00 AM – 5:15 PM	Registration Open	Level 3
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall A

Welcome!

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM | PLENARY

Sun Ballroom A-D

Welcome to Orlando & the 43rd AOPO Annual Meeting: 50K in 2026!



Jaison Abraham
Executive Director
OurLegacy



Brooke Garvis
Manager, Corporate Education & Development
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair





Extraordinary Conversations

In this session, Dr. Toby Campbell will present his podcast Extraordinary Conversations and discuss conversations centered on organ donation and the experiences of donor families. He will explore how clinicians approach discussions about donation with compassion, clarity, and respect during moments of profound grief. The session highlights the perspectives of donor families, the emotional complexity of decision-making, and the importance of honoring patient values and family wishes.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe best practices for compassionate, values-based communication during organ donation discussions, incorporating donor family perspectives and principles of clarity, respect, and ethical decision-making.
- Identify patient- and family-centered communication strategies to support meaningful, empathetic conversations about organ donation during times of grief, honoring patient wishes and family needs.



Toby Campbell MD, MS, FAAHPM
Chief of Palliative Care
*University of Wisconsin School of
Medicine and Public Health*



Donor Family
Nikki & Brad Capelle
Janesville, Wisconsin



MODERATOR
Samantha Taylor
Donation Support Specialist
UW Organ & Tissue Donation

In this session, CMS will present on its work in executing national clinical, quality and safety standards. HRSA will present on its continued efforts to modernize OPTN technologies, expand and refine public-facing dashboards, improve oversight of safety reporting and allocation practices, engage patients, donor families, clinicians, OPTN members in modernization efforts, and build new tools to support real-time operations and data transparency.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe how CMS executes national clinical, quality, and patient safety standards and identify implications for nursing practice across transplant and healthcare delivery settings.
- Explain HRSA's OPTN modernization initiatives, including technology updates, safety reporting oversight, allocation practices, and stakeholder engagement efforts, and discuss how enhanced data transparency and real-time tools support patient safety, quality improvement, and equitable care.



Dora Hughes, MD, MPH

Chief Medical Officer & Director of the Center for Clinical Standards & Quality
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



Suma Nair, PhD

Associate Administrator, Health Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration



MODERATOR

Jeff Trageser

Executive Director
Lifesharing
AOPO President



Brianna Doby

Organ Transplant Branch Chief
Health Resources and Services Administration

Monday, June 22, 2026

President's Address

10:40 AM – 11:10 AM | PLENARY

Sun Ballroom A-D

Join us for the President's Address, where Jeff Trageser, President of APOPO, 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.



Jeff Trageser
Executive Director
Lifesharing
APOPO President



MODERATOR
Steve Miller
Chief Executive Officer
APOPO

Monday, June 22, 2026

NRP/AOOS

11:10 AM – 12:00 PM | PLENARY

Sun Ballroom A-D

NRP Practices and Allocation Out of Sequence: Clinical and Operational Considerations

The discussion will provide an overview of current NRP practices as they relate to organ donation workflows, along with operational guidance on allocation out of sequence scenarios. Key topics will include clinical and logistical considerations, coordination between OPOs and clinical teams, and decision-making frameworks that support timely and appropriate allocation.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe current NRP practices within organ donation workflows and identify clinical and operational factors that influence allocation out-of-sequence decisions.
- Explain decision-making frameworks and coordination strategies between OPOs and clinical teams to support timely, appropriate, and compliant organ allocation in out-of-sequence scenarios.



Charles Strom, MD
Chief of Surgical Services
New England Donor Services
APOPO Board of Directors



Jackie Russe
Director of Organ Services
Nevada Donor Network
APOPO IMPACT Committee Chair



MODERATOR
Bruce Nicely
VP, Donation Optimization
Gift of life Michigan



Tracie Hanna
Procurement Transplant Coordinator
Nevada Donor Network

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Networking Lunch with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall A
12:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Annual Business Meeting <i>(Closed meeting for OPO CEOs/Executive Director only)</i>	TBD

Breakout Sessions Monday, June 22 nd		
TIME 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	A - Breakout Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM

Monday, June 22, 2026

Collaborative Partnerships

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | A – Breakout

ROOM TBD

From ICU to Donation: Multidisciplinary Strategies to Improve DCD Outcomes and Palliative Integration

This session explores collaborative approaches to optimizing donation after circulatory death (DCD) through integrated palliative care. Presenters will discuss palliative-focused DCD huddles, strategies for transitioning donors to Donor Care Units, and findings from a quality-improvement initiative addressing missed donation opportunities and palliative care gaps in the ICU. Attendees will gain actionable tools to strengthen interdisciplinary communication and improve both end-of-life care and donation outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key nursing responsibilities within multidisciplinary donation after circulatory death (DCD) workflows, including palliative-focused DCD huddles and transitions to Donor Care Units, to support ethical end-of-life care and optimal donation outcomes.
- Describe evidence-informed communication and coordination strategies to address missed DCD opportunities and palliative care gaps in the ICU, improving interdisciplinary collaboration and patient- and family-centered care.



Kayla Morrison
Hospital Service Coordinator III
Lifebanc



Gabby Severnak
Organ Services
LifeSource



Sarah Lee
Palliative Care Social Worker
Medstar Health



Zachary Sprenger
Donation Coordinator
LifeSource



Amelia Joss
Hospital Donation Coordinator
Infinite Legacy



Paige Savageau
Donation Coordinator
LifeSource



MODERATOR
Brooke Garvis
Manager Corporate Education
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair

Pumped for Perfusion: How OPO-Driven NRP is Transforming DCD Organ Placement

This session highlights the growing impact of OPO-driven normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) on DCD organ placement. Presenters will share how a locally fueled OPO and perfusion model is reshaping practice, with a focus on outcomes data reflecting NRP's influence on liver and kidney placement rates. Attendees will gain insight into how OPO-based NRP programs can drive meaningful improvements across the donation and transplant continuum.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the principles and nursing implications of OPO-driven normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) in donation after circulatory death (DCD), including its impact on liver and kidney placement outcomes.
- Verbalize knowledge of OPO-based NRP models and outcomes data to support interdisciplinary collaboration and informed nursing practice across the donation and transplant continuum.



Laura Cwynar
Organ Recovery Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



Christine Radolovic
Chief Clinical Officer
Gift of Life Donor Program



MODERATOR
Kelsi Moret
Sr. Human Resources Business Partner
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
AOPPO Programs & Education Committee

From Biopsy to Bedside: Enhancing Kidney Allocation and Remote Donor Coordination

This session explores innovations shaping kidney allocation and donor coordination. Presenters will compare local, telepathology, and AI-enhanced biopsy interpretation and their impact on allocation decisions, alongside strategies for maintaining consistency when managing donor cases remotely. Attendees will leave with practical insights for leveraging technology and standardized workflows to optimize donation outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the impact of kidney biopsy interpretation methods (local, telepathology, and AI-enhanced) on allocation decisions and donor management across the donation continuum.
- Discuss standardized workflows and remote donor coordination strategies to support consistent nursing practice and optimize kidney donation and allocation outcomes.





Scott Rombach
 Founder & CEO
Specialist Direct



Woodlhey Ambrose
 Senior Director of Organ Operations &
 Surgical Recovery
LifeGift



MODERATOR
Jenna LaSota
 Organ Clinical Educator
Network for Hope
AOPO Programs & Education Committee



Amy Waterman, PhD
 Division Chief for Patient Engagement
 and Diversity
Houston Methodist Research Institute



Amber Schwartz
 Senior Organ Procurement Coordinator
UW Organ & Tissue Donation

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | A – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Breaking Barriers in Liver Utilization: Smarter Tools, Faster Decisions, Better Outcomes

Reducing late declines and maximizing liver utilization requires both innovation and precision. This session examines how 3D volumetrics can support faster, more confident placement decisions and explores the impact of pre-allocation open liver biopsy on overall liver utilization rates. This session offers practical approaches to integrating smarter diagnostic tools into their decision-making processes.



Learning Objectives:

- Describe how advanced diagnostic tools, including 3D liver volumetrics and pre-allocation open liver biopsy, influence liver allocation decisions and utilization outcomes.
- Discuss how to integrate data-driven diagnostic strategies into interdisciplinary decision-making processes to reduce late declines and improve liver placement efficiency and patient outcomes.



Lee Keddie
 President & CEO
CompuMed



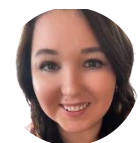
Philip Hahn
 Assistant Manager of Recovery Services
LifeLink of Florida



Thomas Molony
 VP, Organ Services
Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency



Felicitas Koller, MD
 Professor of Surgery
UMMC



MODERATOR
Jessica Brown
 Organ Clinical Educator
Network for Hope
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | A – Breakout

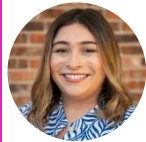
ROOM TBD

Advancing Donation Collaboration: Elevating Outcomes Through Liaison and Specialist Integration

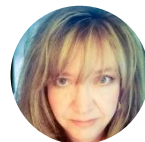
Strong hospital partnerships and specialized expertise are at the heart of improving donation outcomes. This session highlights the inaugural Donation Liaison Workshop and the impact of in-house donation specialists on OPO-hospital collaboration and organ donation outcomes. Participants will walk away with insights into how dedicated liaison models are strengthening relationships and driving measurable improvements in the field.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of donation liaisons and in-house donation specialists in strengthening OPO–hospital collaboration and improving organ donation outcomes.
- Identify liaison-based partnership strategies and specialist integration models to enhance interdisciplinary communication, hospital engagement, and donation performance metrics.



Emily Pier
Hospital Development Specialist
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



Lora Smitherman
Manager, Hospital Services
HonorBridge



MODERATOR
Gilbert Chediak
In-House Coordinator 2
South Florida Donor Network

AI Strategies

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | A – Breakout

ROOM TBD

From Data to Donation: Partnering with AI to Improve DCD Decisions

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how donation teams identify opportunities and anticipate critical clinical moments. This session explores the use of AI in determining donor eligibility and predicting imminent asystole in DCD cases, offering a closer look at how data-driven tools can support faster, more accurate decision-making. Clinicians and coordinators will gain practical insight into integrating AI-enabled approaches to improve DCD outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the application of artificial intelligence tools in donation after circulatory death (DCD), including donor eligibility assessment and prediction of imminent asystole, to support timely and accurate clinical decision-making.
- Explain the application of AI-informed data insights to interdisciplinary DCD workflows to improve identification of donation opportunities and enhance organ donation outcomes.



Richard Threlkeld, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Valiant



Lirim Ashiku, PhD
Chief Technology Officer
Valiant





MODERATOR
Stephanie Gonzalez
 Organ Procurement Coordinator
Lifesharing
AOPO Programs & Education Committee



Renee O'Reilly
 Business Intelligence & Analytics Partner
Mid-America Transplant

Training & Education

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | A – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Smarter Conversations: Using Simulation and Predictive Analytics to Support Family Approach in DCD

Navigating family conversations in DCD cases requires both skill and strategy. This session examines simulation-based training for managing opposition during first-person authorization discussions and explores how predictive analytics can inform donor advocate deployment to normalize and support complex conversations. This session equips attendees with innovative tools and approaches to strengthen family communication and improve authorization outcomes in DCD cases.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the use of simulation-based training and predictive analytics to support effective family approach strategies and manage opposition during first-person authorization discussions in DCD cases.
- Verbalize structured communication tools and data-informed insights to enhance family-centered conversations, strengthen donor advocate deployment, and improve authorization outcomes in donation after circulatory death (DCD).



Robbie Glazner
 Director, Business Intelligence
Donor Network of Arizona
AOPO Data Committee



Josh Brennan
 Director, Donor Legacy
Donor Network of Arizona



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



Mallory Tanner
 Learning and Development Specialist
Donor Alliance

Navigating the Intersection of Pediatric Death Investigation and Organ Donation

This session examines the coordination required when pediatric death investigations overlap with organ and tissue donation opportunities. Participants will review roles of medical examiners, healthcare teams, and organ procurement organizations, along with key legal, ethical, and communication considerations. Emphasis will be placed on preserving forensic integrity, supporting families, and promoting timely, collaborative decision-making.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of medical examiners, healthcare teams, and organ procurement organizations when pediatric death investigations intersect with organ and tissue donation.
- Identify ethical, legal, and communication principles to support family-centered care while preserving forensic integrity and facilitating timely, collaborative decision-making in pediatric donation cases.



Jonathan Boyd
Founder & CEO
AlloEd



Anna G. McDonald, MD
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pathology
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist



MODERATOR
Michael Palmisano
Director of Tissue Operations
We Are Sharing Hope SC



Thomas Nakagawa, MD
Associate Medical Director
HonorBridge

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors

Exhibit Hall A

Breakout Sessions

Monday, June 22nd

TIME
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

B – Breakout Sessions
Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.

ROOM

Collaborative Partnerships

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | B – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Community-Powered Donation: Engaging First Responders, Advancing Equity, and Expanding Access

Building a culture of donation requires meeting communities where they are. This session showcases innovative outreach strategies, from leveraging friendly competition among first responders to foster pro-donation communities, to an OPO-led equity initiative addressing persistent disparities in kidney transplant access. Those in attendance will gain fresh perspectives and replicable models for driving meaningful engagement and expanding access across diverse populations.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe community-based engagement strategies, including first responder-focused initiatives, that promote organ donation awareness and foster pro-donation cultures across diverse communities.
- Discuss equity-focused outreach and partnership models to support nursing practice aimed at reducing disparities in kidney transplant access and expanding donation opportunities for underserved populations.



Monica Myles
Director of Operations, Northern Nevada
Nevada Donor Network



Jenna Dumas
Associate Director of Donation Development
Nevada Donor Network



Benjamin Asfaw
Chief Quality Officer
New England Donor Services



Cristian Morales
Senior External Affairs Coordinator
Sierra Donor Services



Steven Averhart
Senior Director of Family Services
New England Donor Services



Michael Coleman
Communications Director
Sierra Donor Services



MODERATOR
Kristen Deyling
Learning & Development Specialist
Lifebanc
AOP Programs & Education Committee

Flow & Form: Histologic Value and Blood Utilization in NRP

Understanding what happens at the cellular level during normothermic regional perfusion is key to maximizing organ viability. This session examines the histologic value of NRP-perfused kidneys and explores blood and perfusion solution utilization practices within NRP protocols. Audience members will come away with a deeper understanding of how perfusion dynamics influence organ quality and inform best practices in NRP implementation.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe histologic changes and perfusion dynamics associated with normothermic regional perfusion (NRP), including their implications for kidney viability and overall organ quality.
- Identify blood utilization and perfusion solution management practices to support evidence-informed nursing care and best practices during NRP implementation.



MODERATOR
David D. Malkow
President and CEO
Perfusion Solutions, Inc.



Laura Cwynar
Organ recovery Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education

Ending the Ice Age: Redefining Organ Preservation Through Controlled Hypothermic Technology

Advances in controlled hypothermic preservation are expanding what's possible in organ transport. This session highlights the KidneyVault's support of continuous machine perfusion during commercial air travel, controlled hypothermic preservation for donor livers, and BAROguard as a rescue pathway for hard-to-place donor lungs. Participants will walk away with insight into how these technologies are broadening placement opportunities and redefining organ preservation.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the principles and clinical applications of controlled hypothermic preservation technologies, including continuous machine perfusion during transport and rescue pathways for hard-to-place organs.
- Discuss advanced organ preservation strategies to interdisciplinary coordination and decision-making processes to expand placement opportunities and improve organ utilization outcomes.



MODERATOR
Jake Miles, MD
 Medical Director
Paragonix Technologies



Sherry Quire
 Director, Organ Services
Indiana Donor Network

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | B – Breakout

ROOM TBD

It’s Not You, It’s the Data: Navigating Invalid NATs and Blood Type Plot Twist

Data anomalies can complicate even the most straightforward donation cases. This session tackles two nuanced challenges: the impact of invalid nucleic acid test (NAT) results on deceased donor organ utilization and the implications of blood type transformation following bone marrow transplant. Clinicians and coordinators will gain practical insight into navigating these complex scenarios to minimize their impact on organ placement and donor outcomes.



Learning Objectives:

- Describe the impact of invalid nucleic acid test (NAT) results and post–bone marrow transplant blood type changes on deceased donor evaluation and organ utilization.
- Explain data interpretation and coordination strategies to navigate complex testing and blood type discrepancies, supporting timely decision-making and minimizing barriers to organ placement.



Hillary Akana
Quality Control Manager
Eurofins Donor & Product Testing



Tania Houle
Director, Referral Optimization
Legacy of Hope



Lisa Stocks
VP, Transplant Services & Performance Improvement
OneLegacy



Lindsey Banks
Director of Clinical Services
Legacy of Hope



MODERATOR
Sara Dionne, PhD
President
Eurofins Donor & Product Testing



Kristy Lowe
Assistant Director of Clinical Services
Legacy of Hope

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | B – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Measuring What Matters: A Data-Driven Look at FPA Opposition and Authorization Outcomes

Accurate performance assessment depends on asking the right questions and measuring the right outcomes. This session presents a data-driven framework for evaluating authorization performance through an observed versus expected lens, while also drawing important distinctions between FPA resistance and FPA opposition. This session equips attendees with analytical tools and a clearer conceptual framework to drive more meaningful quality improvement in authorization practices.

Learning Objectives:

- Differentiate between first-person authorization (FPA) resistance and FPA opposition and explain how these distinctions influence authorization performance evaluation.
- Describe observed-versus-expected data frameworks to analyze authorization outcomes and inform nursing-led quality improvement initiatives in donation practice.



Noell Olsen
Director of Governance & Data Strategy
Cascade Life Alliance



Katy McCue
Director of Strategic Relations
Cascade Life Alliance



MODERATOR
John Malone
Manager, Business Intelligence
DonorConnect



Taylor Brookins
Director of Family Services
Midwest Transplant Network

Referral Management

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | B – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Get There First, Find Them Faster: Mastering Early Referrals & Registry Optimization

Timing and technology are everything in organ donation. This session explores the critical value of early referrals, strategies for optimizing and automating registry searches, and the role of mobile health platforms in streamlining workflows through a human factors lens. Those in attendance will come away with actionable strategies to improve referral timing, enhance registry efficiency, and leverage technology to identify and act on donation opportunities faster.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the importance of early donor referral and optimized registry search processes, including the use of automation and mobile health platforms, in identifying donation opportunities in a timely manner.
- Discuss human factors-informed technology and workflow strategies to improve referral timing, enhance registry efficiency, and support faster, more effective donation-related decision-making.



Dave Pilling
Principal Technology and Innovation Strategist
Donor Network of Arizona



Claire Ward
Tissue Donor Optimization Manager
Donor Network of Arizona



Hobby Al-Saleh
 VP of Clinical Operations
Donor Network of Arizona



Allen Paulsen
 Organ Process Supervisor
LifeSource



MODERATOR
Erin Halpin
 Organ Procurement Coordinator
UW Organ & Tissue Donation
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

Training & Education

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | B – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Leader Development in Action: From Individual Plans to Organizational Impact

Effective leadership development starts with intentional, individualized growth. This session highlights a coaching-driven approach to leader development, exploring how Individual Development Plans and targeted coaching strategies can strengthen workforce engagement and elevate organizational performance. Participants will walk away with practical frameworks for building a culture of continuous development that drives impact at every level.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe coaching-driven leadership development strategies, including the use of Individual Development Plans (IDPs), to support professional growth and workforce engagement.
- Discuss the application of structured leadership development frameworks to promote continuous learning, strengthen team performance, and contribute to positive organizational outcomes.



Laura Walling-Sotolongo
 Sr. Director, Talent and Optimization
New England Donor Services



Amanda Beck
 Recovery Services Supervisor
Versiti



MODERATOR
Brooke Garvis
 Manager Corporate Education
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair

Breakout Sessions Monday, June 22 nd		
TIME	C – Breakout Sessions	ROOM
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships		Monday, June 22, 2026
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM C – Breakout		ROOM TBD
<h3>Navigating Neurologic Death Determination and Anatomical Gift Utilization Across the Lifespan</h3> <p>Hospital policies for determining neurologic death vary widely, and those variations have real consequences for donors, families, and transplant outcomes in both adult and pediatric populations. This session examines how OPOs and hospital partners can align on policy implementation and maximize the utilization of anatomical gifts when every decision matters most.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe clinical, ethical, and policy considerations unique to pediatric organ donation, including factors that influence full utilization of anatomical gifts and consistency in neurologic death determination practices. Explain best practice and policy-informed approaches to support equitable, compassionate, and thorough pediatric donation processes while maintaining family-centered care and interdisciplinary collaboration. 		
 <p>Thomas Nakagawa, MD Associate Medical Director <i>HonorBridge</i></p>	 <p>Madison Long Organ Procurement Team Lead <i>Center for Organ Recovery & Education</i></p>	
 <p>MODERATOR Angie Hockman Professional Services Liaison <i>Center for Organ Recovery & Education</i> AOPO Programs & Education Committee</p>		

DCD, uDCD, NRP		Monday, June 22, 2026
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM C – Breakout		ROOM TBD
<h3>More Organs, Better Outcomes: Unlocking the Potential of DCD & NRP</h3> <p>NRP is proving to be a powerful lever for expanding DCD organ utilization. This session examines how OPO-driven NRP is increasing liver utilization and improving observed-to-expected ratios, the impact of combining NRP with advanced organ preservation strategies, and practical lessons in sustaining effective perfusion practices. Clinicians and coordinators will gain insight into how NRP-centered approaches are translating into more organs transplanted and better outcomes across the board.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the role of OPO-driven normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) in donation after circulatory death (DCD), including its impact on liver utilization, observed-to-expected performance metrics, and overall transplant outcomes. 		

- Discuss the application of evidence-informed NRP and advanced organ preservation principles to nursing and interdisciplinary practice to support sustainable perfusion workflows and maximize organ utilization across the donation continuum.



Nathan Fine
 Manager, Organ Utilization
Donor Network of Arizona



Laura Cwynar
 Organ Recovery Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



Brytany Bailey
 Director, Preservation & Placement
Gift of Life Michigan



Bryan Bennet
 Organ Machine Perfusion Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



MODERATOR
Kelsi Moret
 Sr. Human Resources Business Partner
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

OPO Operations

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM | C – Breakout

ROOM TBD

From Insight to Action: AI-Driven Recommendations and Streamlined Donation Workflows

Smarter systems are making donation workflows faster and more effective. This session explores how comprehensive AI-driven chart summarization and clinical recommendations are enhancing decision-making, alongside how ecosystem interoperability is streamlining the donation process from end to end. Clinicians and coordinators will gain insight into how integrating intelligent tools and connected systems can reduce friction and drive more timely, informed action across the donation continuum.



Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of AI-driven clinical summarization, decision support, and interoperable systems in enhancing donation-related decision-making and workflow efficiency across the donation continuum.
- Identify intelligent, data-enabled tools and streamlined workflow strategies to support timely action, interdisciplinary collaboration, and improved donation outcomes in clinical practice.



MODERATOR
Aditi Srinivasan
 VP & General Manager, Donation & Transplant
InVita Healthcare Technologies



Andrew Kaufman
 Senior Manager of Products & Services
InVita Healthcare Technologies

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM | C – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Storms Within: Navigating Asthma and Brain Death Physiology in Organ Donation

Optimizing donor management in the face of complex physiology is essential to maximizing transplant potential. This session explores the impact of donor management strategies on lung transplant outcomes in asthmatic donors and examines approaches to restoring cardiac function in the brain dead donor to enhance transplant suitability. This session equips attendees with evidence-informed strategies for navigating challenging donor physiology and improving organ utilization outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe evidence-informed donor management strategies for asthmatic donors and brain-dead donors, including interventions aimed at optimizing lung and cardiac function to improve transplant suitability.
- Discuss the application of physiologic management principles to complex donor scenarios to enhance organ utilization outcomes and support interdisciplinary decision-making in organ donation practice.



Katrina Gauntt
Research Statistician
Donor Network of Arizona



Ashwini Arjuna, MD
Director of Education
*Pulmonary Medicine at Norton Thoracic
Institute St. Joseph's Hospital*



Hobby Al-Saleh
VP of Clinical Operations
Donor Network of Arizona



Matthew Ellison
Manager of Organ Recovery
Southern Legacy of Life



MODERATOR
Jessica Brown
Organ Clinical Educator
Network for Hope
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM | C – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Navigating Resistance, Building Partnerships, and Using Data to Enhance Organ Donation

Sustainable donation growth requires both strong relationships and smart data. This session explores how one OPO transformed conflict into collaboration across a multi-hospital system through strategic partnerships, education, and effective navigation of FPA resistance. Presenters will also examine how national public health data can guide targeted outreach efforts to drive donor registration. Participants will walk away with replicable strategies for strengthening hospital relationships and applying a public health lens to expand donation impact.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe strategies for navigating first-person authorization (FPA) resistance and building collaborative partnerships across hospital systems to support sustainable improvements in organ donation processes.

- Identify the utilization of public health data and performance metrics to guide targeted outreach, strengthen hospital relationships, and enhance donor registration and authorization outcomes.



Angie Deml
Hospital Partner Liaison
LifeSource



Crysta McGee
Community Relations Manager
Network for Hope



MODERATOR
Jenna LaSota
Organ Clinical Educator
Network for Hope
AOP0 Programs & Education Committee

Referral Management

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM | C – Breakout

ROOM TBD

From Determination to Donation: Reducing Variability, Improving Timeliness, and Maximizing Donor Potential

Timely and accurate clinical evaluation is critical to maximizing every donation opportunity. This session addresses two key barriers in the donation process: reducing actionable non-referrals through onsite clinical evaluation by referral responders and identifying obstacles to timely brain death determination in critically ill patients. This session equips attendees with practical strategies to minimize variability, improve timeliness, and ensure no opportunity is missed from determination to donation.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe strategies to reduce variability and actionable non-referrals in the donation process, including the role of onsite clinical evaluation by referral responders and timely assessment of donor potential.
- Discuss evidence-informed approaches to support timely brain death determination and coordinated interdisciplinary decision-making, maximizing donor suitability from determination through donation.



Ameera Samad
Donation Coordinator
Gift of Hope



Magic Allen
Organ Donor Care Center Lead
Rush University



MODERATOR
Kimberly Blair
Manager, Referral Coordinator
LifeLink of Florida



David Moreno
Referral Responder
Nevada Donor Network

Back to Basics: The Value of Watch One, Do One, Teach One in Surgical Skills Training

Sometimes the most effective training models are rooted in time-tested principles. This session revisits the "Watch One, Do One, Teach One" framework as an approach to surgical skills training for non-transplant organs, exploring how this hands-on methodology builds competency and confidence across donation teams. Audience members will come away with insight into how foundational training principles can yield meaningful improvements in surgical preparedness.



Learning Objectives:

- Describe the principles and benefits of the "Watch One, Do One, Teach One" training model as applied to surgical skills development for non-transplant organ recovery and donation teams.
- Identify hands-on, experiential training strategies to support skill competency, confidence, and preparedness among interdisciplinary donation team members.



Mike Vara
Sr. Regional Director
IIAM



Bethany Guieb
Interim Surgical Supervisor
Nevada Donor Network



MODERATOR
Gina Dunne Smith
Executive Director
IIAM

AOPO 2026 Annual Meeting

June 21 - 23 | Orlando, FL | #AOPOAM26

TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 23 rd		
Time	Session	Room
7:00 AM – 5:15 PM	Registration Open	Level 3
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall A
7:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Medical Directors Meeting <i>(Closed meeting for OPO Medical Directors only)</i>	TBD
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Econometrica TEP Meeting <i>(Closed meeting Invitation only)</i>	TBD

Breakout Sessions Tuesday, June 23 rd		
TIME	D – Breakout Sessions	ROOM
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | D – Breakout

ROOM TBD

No Cath, No Problem: How OPOs Achieve Record-Breaking Results with MOSAiCC

Cardiac catheterization has long been a standard step in donor evaluation — but what happens when you take it out of the equation? This session explores how OPOs are achieving record-breaking results using MOSAiCC by CompuMed, challenging traditional evaluation pathways and demonstrating that high performance is possible without routine catheterization. Clinicians and coordinators will gain insight into how this innovative approach is streamlining workflows and expanding organ utilization.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the use of MOSAiCC as an alternative donor evaluation strategy and its impact on organ utilization and outcomes in the absence of routine cardiac catheterization.
- Discuss streamlined, technology-enabled evaluation approaches to support efficient workflows, interdisciplinary collaboration, and expanded organ utilization in donor management practice.



Brian Lima, MD
Associate Professor of Cardiac
Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Alisha Jackson
Sr. Director of Organ Services
ConnectLife



MODERATOR
Lee Keddie
President & CEO
CompuMed

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

OPO Operations - Logistics

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | D – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Precision in Transit: Improving Outcomes through Logistics and Thermal Stability

Every minute and every degree matters in organ transport. This session examines two key dimensions of transportation excellence: the strategic value of Indirect Air Carrier certification in elevating logistics operations, and the thermal stability and operational outcomes of a static cold storage shipper in abdominal organ transport. Participants will walk away with practical insight into how precision logistics and temperature management are improving reliability and outcomes across the organ transport continuum.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of precision logistics and temperature management—including Indirect Air Carrier certification and static cold storage technologies—in supporting safe, reliable abdominal organ transport and preservation.
- Discuss principles of transport coordination and thermal stability monitoring to interdisciplinary workflows to improve organ transport efficiency and transplantation outcomes across the donation continuum.



Arif Rahman, PhD
Chief Technology Officer
MaxQ Research



Bradon Nave
Director of Innovation
LifeShare of Oklahoma



MODERATOR
Sadie Everts
Manager of Organ Services
Nevada Donor Network



Kayla Forman
Director of Guide the Gift
Iowa Donor Network
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

OPO Operations – Staffing Models

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | D – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Workforce Solutions: Career Ladders and Strategic Staffing for OPO Teams

A stable, well-structured workforce is foundational to OPO performance. This session examines two complementary approaches to building sustainable teams: a structured third-party clinical staffing model designed to enhance operational performance and reduce costs, and a career ladder and staffing framework tailored for recovery and preservation teams. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies for strengthening workforce stability, supporting staff growth, and optimizing team structure to meet the demands of a dynamic donation environment.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe structured workforce models, including third-party clinical staffing and career ladder frameworks, that support staffing stability, cost efficiency, and performance within organ procurement organization (OPO) teams.
- Explain strategic staffing and career development approaches to strengthen workforce engagement, support professional growth, and optimize recovery and preservation team operations in a dynamic donation environment.



Christopher Thome
Sales and Logistics Director
Dedicated Staffing Solutions



Jessica Hunt
Organ Recovery & Preservation Manager
LifeSource



MODERATOR

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | D – Breakout

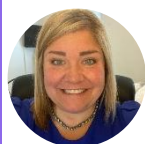
ROOM TBD

Mismatch Made Possible: Unlocking Transplant Potential Beyond 8/8

Deceased donor bone marrow is emerging as a transformative graft source for patients with limited transplant options. This session presents findings from four studies examining cryopreserved deceased donor bone marrow in allogeneic transplantation, covering relapse reduction in HLA-mismatched cases, rapid access models, alternative graft sourcing, and first-in-human results in hematologic malignancies. Participants will leave with insight into how this evolving science is expanding transplant eligibility and offering new hope beyond traditional matching thresholds.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the clinical applications and emerging evidence supporting cryopreserved deceased donor bone marrow as an allogeneic graft source, including its role in HLA-mismatched transplantation and expanded transplant eligibility.
- Discuss alternative graft sourcing and rapid-access transplant models to support informed nursing practice, interdisciplinary coordination, and patient education in hematologic transplantation settings.



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



Sagar Munjal, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Ossium Health

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | D – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Engaging Hearts and Minds: Culturally Informed Organ Donation Initiatives

Trust and cultural connection are at the core of effective donation outreach. This session highlights two community-driven initiatives — an Islamic outreach program helping local Muslims navigate organ donation through a faith-informed lens, and a bilingual Día de los Muertos-based program engaging Latino communities in meaningful donation conversations. Participants will walk away with culturally grounded models for expanding outreach and donor registration across diverse populations.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe culturally informed organ donation outreach strategies, including faith-based and bilingual community initiatives, that build trust and support informed decision-making among diverse populations.
- Discuss culturally responsive communication and engagement approaches to nursing practice to enhance donor awareness, strengthen community partnerships, and support equitable donor registration outcomes.



Audrey Holtzman
Diversity & Inclusion Program
Manager
Network for Hope
AOPO Community Engagement Committee



Ingrid Palacios
Multicultural Outreach Program Manager
New England Donor Services



MODERATOR
Trisha Byrd
Director of Community Services & Relations
Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency

HD Mentorship

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | D – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Unifying Partnerships and People: Driving Donation Growth Through Strategic Integration and Mentorship

Growth in donation begins with strong foundations. This session highlights two complementary strategies: a systems-level approach to unifying referring partnerships that drives efficiency and donation growth, and a mentorship program designed to cultivate mission-driven employees through meaningful connection. Those in attendance will come away with practical models for aligning organizational strategy with people-centered development.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe systems-level strategies for integrating referring partnerships and mentorship programs to improve efficiency, collaboration, and growth in organ donation practices.
- Identify people-centered development and mentorship models to strengthen workforce engagement, support mission-driven performance, and align individual contributions with organizational donation goals.



Valerie Durachta
Senior Donation Coordinator
Gift of Hope



Lindsay Howeth
Hospital EMR & Quality Analyst
Gift of Hope



MODERATOR
Meredith Willits
Hospital Services Manager
Live On Nebraska



Heather Osipowicz
Director of Donation Development
Nevada Donor Network

Building the Donation Workforce: Innovative OPO-Led Student and Preceptor Initiatives

The future of donation depends on cultivating mission-driven professionals early. This session showcases two OPO-led initiatives: a medical student program inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals, and a comprehensive preceptor model strengthening workforce readiness. Participants will walk away with replicable frameworks for building educational pipelines that advance the donation mission.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe OPO-led educational pipeline initiatives, including student engagement programs and structured preceptor models, that support early exposure to donation practice and workforce development.
- Verbalize strategies for student mentoring and preceptor-supported training to enhance workforce readiness, professional growth, and sustainability within donation-focused healthcare teams.



Jim Rodrigue, PhD
 Director, Data Research & Insights
New England Donor Services



Jessica Irons, ED.D
 Training & Development Specialist
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



MODERATOR
Brooke Garvis
 Manager Corporate Education
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPO Programs & Education Committee Chair



Katie Scully
 Human Resource Specialist
Center for Organ Recovery & Education

<p>9:30 PM – 10:10 PM</p>	<p>Energizing Break with Exhibitors & Poster Abstract Authors will be at their posters. Be sure to stop by and ask them questions!</p>	<p>Exhibit Hall A</p>
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Breakout Sessions Tuesday, June 23rd

TIME 10:10 AM – 11:10 AM	E – Breakout Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM
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Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 PM | E – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Bridging the Gap: Living vs. Deceased Donation Education in Dialysis Communities

Misconceptions about living versus deceased donation can quietly undermine registration and transplant access. This session examines how this confusion impacts donor registration and highlights a community-engaged education model delivered within dialysis centers to reduce transplant barriers. Participants will walk away with replicable strategies for bringing targeted education directly to high-need communities.

Learning Objectives:

- Differentiate between living and deceased organ donation and describe how misconceptions within dialysis communities can impact donor registration and access to transplantation.
- Describe community-engaged, setting-specific education strategies to support informed decision-making, reduce transplant barriers, and improve donation awareness among dialysis patients and their families.



Patrick Wells-O'Brian
VP, Communications & External Relations
Gift of Life Michigan
AOPO Advocacy Committee



leesha Johnson
Executive Director of The Decision Project
Infinite Legacy
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee



MODERATOR
Nicole Sheckler
Director of Communications & Community Engagement
South Florida Donor Network

DCD, uDCD, NRP

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | E – Breakout

ROOM TBD

From 'We're Out' to 'We're In': Rewriting the Ending in the OR

When organs decline intraoperatively, the story doesn't have to end there. This session highlights remarkable salvage cases and strategies that turned potential losses into life-saving outcomes, including real-time heart salvage without ex vivo perfusion, lung recovery following intraoperative decline using ex-vivo lung perfusion, and strategies for maximizing lung placement in DCD donors. Clinicians and coordinators will gain insight into the clinical creativity and decisive action that can rewrite the ending in the OR.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe intraoperative salvage strategies used when organs initially decline, including real-time cardiac salvage, ex vivo lung perfusion, and approaches to maximizing lung placement in DCD donors.
- Identify critical thinking and rapid interdisciplinary decision-making principles to intraoperative challenges to improve organ utilization and support successful transplant outcomes.



Mattique Nowery
Procurement Transplant Coordinator
Nevada Donor Network



Rachel Fry
Regional Transplant Center & OPO
Liaison
Lung Bioengineering



MODERATOR
Jackie Russe
Director of Organ Services
Nevada Donor Services
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee Chair



Meg O'Donnell
Advanced Practice Provider
UW Organ & Tissue Donation

OPO Operations

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | E – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Building Resilient OPOs: Strategic Approaches to Business Continuity

When disruption strikes, preparation makes the difference. This session presents a strategic framework for business continuity implementation in OPOs, offering a roadmap for building resilient operations that can withstand and adapt to unexpected challenges. Audience members will come away with practical tools and approaches to strengthen organizational preparedness and safeguard mission-critical functions.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe core components of a business continuity framework relevant to organ procurement organizations (OPOs), including strategies for maintaining mission-critical functions during operational disruptions.
- Discuss preparedness and resilience strategies to nursing and interdisciplinary workflows to strengthen organizational readiness, continuity of operations, and sustained donation performance during unexpected events.



MODERATOR
Daniel Poucher
Business Resilience Services Manager
Wolf & Company, P.C.



Matthew Moss
Chief Information Officer
New England Donor Services

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | E – Breakout

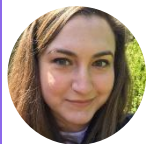
ROOM TBD

Cold Time, Hot Data: How Remote Monitoring is Changing Kidney Transplant Logistics

Real-time data is transforming how teams manage kidney transport and acceptance decisions. This session explores how remote monitoring and tracking technologies are driving operational efficiency and accelerating kidney acceptance, reducing cold time and improving placement outcomes. Participants will walk away with insight into how leveraging live data can streamline logistics and support faster, more confident decision-making across the transplant field.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of remote monitoring and real-time tracking technologies in kidney transport logistics, including their impact on cold time reduction and organ acceptance decisions.
- Explain the application of live-data-driven logistical and communication strategies to support timely coordination, improve operational efficiency, and enhance kidney placement outcomes across the transplant continuum.



MODERATOR
Kayla Andalina
Director, Marketing
Organ Recovery Systems



Amanda Beck
Recovery Services Supervisor
Versiti

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | E – Breakout

ROOM TBD

From Loss to Legacy: Innovative Programs Supporting Donor Families

Honoring the gift of donation means supporting donor families long after the moment of loss. This session highlights two programs designed to deepen that commitment: a 13-month bereavement program enhancing services and support for donor families, and a Donation Legacy Case Program celebrating the lasting impact of each donor's gift. Those in attendance will come away with meaningful models for strengthening family aftercare and fostering enduring connections between donors, families, and the donation community.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe structured donor family support programs, including extended bereavement services and legacy recognition initiatives, that promote healing and honor the impact of organ donation.
- Discuss family-centered aftercare and engagement strategies to strengthen long-term relationships with donor families and support compassionate, ethical donation practice.



Barbara Wells
Administrative Operations Assistant
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



Jill McGrail
Donor Family Support Coordinator
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



MODERATOR

Don Michael Norwood

Manager of Family Care Organ
Mid-South Transplant Foundation

Referral Management

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | E – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Switching It Up: Reimagining Roles and Real-Time Referral Support

Adapting how and where support is delivered can make all the difference in referral outcomes. This session examines two organizational shifts redefining frontline donation support: a transition from virtual to in-person referral support and the strategic move from donation liaisons to referral liaisons. Delegates will leave with practical insight into how reimagining roles and real-time support models can strengthen hospital partnerships and improve referral performance.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the impact of role redesign and real-time referral support models, including the transition from virtual to in-person support and the shift from donation liaisons to referral liaisons, on hospital partnerships and referral outcomes.
- Discuss adaptive referral support strategies to nursing and interdisciplinary practice to enhance collaboration, improve referral performance, and support timely identification of donation opportunities.



Rachel Fish

Manager, Clinical and Donor Family Services
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



Allison Wallace

Manager, Hospital and Partner Relations and Referral Liaison
Gift of Hope



MODERATOR

Brittany Visaggio

Director of Clinical Services
NJ Sharing Network

Training & Education

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM | E – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Better Together: Peer Review and After-Action Insights for Efficient Donor Management

Continuous improvement thrives when teams reflect, learn, and act together. This session explores collaborative quality frameworks including peer-to-peer case review, after-action review improvement planning, and specialized authorization and clinical AOC meetings designed to enhance donor management and workflow efficiency. Audience members will come away with structured approaches to building a culture of shared learning that drives meaningful performance improvement across the organization.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe collaborative quality improvement frameworks—including peer-to-peer case review, after-action review processes, and specialized authorization and clinical AOC meetings—and their role in enhancing donor management and workflow efficiency.
- Describe structured peer review and after-action insights to nursing and interdisciplinary practice to support shared learning, optimize donor management processes, and drive continuous performance improvement across the organization.



Nikki Wykowski
Hospital Development Supervisor
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



Andrea Boone
Senior Donation Liaison
Gift of Hope



MODERATOR
Lou Napolitano
Director of People, Culture + Development
Nevada Donor Network
AOPPO Programs & Education Committee



Scott Sander
Manager, Organ Quality
Midwest Transplant Network

Breakout Sessions Tuesday, June 23 rd		
TIME	F – Breakout Sessions	ROOM
11:10 AM – 12:10 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM | F – Breakout


ROOM TBD

Partnering to Save Lives: Donation Education for Hospice and Advance Care Planning


Donation conversations don't begin in the ICU — they start long before, in hospice settings and advance care planning discussions. This session explores partnership-driven approaches to integrating donation education within hospice programs and equipping advance care planners with the knowledge and tools to support informed decision-making. Those in attendance will come away with strategies for expanding donation awareness earlier in the care continuum.

Learning Objectives:


- Describe partnership-based strategies for integrating organ donation education into hospice care and advance care planning conversations to support informed, patient-centered decision-making.
- Identify communication and educational approaches to collaborate effectively with hospice teams and advance care planners, expanding donation awareness earlier in the care continuum and across settings.



Justina Barnes
Director, Hospital Services
Midwest Transplant Network



Katarina Esser
Donation Support Specialist
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



MODERATOR

Legacy Without Limits: The Impact of Upper Age Donation in DCD

Age alone should not define the boundaries of donation. This session explores the utilization and outcomes of upper-age DCD donors, examining both the opportunities and challenges of expanding donor age criteria. Presenters will take a closer look at elderly DCD patients and what their inclusion means for organ availability and transplant outcomes. Those in attendance will come away with insight into how broadening age considerations can expand the donor pool and extend the reach of life-saving donation.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe clinical considerations and outcomes associated with upper-age donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors, including opportunities and challenges related to expanding donor age criteria.
- Discuss evidence-informed perspectives on donor age to interdisciplinary evaluation and donor management practices that support expanded organ availability and optimized transplant outcomes.



Matthew Ellison
Manager of Organ Recovery
Southern Legacy of Life



Laney Phillips
Organ Recovery Team Lead
Southern Legacy of Life



MODERATOR
Darryl Nethercot
Director of Clinical Operations
Lifesharing
AOPO OPO IMPACT Committee



Felicia Geraci
Manager of Clinical Development
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPO Programs & Education Committee

Donor Care in Action: Lessons from a Tertiary ICU Unit and Telemedicine-Driven Training

Real-world experience and innovative training models are shaping the future of donor management. This session shares outcomes from the first 12 months of clinical operations at an ICU-based Donor Care Unit within a tertiary academic transplant center, alongside a look at how telemedicine is being leveraged to expand advanced clinical training and donor management capabilities. Attendees will leave with practical takeaways on building and sustaining high-performing donor care programs.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe key components and outcomes of an ICU-based Donor Care Unit model, including nursing roles and practices that contribute to effective donor management in a tertiary academic setting.
- Discuss telemedicine-enabled training and clinical support strategies to enhance donor management competencies, interdisciplinary collaboration, and program sustainability within donor care operations.



Sardis Harward, MD
Fellow, Anesthesia Critical Care
University of Cincinnati Medical Center



Meg Whitaker
Organ Donation Coordinator III
HonorBridge



MODERATOR
June Delisle
 Clinical Educator
 Center for Donation & Transplant

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM | F – Breakout

ROOM TBD

No Organ Left Behind: Persistence, Precision, and Progress in Lung Allocation

Every viable lung deserves a chance. This session examines how relentless utilization efforts are reducing waitlist mortality, the complexities of remote centralized ex vivo lung perfusion, lungs transplanted after list exhaustion, and a comparison of static cold storage versus controlled hypothermic storage in EVLP outcomes. Attendees will leave with insight into how persistence and advanced preservation strategies are keeping more lungs in play and more patients off the waitlist.



Learning Objectives:

- Describe advanced lung allocation and preservation strategies, including ex vivo lung perfusion (EVLP), remote centralized perfusion models, and comparisons of static cold storage versus controlled hypothermic preservation, and their impact on lung utilization and waitlist mortality.
- Discuss the application of evidence-informed principles of persistence and precision in donor lung management to interdisciplinary decision-making processes that expand allocation opportunities and improve transplant outcomes.



Kayla Rohbaugh
 Ex Vivo Clinical Specialist
 Lung Bioengineering



Seana Miller
 Ex Vivo Clinical Specialist
 Lung Bioengineering



Allie Giese
 Manager, Organ Allocation
 Gift of Life Michigan



Kate McGarry
 Allocation Supervisor
 Gift of Hope



MODERATOR
Natalie Hogue
 Ex Vivo Clinical Specialist
 Lung Bioengineering



Marne Humphries
 Certified Procurement Transplant
 Coordinator
 Nevada Donor Network

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM | F – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Score a Life: Engaging Young Adults Through Sports and Innovative Donation Campaigns

Reaching young adults requires meeting them where their passion lives. This session highlights two creative outreach strategies: a football-based campaign building emotional connection to donation and driving young adult registration, and an innovative public outreach initiative addressing declining donor registration trends. Participants will walk away with fresh, replicable approaches to capturing the attention and commitment of the next generation of donors.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe innovative outreach strategies, including sports-based and youth-focused campaigns, used to engage young adults and increase organ donor registration rates.
- Discuss creative, population-specific engagement approaches to support nursing and community education efforts aimed at reversing declining donor registration trends among younger populations.



Kennedy Chenault
Community Engagement Associate
Network for Hope



Holly Thomas
Hospital & Community Development
Manager
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



MODERATOR
Sondra Tootell
Community Relations Senior Manager
Cascade Life Alliance

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM | F – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Beyond Age and History: Unlocking New Possibilities in Donation

Expanding the donor pool means challenging assumptions and rethinking what's possible. This session explores strategies for increasing organ utilization and maximizing donor potential, offering practical approaches to identifying and acting on opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked. Those in attendance will come away with insight into how pushing beyond traditional boundaries is opening new possibilities in donation and improving outcomes for patients in need.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe strategies for expanding donor eligibility and increasing organ utilization beyond traditional age and medical history criteria to maximize donor potential and improve patient outcomes.
- Verbalize evidence-informed evaluation and decision-making approaches to identify donation opportunities that may otherwise be overlooked, supporting interdisciplinary collaboration and enhanced donation outcomes.



Amy McDonough
Manager of Logistics
LifeSource
AOPO Leadership Development Committee



Priscilla Erickson
Organ Services Supervisor
LifeSource



MODERATOR
Casey O'Brien
 Organ Clinical Supervisor
Lifesharing



Travis Nolt
 Lead Organ Utilization Coordinator
LifeSource

Advocacy

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM | F – Breakout

ROOM TBD

Protecting Patients, Strengthening OPOs: Advocacy That Matters Now

The policy landscape shaping organ donation is evolving — and OPOs must be ready to engage. This session addresses the critical role of advocacy in protecting patients and strengthening OPO operations, equipping attendees with the knowledge and tools to effectively champion policies that advance the donation and transplantation mission. Audience members will come away with a clearer understanding of the advocacy priorities that matter most right now and how to make their voices heard.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of advocacy in shaping organ donation and transplantation policy, including current priorities that protect patients and strengthen organ procurement organization (OPO) operations.
- Identify advocacy principles and communication strategies to support informed engagement in policy initiatives that advance ethical donation practices and organizational mission goals.



Michael Kenney
 General Counsel & Director of Human Resources
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
AOPO Advocacy Committee Vice-Chair



Patrick Wells-O'Brian
 VP, Communications & External Relations
Gift of Life Michigan
AOPO Advocacy Committee



MODERATOR
Lisa Paolillo
 Chief Counsel
New England Donor Services
AOPO Advocacy Committee Chair



Jordan Brossi
 Sr. Public Affairs Advisor
Holland & Knight



12:10 PM – 1:40 PM	Lunch with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall A
12:10 PM – 1:40 PM	AOPO Foundation Lunch <i>(Closed meeting for Foundation Board Members only)</i>	TBD
12:10 PM – 1:40 PM	In-House Counsel Lunch <i>(Closed meeting for OPO In-House Counsel only)</i>	TBD



PLENARY SESSIONS
Open to all registered attendees

Tuesday, June 23rd

Time	Session	Room
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Welcome Back Day 2!		Tuesday, June 23, 2026
1:40 PM – 1:45 PM PLENARY		Sun Ballroom A-D
 <p>Kristen Deyling Learning & Development Specialist <i>Lifebanc</i> AOPO Programs & Education Committee Past-Chair</p>		
Connect to Purpose		
1:45 PM – 1:55 PM PLENARY		Sun Ballroom A-D
<p>A Final Gift: Inside America's Organ Transplant System CBS News piece on the organ donation and transplantation system. https://www.cbsnews.com/video/a-final-gift-inside-americas-organ-transplant-system/</p>		



Validated Metrics

1:55 PM – 2:45 PM | PLENARY

Sun Ballroom A-D

AOPO is leading a proactive solution in developing metrics grounded in patient-level data and aligned with expert guidance. The goal is to strengthen the organ donation and transplantation system and build public trust around OPO performance while accurately defining the OPOs role in saving lives and delivering valuable data insights that support our system partners and oversight bodies.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of validated, patient-level metrics in accurately defining OPO performance and explain how alignment with expert guidance supports quality improvement and regulatory oversight in organ donation and transplantation.
- Discuss how the use of transparent, data-driven metrics strengthens collaboration with healthcare system partners, informs clinical and operational decision-making, and contributes to building public trust in the organ donation system.



Jon Snyder, PhD
 Director of Transplant Epidemiology
Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute



Jean O'Connor, JD, DrPH, FACHE, PMP
 Director, Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica



Jan Finn
 President & CEO
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPO Validated Metrics Co-Chair



Oneyda Arellano, CHES, PMP
 Manager, Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica



MODERATOR
Barry Massa
 President & CEO
Network for Hope
AOPO Validated Metrics Co-Chair



Caroline Lind, MBA, MPH
 Manager, Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica



Masuma Rahman, MPH
 Associate Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Break with Exhibitors

Exhibit Hall A

Incoming President's

3:30 PM – 4:05 PM | PLENARY

Sun Ballroom A-D

Join us for the Incoming President's Address, where Ali Erickson, will share her vision for the year ahead. This session will highlight key priorities, celebrate the contributions of our members, and outline the opportunities and challenges that will shape our path forward. Don't miss this inspiring and unifying moment as we come together to welcome new leadership and energize our collective commitment to our mission.



Ali Erickson
 Chief Administrative Officer
New England Donor Services
AOPO President-Elect



MODERATOR
Steve Miller
 Chief Executive Officer
AOPO

AOPO Lifetime Achievement Award!

Join us in celebrating AOPO's Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring an individual whose extraordinary dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on the organ procurement and transplantation community. Through meaningful collaboration with AOPO, this honoree has helped shape our mission and inspired generations to come.

National Data

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

4:05 PM – 5:15 PM | PLENARY

Sun Ballroom A-D

Persistent Support, Persistent Gaps and Targeted Messaging to Reduce Donor Deregistration: What 30 Years of National Survey Data Means for the OPO Community

This session examines more than 30 years of nationally representative HRSA survey data to understand persistent trends—and enduring gaps—in public attitudes and behaviors related to organ donation, with a focus on implications for OPO practice and targeted messaging to reduce donor deregistration.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze longitudinal trends in public attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors related to organ donation using national survey data, and identify persistent gaps between donation support, donor registration, and family authorization that impact OPO practice and nursing engagement.
- Discuss evidence from 30 years of national survey findings to inform and refine nursing and OPO strategies for outreach, family communication, trust-building, and authorization approaches that support behavior change and improved donation outcomes.



Jim Rodrigue

Director, Data Research & Insight
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Jon Snyder, PhD

Director of Transplant Epidemiology
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MODERATOR

Stacey Hay

Senior Data Analyst
Versiti
AOPO Data Committee Chair



Jessica Lee

Corporate Communications Manager
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Please Join Us for the AOPO Social Closing Night Event!

