



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>	CAPTIVA 1-2
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Community Engagement Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	SUN 5
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Advocacy Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	DAYTONA 1
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Data Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	SUN 5
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! Donation Services Workshop <i>DFS, HD, Clinical, Edu & Training</i>	MIAMI 1-3
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! Donor Care Units	SUN 3-4
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	HR Community of Practice <i>Closed meeting for OPO HR staff only</i>	SUN 6
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! Tissue Services Workshop <i>Content and speakers provided by:</i> All ^{ed}	TALLAHASSEE 1
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	NEW! DMG Workgroup	SUN 1-2
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Financial Management Community of Practice <i>Closed meeting for OPO Finance staff only</i>	SANIBEL 2-3
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Leadership Development Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TALLAHASSEE 2
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	OPO IMPACT Committee <i>Committee members only</i>	TALLAHASSEE 3
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Information Technology & Data Communities of Practice	DAYTONA 1-2
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	AOPO OPTN Engagement Task Force <i>Task Force members only</i>	SUN 5
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	President's Reception <i>Invitation Only</i>	SUN A
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	GRAND OPENING RECEPTION IN THE EXHIBIT HALL ALL ATTENDEES <i>NAME BADGE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY</i>	EXHIBIT HALL A LEVEL 1

APOPO 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 LEVEL 1

Welcome!

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM | PLENARY

SUN BALLROOM A-D

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



Jaision Abraham
Executive Director
OurLegacy



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



Connect to Purpose



Monday, June 22, 2026

8:40 AM – 9:25 AM | PLENARY

SUN BALLROOM A-D

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.



Toby Campbell MD, MS, FAAHPM

Chief of Palliative Care
University of Wisconsin School of
Medicine and Public Health



Donor Mom

Nikki Capelle
Janesville, Wisconsin



MODERATOR

Samantha Taylor

Donation Support Specialist
UW Organ & Tissue Donation

President's Address

Monday, June 22, 2026

9:25 AM – 9:55 AM | PLENARY

SUN BALLROOM A-D

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



Jeff Trageser

Executive Director
Lifesharing
AOPO President



MODERATOR

Steve Miller

Chief Executive Officer
AOPO

9:55 AM – 10:40 AM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors

EXHIBIT HALL A
LEVEL 1

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.



Charles Strom, MD

Chief of Surgical Services
New England Donor Services
AOPO Board of Directors



Jackie Russe

Director of Organ Services
Nevada Donor Network
AOPO IMPACT Committee Chair



MODERATOR

Bruce Nicely

VP, Donation Optimization
Gift of life Michigan



Tracie Hanna

Advanced Practice Clinician
Nevada Donor Network

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Networking Lunch with Exhibitors	EXHIBIT HALL A LEVEL 1
12:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Annual Business Meeting (Closed meeting for OPO CEOs/Executive Director only)	MIAMI 1-3

AOPO 2026
Annual Meeting
June 21 - 23 | Orlando, FL | #AOPOAM26

Breakout Sessions Monday, June 22 nd		
TIME	A - Breakout Sessions	ROOM
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT
SUN A-D

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.



Kayla Morrison
Hospital Service Coordinator III
Lifebanc



Sarah Lee
Palliative Care Social Worker
Medstar Health



Amelia Joss
Hospital Donation Coordinator
Infinite Legacy



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



Gabby Severnak
Organ Services Manager
LifeSource



Zachary Sprenger
Donation Coordinator
LifeSource



Paige Savageau
Donation Coordinator
LifeSource

DCD, uDCD, & NRP

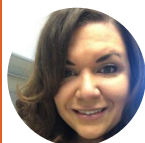
Monday, June 22, 2026

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT

SUN 1-2

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.



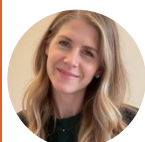
Laura Cwynar

Organ Recovery Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



Elizabeth Brown

VP of Clinical Practice Optimization and Education
Gift of Life Donor Program



MODERATOR

Kelsi Moret

Sr. Human Resources Business Partner
Center for Organ Recovery & Education
[AOPo Programs & Education Committee](#)

OPO Operations

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT

SUN 3-4

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.



Scott Rombach

Founder & CEO
Specialist Direct



Woodlhey Ambrose

Senior Director of Organ Operations & Surgical Recovery
LifeGift



MODERATOR

Jenna LaSota

Education & Development Manager
Network for Hope
[AOPo Programs & Education Committee](#)



Amber Schwartz

Senior Organ Procurement Coordinator
UW Organ & Tissue Donation

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.

Industry Insight

CompuMed™



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
Procurement Surgeon



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



Chad Wiles
Manager Clinical Facilities
Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT

SANIBEL 1-2

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.



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

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 1-2

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.



Richard Threlkeld, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Valiant



Renee O'Reilly
Business Intelligence & Analytics Partner
MidAmerica Transplant



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

Training & Education

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT

CAPTIVA 1-2

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.



Robbie Glazner

Director, Business Intelligence
Donor Network of Arizona
AOPD Data Committee



Josh Brennan

Director, Donor Legacy
Donor Network of Arizona



MODERATOR

Angie Hockman

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



Mallory Tanner

Learning and Development Specialist
Donor Alliance

Pediatrics

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM | A – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 3

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.



Jonathan Boyd

Founder & CEO
AlloEd



Brooke Blake, MD

Associate Medical Examiner
Office of the Medical Examiner



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
LEVEL 1

Breakout Sessions Monday, June 22 nd		
TIME 3:20 PM – 4:15 PM	B – Breakout Sessions Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	ROOM

Collaborative Partnerships

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM | B – BREAKOUT
SUN A-D

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.



Monica Myles
 Director of Operations, Northern Nevada
Nevada Donor Network



Benjamin Asfaw
 Chief Quality Officer
New England Donor Services



Steven Averhart
 Senior Director of Family Services
New England Donor Services



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



Jenna Dumas
 Associate Director of Donation Development
Nevada Donor Network



Cristian Morales
 Senior External Affairs Coordinator
Sierra Donor Services



Michael Coleman
 Communications Director
Sierra Donor Services

DCD, uDCD, & NRP

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM | B – BREAKOUT

SUN 1-2

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.



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



Laura Cwynar
Organ Recovery Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education

OPO Operations

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM | B – BREAKOUT

SUN 3-4

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.



Woodlhey Ambrose
Senior Director of Organ Operations & Surgical Recovery
LifeGift



Sherry Quire
Director, Organ Services
Indiana Donor Network



MODERATOR
Pratik Patel
Senior Director, Product Management
Paragonix Technologies

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.

Industry Insight



Hillary Akana

Quality Control Manager
Eurofins Donor & Product Testing



Lisa Stocks

VP, Transplant Services &
Performance Improvement
OneLegacy



MODERATOR

Sara Dionne, PhD

President
Eurofins Donor & Product Testing



Tania Houle

Director, Referral Optimization
Legacy of Hope



Lindsey Banks

Director of Clinical Services
Legacy of Hope



Kristy Lowe

Assistant Director of Clinical Services
Legacy of Hope

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 22, 2026

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM | B – BREAKOUT

SANIBEL 1-2

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

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.



Noell Olsen

Director of Governance & Data Strategy
Cascade Life Alliance



Katy McCue

VP 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

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM | B – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 1-2

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.



Dave Pilling

Principal Technology and Innovation Strategist
Donor Network of Arizona



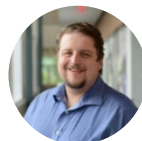
Claire Ward

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

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM | B – BREAKOUT

CAPTIVA 1-2

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.



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



Amanda Beck
Recovery Services Supervisor
Versiti



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

Breakout Sessions Monday, June 22nd

TIME	C – Breakout Sessions	ROOM
4:20 PM – 5:15 PM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

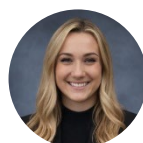
SUN A-D

Navigating Neurologic Death Determination and Anatomical Gift Utilization Across the Lifespan

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.



Thomas Nakagawa, MD
Associate Medical Director
HonorBridge



Madison Long
Organ Procurement Team Lead
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



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

DCD, uDCD, NRP

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

SUN 1-2

More Organs, Better Outcomes: Unlocking the Potential of DCD & NRP

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.



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
[AOPU Programs & Education Committee](#)

OPO Operations

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

SUN 3-4

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.



Andrew Kaufman

Senior Manager of Products & Services
Invita Healthcare Technologies



Lisa Thompson

Director of Information Services & Data Management
LifeSource



MODERATOR

Aditi Srinivasan

VP & General Manager, Donation & Transplant
Invita Healthcare Technologies

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

SUN 5-6

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.



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



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



MODERATOR
Jessica Brown
Organ Clinical Educator
Network for Hope
[AOPo Programs & Education Committee](#)



Matthew Ellison
Manager of Organ Recovery
Southern Legacy of Life

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

SANIBEL 1-2

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.



Angie Deml
Hospital Partner Liaison
LifeSource



Crysta McGee
Community Relations Manager
Network for Hope



MODERATOR
Jenna LaSota
Education & Development Manager
Network for Hope
[AOPo Programs & Education Committee](#)

Referral Management

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 1-2

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.



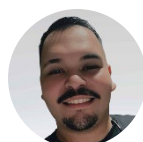
Ameera Samad
Donation Coordinator
Gift of Hope



Magic Allen, DNP
Organ Donor Care Center Lead
Rush University



MODERATOR
Kimberly Blair
Manager, Referral Coordinator
LifeLink of Florida



David Moreno
Referral Responder
Nevada Donor Network

Training & Education

Monday, June 22, 2026

4:20 PM – 5:15 PM | C – BREAKOUT

CAPTIVA 1-2

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.



Mike Vara
Senior 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 LEVEL 1
7:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Medical Directors Meeting <i>(Closed meeting for OPO Medical Directors only)</i>	TALLAHASSEE 3
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Econometrica TEP Meeting <i>(Closed meeting Invitation only)</i>	MIAMI 3

Breakout Sessions Tuesday, June 23 rd		
TIME	D – Breakout Sessions	ROOM
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

SUN A-D

Innovating Beyond Barriers: New Pathways for Heart and Lung Utilization

What happens when OPOs and transplant programs rethink traditional barriers to organ evaluation and acceptance? Learn how imaging innovation and AI-driven synthesis can help teams capture the full donor picture and act faster. In “No Cath, No Problem,” Brian Lima, MD, will show how CT-based coronary assessment, refined for OPO workflows through MOSAiCC, is creating a new pathway for DCD heart evaluation when heart cath is unavailable. ConnectLife will share how they leveraged MOSAiCC to achieve record-breaking lung utilization by streamlining workflows, scaling clinical expertise, and giving decision-makers a clearer, faster view of each donor. The session highlights practical strategies OPOs and transplant centers can adopt today to improve efficiency, confidence, and organ utilization..



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



Alisha Jackson
Sr. Director of Organ Services
ConnectLife



MODERATOR
Lee Keddle
President & CEO
CompuMed

OPO Operations - Logistics

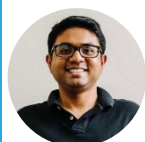
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

SUN 1-2

Precision in Transit: Improving Outcomes through Logistics and Thermal Stability

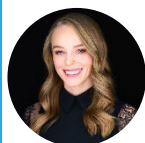
Every minute and every degree matters in organ transport. This session examines two key dimensions of transportation excellence: the strategic value of Indirect Air Carrier certification in elevating logistics operations, and the thermal stability and operational outcomes of a static cold storage shipper 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.



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
AOP OPO IMPACT Committee

OPO Operations – Staffing Models

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

SUN 3-4

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.



Christopher Thome
Sales and Logistics Director
Dedicated Staffing Solutions



Jessica Hunt
Organ Recovery & Preservation Manager
LifeSource



MODERATOR
Jamie Smith
Director of Hospital Development & Family Support
LifeNet Health

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

SUN 5-6

Mismatch Made Possible: Unlocking Transplant Potential Beyond 8/8 From Procurement to Transplant: *A Novel Cryopreserved Deceased Donor Bone Marrow as a Timely and Effective Allograft for Patients with Hematologic Malignancies*

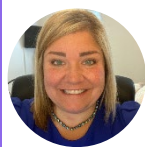
Deceased donor bone marrow is emerging as a transformative graft source for patients with limited transplant options. This session presents findings from four studies examining cryopreserved deceased donor bone marrow in allogeneic transplantation, covering relapse reduction in HLA-mismatched cases, 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.



Sagar Munjal, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Ossium Health



Bethany Guieb
Interim Surgical Supervisor
Nevada Donor Network



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



Laura Cwynar
Organ Recovery Manager
Center for Organ Recovery & Education

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

SANIBEL 1-2

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.



Audrey Holtzman
Inclusion and Belonging Program
Manager
Network for Hope
AOPPO 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 – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 1-2

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.



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

Training & Education

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:25 AM | D – BREAKOUT

CAPTIVA 1-2

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.



Jim Rodrigue, PhD, FAST

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 & Development
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPD Programs & Education Committee
Chair



Katie Scully, SHRM-CP

Human Resource Generalist
Center for Organ Recovery & Education

9:25 AM – 10:10 AM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors & Poster Abstract
Authors will be at their posters.
Be sure to stop by and ask them questions!

EXHIBIT HALL A
LEVEL 1

Breakout Sessions Tuesday, June 23 rd		
TIME	E – Breakout Sessions	ROOM
10:15 AM – 11:10 AM	Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.	

Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

SUN A-D

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.



Patrick Wells-O'Brian

VP, Communications & External Relations
Gift of Life Michigan
AOPPO Advocacy Committee



leesha Johnson

Executive Director of The Decision Project
Infinite Legacy
AOPPO OPO IMPACT Committee



MODERATOR

Nicole Sheckler

Director of Communications & Community Engagement
South Florida Donor Network

DCD, uDCD, NRP

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

SUN 1-2

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.



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
AOPPO OPO IMPACT Committee Chair



Meg O'Donnell

Advanced Practice Provider
UW Organ & Tissue Donation

OPO Operations

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

SUN 3-4

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.



MODERATOR

Daniel Poucher

Business Resilience Services Manager
Wolf & Company, P.C.



Mathew Moss

Chief Information Officer
New England Donor Services

Allocation, Utilization, & Preservation

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

SUN 5-6

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.



MODERATOR

Virginia Liuti

Strategic Account Manager
Organ Recovery Systems



Amanda Beck

Recovery Services Supervisor
Versiti

Peer, Partner, & Donor Family Support

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

SANIBEL 1-2

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.



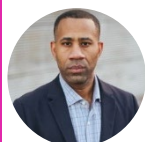
Barbara Wells

Administrative Operations Assistant
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



Jill McGrail

Donor Family Support Coordinator
Center for Organ Recovery & Education



MODERATOR

DonMichael Norwood

Manager of Family Care Organ
Mid-South Transplant Foundation

Referral Management

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 1-2

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.



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

10:15 AM – 11:10 AM | E – BREAKOUT

CAPTIVA 1-2

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.



Nikki Wykowski

Hospital Development Specialist
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



Andrea Boone

Senior Donation Liaison
Gift of Hope



MODERATOR

Lou Napolitano

Director of People, Culture + Development
Nevada Donor Network
AOPD Programs & Education Committee



Scott Sander

Manager, Organ Quality
Midwest Transplant Network

Breakout Sessions

Tuesday, June 23rd

TIME

11:15 AM – 12:10 PM

F – Breakout Sessions

Attend breakout sessions focused on various tracks.

ROOM

Collaborative Partnerships

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

11:15 AM – 12:10 PM | F – BREAKOUT

SUN A-D

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.



Justina Barnes

Director, Hospital Services
Midwest Transplant Network



Katarina Esser

Donation Support Specialist
UW Organ & Tissue Donation



MODERATOR

Carolina Lopez Maldonado

Donation Development Supervisor
South Florida Donor Network

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.



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
AOPPO OPO IMPACT Committee



Felicia Geraci

Manager of Clinical Development
Midwest Transplant Network
AOPPO 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.



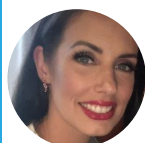
Sardis Harward, MD

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

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.

Industry Insight



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
Supervisor, Allocation
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

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

11:15 AM – 12:10 PM | F – BREAKOUT

SANIBEL 1-2

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.



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

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

11:15 AM – 12:10 PM | F – BREAKOUT

TALLAHASSEE 1-2

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.



Amy McDonough

Manager of Logistics
LifeSource
AOPD Leadership Development Committee



Priscilla Erickson

Organ Services Supervisor
LifeSource



MODERATOR

Casey O'Brien

Organ Clinical Supervisor
Lifesharing



Travis Nolt

Lead Organ Utilization Coordinator
LifeSource

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.



Michael Kenney
Chief Legal Officer
Donor Alliance
AOPO Advocacy Committee Vice-Chair



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



MODERATOR
Lisa Paolillo
Chief Legal Officer
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 LEVEL 1
12:10 PM – 1:40 PM	AOPO Foundation Lunch <i>(Closed meeting for Foundation Board Members only)</i>	DAYTONA 1
12:10 PM – 1:40 PM	In-House Counsel Lunch <i>(Closed meeting for OPO In-House Counsel only)</i>	DAYTONA 2





PLENARY SESSIONS		
<i>Open to all registered attendees</i>		
Tuesday, June 23rd		
Time	Session	Room

Welcome Back Day 2!		Tuesday, June 23, 2026
1:40 PM – 1:45 PM PLENARY		SUN BALLROOM A-D
 Kristen Deyling Learning & Development Specialist <i>Lifebanc</i> AOPO Programs & Education Committee Past-Chair		
Connect to Purpose 		
1:45 PM – 1:55 PM PLENARY		SUN BALLROOM A-D
A Final Gift: Inside America's Organ Transplant System CBS News piece on the organ donation and transplantation system.		



Validated Metrics

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

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.



Jon Snyder, PhD

Director of Transplant Epidemiology
Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute



Jan Finn

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



MODERATOR

Barry Massa

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



Jean O'Connor, JD, DrPH, FACHE, PMP

Director, Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica



Oneyda Arellano, CHES, PMP

Manager, Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica



Caroline Lind, MBA, MPH

Manager, Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica



Masuma Rahman, MPH

Associate Health Consulting Practice
Econometrica

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Energizing Break with Exhibitors

EXHIBIT HALL A
LEVEL 1

Incoming President's Address

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

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.

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.



Joe Nespral, MD
President & CEO
Texas Organ Sharing Alliance
AOPPO Foundation President



Jessica Lee
Corporate Communications Manager
LifeNet Health
AOPPO Foundation Grant Recipient



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



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



MODERATOR
Stacey Hay
Senior Data Analyst
Versiti
AOPPO Data Committee Chair

Please Join Us for the AOPPO Social Closing Night Event!

