

INDIAN TRANSPLANT NEWSLETTER

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Editor-in-Chief

Sunil Shroff
Managing Trustee
MOHAN Foundation, Chennai
shroff@mohanfoundation.org

Deputy Editor

Sujatha Suriyamoorthi
Associate Director - Courses
MOHAN Foundation, Chennai
sujatha@mohanfoundation.org

Editorial Board

Narayan Prasad
Professor & Head, Dept. of Nephrology
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of
Medical Sciences, Lucknow
narayan@sgpgi.ac.in

Ravi Mohanka
Director, Liver Transplant & HPB Surgery
Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai
ravi.mohanka@rhhospital.org

Sandeep Gangaya Attawar
Director - Heart & Lung Transplantation
KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad
attawar@kimshospitals.com

Gomathy Narasimhan
Senior Consultant Transplant Surgeon
Chairman - Medical Advisory Board
Dr.Rela Institute and Medical Centre, Chennai
gomathy.narasimhan@relainstitute.com

Lalitha Raghuram
Country Director
MOHAN Foundation, Hyderabad
lalitha@mohanfoundation.org

Designed by

Charan K

Business Editor

Pallavi Kumar

The Editor, ITN Desk
MOHAN FOUNDATION

Toshniwal Building, 3rd Floor
267, Kilpauk Garden Road, Kilpauk
Chennai 600010

Tel : +91-44-26447000

Email: info@mohanfoundation.org

Website: www.itnnews.co.in

Toll Free Helpline - 1800 103 7100

Editorial Desk

Glasgow Coma Scale at 50 and Its Relevance to Organ Donation

Introduced in 1974 by neurosurgeons Graham Teasdale and Bryan Jennett at the University of Glasgow, the **Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)** has become one of the most widely used tools in assessing consciousness levels in patients with brain injuries.

As it completes 50 years, the GCS stands as a cornerstone in neurological assessment, especially in intensive care and trauma settings. Its relevance extends far beyond diagnosis and monitoring-it plays a critical role in the **identification of potential organ donors**, a subject of increasing importance in modern medicine.

The GCS provides a standardized method for evaluating a patient's level of consciousness based on three key components: **eye opening (E), verbal response (V), and motor response (M)**. Scores range from 3 (deep coma or death) to 15 (fully alert). **Patients with a GCS score of 8 or less are considered to be in a coma** and require immediate and intensive medical intervention. In the context of organ donation, a persistently low GCS-especially in cases of severe traumatic brain injury or intracerebral hemorrhage-may be the first clinical sign indicating **the potential for brain death**.

Brain death, is a key legal and medical criterion for deceased organ donation in many countries, including India. GCS, although not used alone to confirm brain death, is a **crucial early triage tool**. A patient with a GCS of 3, unresponsive to stimuli and showing no brainstem reflexes, becomes a candidate for further brain death testing. This makes the GCS instrumental in identifying possible donors early, allowing time for coordinated care and family counselling.

In India, the number of patients admitted with severe neurological injuries has grown exponentially owing to road traffic accidents, strokes, and other traumatic events. Many of these patients do not recover despite optimal medical care. In such scenarios, the GCS maintains **transparency** in neurological assessments and becomes a valuable aid in **initiating the conversation around organ donation**, both within the clinical team and with the patient's family. Timely identification, based in part on GCS, ensures that organ viability is maintained and that the opportunity for donation is not lost.

As we mark 50 years of the Glasgow Coma Scale, it is worth celebrating its impact-not just as a clinical tool but as a bridge between tragedy and hope. By aiding in the early identification of brain-injured patients who may become donors, GCS plays a **quiet yet vital role in saving lives** through organ transplantation. It is a testament to how a simple, well-structured clinical scale can transform critical care and advance the mission of organ donation.

Reference

1. Teasdale G, Jennett B. Assessment of coma and impaired consciousness. A practical scale. *Lancet*. 1974 Jul 13;2(7872):81-4.

To cite : Gupta D, Shroff S. Glasgow Coma Scale at 50 and Its Relevance to Organ Donation. *Indian Transplant Newsletter*. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p1.

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial	1
In the news - International	2
In the news - National	3
Interview	4
SAMARTHAN	5
ICU Workshop	6
Transplant Coordinators' Training	7
Advanced Workshop	8
Organ Donation in Uttarakhand	9
DICG Round Table	10
Drive to Save Lives	11
Emerging State - Tripura	12
Masterclass	13
Organ Donation Activities	14
Donor Family Felicitations	15
Life Begets Life	16



A Recipient of Four Organ Transplants and also an Organ Donor : The Journey of Alison Angell

"It's not how hard you hit, it's how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward." This quote, by Rocky Balboa, was truly lived by Alison Angell, the United Kingdom's first recipient of four major organ transplants.

Alison, from Pembrokeshire, was diagnosed (at just six weeks old) with cystic fibrosis and faced medical challenges. At the age of 17, Alison received a liver transplant, then a heart and lung transplant, followed by a kidney transplant in 2006, donated by her father David.

Alison was instrumental in campaigning for the organ donation law changes, and in strengthening the cause of presumed consent in the United Kingdom. Alison's determination and campaigning were widely acknowledged and her efforts were recognized nationally when in 2010, she was presented with the Pride of Britain Award.

In an interesting twist, Alison was not only a recipient but also a donor. Her healthy heart was donated to David Hamilton who lived for another 16 years because of her generous donation.

Alison passed away at the age of 46 on December 18, 2024. Her legacy of bravery, compassion, and activism lives on, and she will always be remembered for "rewriting the book" on how to survive with cystic fibrosis, said her father, David John.

To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. A Recipient of Four Organ Transplants and also an Organ Donor : The Journey of Alison Angell. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p2.

New Hydrogel with Strength and Self-Healing Ability Mimics Human Skin

Researchers from Aalto University in Finland and the University of Bayreuth in Germany have created an innovative hydrogel mimicking the unique characteristics of human skin in a pioneering study. Not only strong and flexible, this new material can also self-heal - a mix that eluded scientists until now.

The team's innovation lies in incorporating ultra-large, ultra-thin clay nanosheets into the hydrogel, which forms a densely entangled polymer network between the layers. This well-organized structure greatly improves the material's strength and capacity for mending.

The application process involves mixing monomer powder with a nanosheet solution and curing the blend under UV light. Once cured, the polymer chains-resembling microscopic yarn - twist and tangle in a random pattern, allowing the material to self-repair when cut. Typically, complete healing occurs within 24 hours, though up to 90% recovery can be achieved in as little as four hours.

Dr. Hang Zhang of Aalto University stated, "This discovery has the potential to redefine material design." With potential applications in wound healing, drug delivery, soft robotics, and artificial skin, its impact could be far-reaching. Inspired by nature and engineered with nanoscale precision, this hydrogel represents a significant advancement toward materials that can adapt, endure, and heal much like human skin.

To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. New Hydrogel with Strength and Self-Healing Ability Mimics Human Skin. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p2.

Australian Man Survives 100 Days with World's First Artificial Titanium Heart

In a significant advancement of life-support cardiac technology, an Australian patient has become the first human to survive 100 days with a titanium artificial heart.

Following a life-threatening heart failure, a 40-year-old patient underwent the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart (TAH) implant at the St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney in November 2024.

In this year February, he became the world's first patient to be discharged from the hospital with a functioning artificial heart. He subsequently resided at home with the device until the donor heart was acquired in the month of March'25. Following a successful transplant, he is now recovering nicely according to a joint statement from St. Vincent's Hospital, Monash University, and BiVACOR. Built to be robust and could be a long-term fix for patients with end-stage heart failure, the BiVACOR TAH, made of titanium, has a single magnetically suspended rotor that replaces the two ventricles of the failing human heart.

With the five patients receiving the implant, The BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart has already undergone the initial testing through the U.S. FDA's Early Feasibility Study. July 2024 marked the first case when a 58-year-old man was kept alive at Texas Medical Center for 8 days until the availability of a donor heart.

To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. Australian Man Survives 100 Days with World's First Artificial Titanium Heart. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p2.

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Editor's Name: Sunil Shroff

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Address: MOHAN Foundation, Toshniwal Building, 3rd Floor, 267 Kilpauk Garden Road, Chennai 600010

I, Sunil Shroff, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/-

Sunil Shroff

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Signature of Publisher



Passion meets the cause - One Cricket Match and 22,000+ Pledges for Organ Donation

On 12th February, 2025, during the third One Day International (ODI) between India and England at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, over 22,000 people volunteered to donate their organs in a single day, marking a watershed event in Indian organ donation awareness.

The mass pledge was part of the campaign 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' - an initiative by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC), supported by Ahmedabad's K D Hospital.

The campaign went full-throated only after the ICC chairman Jay Shah made the announcement on social media accompanied by a promotional video of great Indian cricketers appealing to fans to pledge their organs. According to a BCCI release, the campaign set new benchmarks, with both teams wearing green armbands in support of the initiative.

Transplant recipients, Deepti Vimal Shah (received a kidney transplant) and Gunjan Umang Dani (received a lung transplant), accompanied the team captains Rohit Sharma and Jos Buttler for the toss and added gravity to the armband campaign.

By leveraging the widespread appeal of cricket and the extensive media coverage of a high-profile international match, the campaign has effectively brought the life-saving significance of organ donation into the public consciousness.



To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. Passion meets the cause - One Cricket Match and 22,000+ Pledges for Organ Donation. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p3.

Tragedy Turns to Hope: Young Mother's Organ Donation Saves Four Lives

A 25-year-old full-term pregnant lady who died in a road accident has gone on to donate her organs to save the lives of four others in a heartbreaking yet inspirational tale.

On January 20, the 38-week pregnant woman and her husband were driving in a pillion on a two-wheeler when they were involved in a horrific accident in Ahmednagar. She suffered serious brain injuries and was taken to a private facility in Kharadi. A healthy baby boy was delivered through a C-section following an emergency craniotomy performed by the medical team. Despite extensive efforts, her condition deteriorated, and she was declared brainstem dead.

Holding on to hope, her family shifted her to DPU Super Specialty Hospital in Pimpri Chinchwad, where the diagnosis was confirmed. On January 23, after counselling, her grieving husband and father made the courageous decision to donate her organs.

Dr. Vrishali Patil of DPU Hospital called the act "extraordinary courage and compassion." Her kidney and liver were transplanted into patients at DPU Hospital, and the other kidney was allocated from the common pool. Her corneas were donated to the hospital's eye bank. The newborn, weighing 2.9 kg, is in stable condition and recovering well at home under medical guidance.

To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. Tragedy Turns to Hope: Young Mother's Organ Donation Saves Four Lives. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p3.

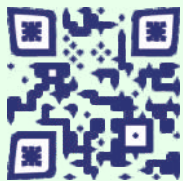
Leading from the Front: Jammu and Kashmir Governor Pledges Organs

In a significant gesture to promote organ donation, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha has registered himself as an organ donor. "I have approached SOTTO Jammu and Kashmir to include me in the list of organ donors. Organ donation should be adopted as a guiding principle in life.", said Lieutenant-Governor Sinha. He described organ donation as more than an act of generosity - calling it a profound gift that not only saves recipients but also impacts their families and loved ones.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha also thanked voluntary organ donors and urged others to follow their example, calling donation a gift of life and a way to give back to society.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha's gesture is expected to boost ongoing efforts in Jammu and Kashmir to raise awareness and reduce stigma around organ and tissue donation. Such engagement is likely to influence and inspire others to consider this life-saving cause.

To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. Leading from the Front: Jammu and Kashmir Governor Pledges Organs. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p3.



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Leading the Way: GMCH Nagpur Sets a New Benchmark in Deceased Organ Donation in Maharashtra



Dr Raj Gajbhiye
General Surgeon and Dean,
Government Medical College
and Hospital (GMCH), Nagpur

Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Nagpur was recently honoured with the award for 'Highest Number of Deceased Organ Donations Facilitated by a Government Hospital in Maharashtra.' Congratulations! Could you share how many donations have been carried out so far and walk us through the journey that led to this recognition?

Thank you! We are truly honoured by this recognition. Since 2024–2025, GMCH Nagpur has facilitated a total of 13 deceased organ donations, leading to the retrieval of:

- 23 kidneys
- 11 livers
- 34 pairs of corneas

This journey has been immensely meaningful. The achievement reflects the collective commitment of our entire organ donation and transplantation ecosystem – ranging from our dedicated transplant coordinators and social workers to the clinical teams in our Trauma and Medicine ICUs.

As the head of GMCH, I am personally committed to this cause. We have embraced organ donation not just as a programme, but as a mission. We have built this programme step-by-step, focusing equally on both clinical readiness and community awareness.

Since 2024, how many organs and tissues have been retrieved, and how many have been utilised within GMCH itself?

In 2024 alone, we carried out 11 organ donations, and of those, 7 kidneys were transplanted at GMCH itself. This represents a significant step towards our goal of becoming self-sufficient in transplantation services. Most importantly, these in-house transplants allow us to provide life-saving kidney surgeries completely free of cost to patients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds suffering from end-stage renal disease.

What would you say are the key factors that have contributed to the success of GMCH's organ donation and transplantation programme?

Several critical factors have contributed to our progress:

First and foremost, the strong coordination between the Trauma ICU and Medicine ICU teams and their proactive involvement, have created a supportive ecosystem for organ donation. We also hold regular review meetings to identify and address any bottlenecks. These internal discussions keep everyone aligned with our shared goals.

Secondly, our transplant coordinators and social workers play a vital role. They engage with the families of brain-dead individuals with empathy, compassion, and clarity, often during incredibly emotional moments. The support of MOHAN Foundation's transplant coordinator has been particularly instrumental in this regard.

Thirdly, we've made mass awareness a core pillar of our strategy. Street plays are regularly conducted in high-footfall hospital areas such as OPDs, wards, and casualty departments to educate both patients and their attendants about the importance of organ donation.

What are the main challenges facing organ donation and transplantation programme in Nagpur?

Our patients predominantly come from rural and semi-urban backgrounds, where illiteracy and lack of awareness are major hurdles. These factors contribute to deep-rooted myths and misconceptions about organ donation.

Personal and cultural beliefs, combined with emotional distress at the time of a loved one's death, cause families to hesitate. Additionally, mistrust in the healthcare system remains a barrier. Addressing these concerns requires persistent, empathetic public engagement.

On the other hand, what opportunities do you see for growth and improvement in this field?

Public awareness is key - the biggest opportunity lies in expanding public awareness beyond the hospital setting. We plan to conduct regular awareness campaigns in bus stands, railway stations, markets, malls, temples, and public gardens. These are high-footfall zones where we can reach people from diverse walks of life and normalize conversations around organ donation in everyday life.

What are GMCH Nagpur's future plans for advancing its organ donation and transplantation programme?

We have a clear and ambitious roadmap. To begin with, we are preparing to introduce robotic donor nephrectomy, which will enhance surgical precision and reduce recovery time for living donors.

Looking ahead, we're working to initiate liver and heart transplant programmes at both GMCH and Super Speciality Hospital and Post Graduate Institute (SSPGI), Nagpur. These advancements will not only boost our transplant capabilities but also establish Nagpur as a regional centre of excellence in public-sector transplantation.

Interviewed by Ms. Jaya Jairam
Project Director - MOHAN Foundation
Mumbai, Maharashtra

To cite : Gajbhiye R. Leading the Way: GMCH Nagpur Sets a New Benchmark in Deceased Organ Donation in Maharashtra. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p4.



SAMARTHAN 2025 - A Soulful Sufi Night with Dhruv Sangari to Support "Anudaan: Making Transplants Affordable"

On March 15, 2025, MOHAN Foundation, in association with the Rotary Club of Delhi Heights, organized SAMARTHAN 2025 – A Soulful Sufi Night with Dhruv Sangari at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi. The event aimed to raise funds for Anudaan, MOHAN Foundation's initiative to support underprivileged children in need of life-saving organ transplants.

Dhruv Sangari, known as the "Prince of Qawwali," is a celebrated vocalist, lyricist, composer, and Sufi scholar. Having performed on platforms such as Coke Studio and MTV and contributed to Bollywood, Hollywood, and television, his artistry transcends boundaries. With numerous international performances and collaborations, his soulful music continues to inspire audiences worldwide.

A significant highlight of the event was the felicitation of donor families and recipient families (supported by MOHAN Foundation's Anudaan initiative). The stories of these incredible individuals reflected extraordinary courage and generosity. Families who, in moments of immense personal grief, chose to donate their loved ones' organs, giving others a second chance at life. Parents who lost their children, individuals who made the selfless decision to donate their loved ones' organs, and recipients whose lives were transformed through transplants—all came together in an emotional tribute.

Dr. Sonal Asthana, Clinical Lead at Aster Group of Hospitals, Bengaluru, was honoured for his work in making paediatric transplants more accessible through Anudaan. Karhun Nanda, a heart recipient since 2016, was recognized for his advocacy for organ donation and his inspiring journey as an accomplished golfer.

The evening reached its crescendo with an enthralling performance by Dhruv Sangari, whose soulful Sufi music captivated the audience. The event was attended by leading doctors from transplant centers in NCR, supporters of the cause, and distinguished guests, making it a truly memorable experience.



Dhruv Sangari regaling the audience with soulful Qawwali

The event featured Life Before Ashes, an exhibition showcasing human organ installations made from a mix of real human ashes and mud. The powerful message behind it was: "What has become ashes could have been another human's heart or kidney - if only the organs were donated." A letter box was also set up, encouraging attendees to write letters to their loved ones about their decision to support organ donation, promoting open family discussions, which are often crucial in facilitating organ donation at critical moments.

The event was supported by ALVL Foundation, HRBL, JBM Group, Medanta, Samridhi Samiti, Apala, and Kaizen.

The impact of the event was reflected in the heartfelt responses from attendees:

"The event at Sunder Nursery was very well organized. The felicitation of donor families was handled with great empathy and grace."

– Col Harinder Singh Chehal

"The event was outstanding. The stories of organ donation were powerful, making the evening truly remarkable."

– Mohit Pandey

"It was a very emotional evening for everyone present. The event highlighted an incredible cause, and it was a privilege to be part of it."

– Karhun Nanda



A captivating view of the audience engagemment at Samarthan 2025



Dr. Sunil Shroff with the artist Mr. Dhruv Sangari



Master. Aryan (liver recipient) sharing his aspirations



Dr. Sunil Shroff interacting with Master. Devyansh Dev (liver recipient)

To cite : Sahi MK. SAMARTHAN 2025 - A Soulful Sufi Night with Dhruv Sangari to Support "Anudaan: Making Transplants Affordable". Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p5.

Dr. Muneet Kaur Sahi
Programme Manager - MOHAN Foundation
Delhi-NCR

ICU Workshop at Chennai - March 2025

MOHAN Foundation, in collaboration with the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM), Chennai Branch, conducted a workshop on the Role of Intensive Care in Deceased Donation on March 22, 2025 in Chennai, which was supported by the TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu) and endorsed by the Indian Academy of Paediatrics - Intensive Care Chapter, Tamil Nadu Branch. 40 participants from Tamil Nadu, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Puducherry attended the workshop, reflecting the widespread interest.



Lamp lighting (L-R)
Dr. Sunil Shroff (MOHAN Foundation)
Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan (TRANSTAN)
Dr. Ram Rajagopalan (SRMC)
Dr. R Raghavendran (Madras Medical College)
Dr. Sathya. A.C (ISCCM - Chennai Branch)

Scientific Sessions:

- Overview of Deceased Donation in India - Dr. Sunil Shroff (Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation)
- Brainstem death - Dr. R Raghavendran (Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Madras Medical College, Chennai)
- Management of potential donor - Dr. Ramesh Venkataraman (Senior Consultant, Critical Care Medicine, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai)
- Pediatric Brainstem death - Dr. Kalaimaram Sadasivam (Head and Senior Consultant, Paediatric Critical Care Services, MGM Healthcare, Chennai)
- Brainstem death & Donor optimization - Case discussion - Dr. Devachandran Jayakumar (Critical Care Consultant, Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital, Chennai)
- Donation after circulatory death (DCD) - Prof. Dr. Rahul Pandit (Chair Critical Care - Reliance Foundation Hospital and all other Reliance Foundation Healthcare Initiatives)
- Approaching families for organ donation - Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi (Associate Director - Courses, MOHAN Foundation)

Workshop Activities:

Brain Death Forms: Focused on the legal framework governing deceased organ donation, providing participants with practical exposure to the necessary legal forms and key personnel involved.

Deceased organ donation pathway: Emphasized the structured, step-by-step process involved in deceased organ donation.

Dead or Not Dead: An online interactive quiz activity focused on diagnosing death using neurological criteria was conducted.

Role allocation: Emphasized the significance of role allocation, ensuring clear responsibilities among the ICU consultant, junior doctor, nurse, and transplant coordinator.

To cite : Suriyamoorthi S. ICU Workshop at Chennai - March 2025. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p6.

CME at AIIMS Rishikesh - March 2025

On March 7, 2025, MOHAN Foundation, in collaboration with AIIMS Rishikesh and SOTTO Uttarakhand, organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) on deceased organ donation and retrieval at the CPD Hall, AIIMS Rishikesh.

The workshop was attended by around 60 participants including key stakeholders from AIIMS Rishikesh such as surgeons, residents, transplant coordinators, nursing staff, and eye bank personnel.

At the workshop, Professor Samiran Nundy (President, AIIMS Rishikesh) shared insights to strengthen AIIMS Rishikesh's organ donation program, while Professor Meenu Singh (Executive Director, AIIMS Rishikesh) highlighted the institute's first successful deceased organ retrieval.

Ms. Pallavi Kumar (Executive Director, MOHAN Foundation) spoke on "A to Z of Organ Donation," providing a comprehensive overview of the organ donation process.

Dr. Deepak Gupta (Professor of Neurosurgery, AIIMS New Delhi) presented the session; focusing on brain death certification and donor management. He also shared insights into how AIIMS Delhi established and managed its deceased donation program.

Dr. Atul Kumar Singh (Professor of Anaesthesiology, Doon Medical College & Nodal Officer, SOTTO Uttarakhand) explained the role of SOTTO Uttarakhand in organ donation.

Mr. Sanchit Arora (Project Leader, MOHAN Foundation, stationed at AIIMS Rishikesh), focused on public awareness initiatives and whole-body donation.

Discussions covered donor stability, accurate brain death testing in complex cases, ethical issues around ventilator withdrawal, rising organ donations in Uttarakhand, physician training, family concerns, the concept of decoupling, SOTTO's role in organ allocation, and its public awareness efforts.

Dr. Rohit Gupta (Nodal Officer, Organ Transplant, AIIMS Rishikesh) concluded the workshop by emphasizing continued collaboration, training, and public awareness to strengthen the organ donation program.



Prof. Deepak Gupta interacting with the participants



Ms. Pallavi Kumar explaining the basic concepts of organ donation

To cite : Arora S, Kumar P. CME at AIIMS Rishikesh - March 2025. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p6.

Training by ROTTO-SOTTO, West and Maharashtra

Dr. Akash Shukla
Director in-charge, ROTTO-SOTTO
Western Region & Maharashtra
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

The Regional cum State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTTOT-SOTTO), West and Maharashtra conducted two training programs in Transplant Coordination within the state of Maharashtra and in the western region under the aegis of NOTTO.

- February 24 to February 28, 2025 - The Seth GS Medical College, KEM Hospital, Mumbai - 35 participants
- March 18 to March 22, 2025 - The DKS Hospital, Raipur, in collaboration with SOTTO Chhattisgarh - 50 participants

During these training programs, experts from the field shared detailed information on the THOTA and Rules, provisions of the NOTP (National Organ Transplant Program), functions of NOTTO, ROTTO, and SOTTO, as well as the role of the appropriate authority. The sessions also covered brainstem death diagnosis and declaration, evaluation of potential donors and donor maintenance, process of organ donation in MLC (Medico-Legal Cases).



Faculty lecture at the training

Participants were educated on the basics of kidney, liver, heart, and hand donation and transplants, along with dedicated sessions on cornea, skin, and body donation. Emphasis was placed on the role of transplant coordinators, grief counselling, obtaining consent, the need for awareness, and ethical issues in organ transplantation. Session highlighting infection prevention in transplant recipients, role-plays and group activities were incorporated into the training. The candidates were awarded with course completion certificates jointly issued by NOTTO, ROTTO, and the respective SOTTO.

To cite : Shukla A. Training by ROTTO-SOTTO, West and Maharashtra. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p7.

Training by NOTTO – Delhi

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) conducted the 12th Batch of the Transplant Coordinators' Training Program from January 27 to January 31, 2025, at the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. This week-long training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of transplant coordinators, equipping them to effectively support organ and tissue donation and transplant activities across the country.



Training inauguration

The program was formally inaugurated by Dr. (Mrs.) Vijaya Vijay Motghare, Additional Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

To cite : Kumar P. Training by NOTTO – Delhi. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p7.

A Two-Day Advanced Training in Transplant Coordination Conducted by ROTTO-SOTTO, West and Maharashtra

Dr. Akash Shukla
Director in-charge, ROTTO-SOTTO
Western Region & Maharashtra
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

ROTTOT-SOTTO, West, and Maharashtra conducted a two-day advanced training program for Transplant Coordinators on February 3 and 4, 2025 at the KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai.

A total of 33 participants each with a minimum of three years of experience in transplant coordination, participated in this training. The program aimed to facilitate discussions on ground-level realities and emphasize the adoption of new concepts in the field.

The training included sessions on the role of transplant coordinators and ground realities, followed by an interactive discussion on the importance of ICU counselling and rapport building. The role of coordinators in mainstreaming cornea, skin, and tissue donation as a routine hospital activity was also discussed in detail.

To cite : Shukla A. A Two-Day Advanced Training in Transplant Coordination Conducted by ROTTO-SOTTO, West and Maharashtra. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p7.

Additionally, dedicated sessions were held to promote hand donations, focussing on effective counselling techniques. The procedures for deceased and live donations involving foreign nationals were shared, and experienced coordinators presented case scenarios on these topics.



Ms. Jaya Jairam, Project Director, MOHAN Foundation, Mumbai addressing the participants

The protocols involved in donation after circulatory death (DCD) was provided, helping participants understand the entire process. A session on compliance with required data by NOTTO, ROTTO, SOTTO was also held. The training concluded with a panel discussion on challenges in increasing deceased donations.



Session by Dr. Ravi Mohanka, Director, Liver Transplant & HPB Surgery, Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai

This interactive training equipped transplant coordinators with valuable insights and strategies to enhance organ donation and transplant practices.

Strengthening Practices in Organ Donation & Transplantation : An Advanced Transplant Coordinators' Workshop

The Advanced Transplant Coordinators' Workshop, titled Strengthening Practices in Organ Donation and Transplantation, was jointly organized by MOHAN Foundation and NATCO (Network and Alliance of Transplant Coordinators) on February 9, 2025, at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Dwarka, New Delhi.

Transplant coordinators with more than five years of experience were invited to this workshop. The workshop addressed critical topics expected to shape organ donation and transplantation in the coming years.

Financial Neutrality in Deceased Organ Donation

Dr. Thomas Mueller, Co-Chair of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG), Senior Advisor Kidney for Swiss Transplant, and a practising nephrologist, elaborated on the genesis of the DICG. He provided insights into the increasing global demand for organs and examined whether financial neutrality for donors and their families is a viable concept. The discussion touched on ethical and practical implications of such policies, referencing the Tehran model, which supports financial incentives for living kidney donors. The readiness of the global transplant community to explore incentives for organ donation and how Indian transplant community perceive financial neutrality in deceased organ donation were discussed.



*Dr. Thomas Mueller
Co-Chair of the
Declaration of Istanbul
Custodian Group,
Senior Advisor Kidney
for Swiss Transplant
speaking on Financial
Neutrality in Deceased
Organ Donation.*

The session was chaired by Dr. Ashish Nandwani, Consultant, Department of Nephrology & Renal Transplant Medicine, Manipal Hospital, Delhi, and Dr. Ilango Sethu, Head of the Department, GI Surgery & Solid Organ Transplant, Naruvi Hospital, Vellore.

Intersection of End-of-Life Care, BSD, and Deceased Donation

Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee of MOHAN Foundation, Chennai, led an engaging session that began with the results of a survey conducted among senior transplant coordinators on end-of-life care (EOLC) protocols in hospitals. He highlighted the necessity of mandatory EOLC protocols and the critical role of transplant coordinators in communicating difficult news to families.



*Dr. Sunil Shroff,
Managing Trustee,
MOHAN Foundation
briefing deceased
organ donation
progress in India*

The discussion also covered topics such as organ donation in the presence of extended family, reasons for family refusals, and challenges associated with brain stem death (BSD) certification in paediatric patients, pregnant women, and snake bite victims.

*Dr. Deepak Gupta
Prof. of Neurosurgery,
JPN Apex Trauma
Centre, AIIMS at the
workshop.
Other panelists (left-
right) Iva Pandey &
Dhvani Mehta*



The panelists included Dr. Deepak Gupta, Prof. of Neurosurgery JPN Apex Trauma Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Amol Mahaldar, Consultant Nephrologist & Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospital, Goa; Ms. Dhvani Mehta, Co-founder at Vidhi and Lead, Health Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi; Iva Pandey, Assistant Manager/Grief Counsellor at Medanta - The Medicity Hospital, Gurugram; and Lt. Col. Chetna Sharma, Senior Transplant Coordinator, AORTA, Army Hospital R&R, New Delhi.

Donation After Circulatory Death – Are We Ready?

Dr. Avnish Seth, Head - Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Manipal Hospital, Dwarka & Head, MOST (Manipal Organ Sharing and Transplant), moderated an insightful discussion on Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD).

The panelists deliberated on the necessary consent processes for cases transitioning from DBD to DCD. Dr. Shrikanth Srinivasan, Head of Critical Care Medicine at Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, discussed clinical and medical aspects of DCD certification and the importance of time management. Dr. Anant Kumar, Chairman, Urology & Renal Transplant & Robotics, Max Hospital, Saket, emphasized transparency with families when donation methods change. The session also touched upon the need for regulatory updates to facilitate DCD implementation in hospitals across India.

Panelists for this session included Dr. Shrikanth Srinivasan, Dr. Anant Kumar, and Dr. Navdeep Bansal, Organ Transplant Coordinator at PGIMER, Chandigarh.



*Dr. Shrikanth Srinivasan,
Head of Critical Care
Medicine at Manipal
Hospital, Dwarka
explaining the Maastricht
Classification.
Other panelists (left-
right) Dr. Navdeep
Bansal & Dr. Anant
Kumar*

The workshop fostered dynamic discussions among the transplant coordinators, allowing them to share experiences, concerns, and best practices. It successfully provided participants with the latest insights, challenges, and advancements in organ donation and transplantation. Engaging sessions encouraged reflection on evolving transplant protocols and the role of coordinators in improving organ donation outcomes.

To cite : Kanvinde H, Sahi MK. Strengthening Practices in Organ Donation & Transplantation : An Advanced Transplant Coordinators' Workshop. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p8-9.



Experts at the workshop - Dr Ilango Sethu, Dr Ashish Nandwani, Dr Sunil Shroff & Dr Thomas Mueller

The Impact of Public Awareness: Transforming Organ Donation in Uttarakhand

Organ donation has the power to save numerous lives, yet it continues to be a sensitive and often misunderstood issue in India. Cultural traditions, religious considerations, and misinformation have historically contributed to low donation rates, particularly in certain states where the initiative has not been systematically adopted. Uttarakhand, for example, recorded almost no organ donations in the past; however, a significant shift is now taking place, driven by ongoing awareness campaigns led by the MOHAN Foundation along with AIIMS Rishikesh, and other regional organizations.

MOHAN Foundation entered into an MOU with AIIMS Rishikesh and started its intervention in Uttarakhand in January 2024. Since then, it has actively conducted awareness programs across Uttarakhand, educating approximately 4,000 people about organ donation. These efforts have started yielding positive results.

AIIMS Rishikesh made history by recording Uttarakhand's first-ever deceased organ donation on August 01, 2024 a groundbreaking and deeply inspiring moment that marks a pivotal turning point for the region.

One profoundly moving case involved the donation of a two-day-old neonate for whole-body donation, marking Uttarakhand's first-ever neonatal donation. In this instance, the family reached out to the MOHAN Foundation representative in Rishikesh and made the decision without hesitation. On a separate occasion, another neonatal donation took place, this time involving a six-day-old baby. Again, the family themselves contacted the MOHAN Foundation representative in Rishikesh, demonstrating a similar selfless commitment.



Mr. Sanchit Arora, Project Leader, MOHAN Foundation (deputed to AIIMS, Rishikesh) at the awareness program

These two instances send a powerful message: when people are properly informed, they are willing to step forward for organ donation. However, spreading awareness at the grassroots level continues to be a significant challenge.

The impact of public awareness is visible beyond these recorded donations. MOHAN Foundation has been receiving direct calls from individuals inquiring about organ donation & whole-body donation registration process. This shift indicates that more people are becoming open to the idea of donation when given the right information.

One recent case further demonstrates this change. Late one night, a family from a hospital in Dehradun contacted MOHAN Foundation, expressing their desire to donate the organs of their loved one. While they were unsure of the patient's brain-death status, their willingness to donate was a significant step forward. Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of a neurologist at night, the confirmation could not be made, and the patient suffered a cardiac arrest before the donation could proceed.

Though the donation did not happen, the family's initiative underscores the growing impact of public awareness. Uttarakhand, once hesitant about organ donation, is now seeing a shift in public perception. However, challenges remain, especially in ensuring required infrastructure and coordination.

With continued awareness campaigns and stronger medical support, Uttarakhand is on the path to embracing organ donation. This progress marks just the beginning, and as more people become informed, the state has the potential to become a leader in life-saving organ donations.

To cite : Arora S, Kumar P. The Impact of Public Awareness: Transforming Organ Donation in Uttarakhand. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p9.



Round Table on Access, Justice, and Autonomy in Transplantation in India

The Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) and the National Alliance of Transplant Coordinators (NATCO) co-hosted a round table to address ethical, structural, and social challenges in India's organ transplantation system on Feb 9, 2025 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi. With insights from patient advocates, policymakers, legal experts, recipients and transplant professionals, the discussions centered on access, justice, and donor autonomy.

SESSION : ACCESS AND JUSTICE

Nothing About Us Without Us: The Journey for Inclusion in Health Policy

Dr. Satendra Singh, disability rights activist, critiqued systemic discrimination in healthcare and transplantation against persons with disabilities. He emphasized the need for inclusive, rights-based policies and legal reforms to ensure equity.



Transplantation: A Public Health Perspective

Dr. Mala Ramanathan, an ethicist, emphasized that while recipients are often prioritized, donors-particularly non-related-lack advocacy and long-term protection. She urged for independent oversight and state-supported post-donation care.

Learnings from Patient-Centred Advocacy

Malini Isola, Co-Convenor, All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN), drew on successful drug price advocacy, calling for similar interventions in transplantation: cost caps, public sector investment, action against transplant tourism, and affordable immunosuppressants.

Strategies to Increase Access to Costly Treatments

Prasanna Shirol, Co-Founder, Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI), shared how legal action and public engagement led to rare disease policy gains and over 1,000 patients receiving high-cost treatments. He proposed similar frameworks to improve transplant access.

Incorporating Justice in Transplantation Policy

Dhvani Mehta, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, advocated for data-driven and participatory policymaking. Drawing on ethical theory, she stressed on balancing autonomy with fairness in organ allocation.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Director NOTTO, highlighted inconsistent implementation of the Clinical Establishments Act, leading to gaps in patient protection. He emphasized the need for cost regulation and greater transparency to reduce financial barriers in transplantation.

Moderated by **Dr. Sanjay Nagral**, Co-Chair DICG, the session unpacked contradictions in India's transplant system-where altruistic donation operates within a profit-driven private sector. Key recommendations included: regulating transplant costs, expanding public services, safeguarding donors, ensuring lifelong care, and rebuilding public trust through transparency.

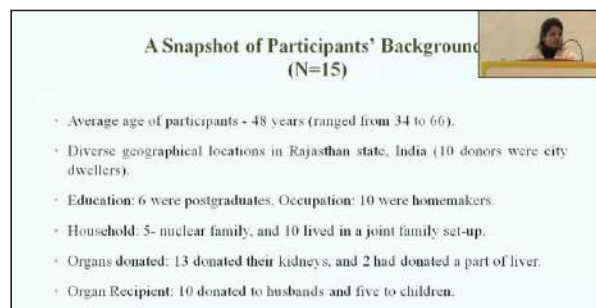
SESSION : DONOR AUTONOMY

Donor's Dilemma

Vasundhara Raghavan, living donor and Founder, Kidney Warriors Foundation, spoke of coercion faced by women donors and the absence of structured post-donation care. She urged for legal safeguards, counseling, and long-term support systems.

The Gender Question: Beyond Numbers

Dr. Nishtha Mishra, researcher, presented findings of her study involved living female donors. NOTTO's data shows that 63% of the living donors are women in India. Dr. Mishra stated that many of the female living donors face familial pressure and lack informed consent. She called for policies that prioritize direct engagement with female donors and address gendered power dynamics.



Recipients Speak

Jaya Jairam, kidney recipient and Project Director at MOHAN Foundation, shared the emotional dilemmas of recipients and the need to center donor welfare. She advocated for legislations mandating Independent Living Donor Advocates (ILDAs), removal of financial disincentives including lifetime insurance cover.

Viney Kirpal, heart recipient and former professor, highlighted the long-term needs of recipients, from emotional care to sustained access to medications and insurance. She recommended decentralized systems, government-issued ID cards, and public-private insurance partnerships.

Transplant Coordinator as Donor Advocate

Trilly Mathew, transplant coordinator, emphasized that donor advocacy is vital to ethical transplantation. With proper training and

role independence, coordinators can effectively safeguard living donors' rights and well-being. She called for systemic reforms and government action to formalize donor advocacy in India.

Nephrologist's Perspective

Dr. Noble Gracious, nodal officer, KSOTTO, flagged gender disparities in Kerala, where women are disproportionately living donors. He highlighted the need for independent consent verification, updated legislation, and follow-up care mechanisms.

Moderated by **Dr. Sumana Navin** (DICG) and **Sujata Ashtekar** (Consultant, ROTTO-SOTTO), discussions addressed gender, coercion, and the protective role of transplant coordinators. Real-life examples showcased how hospital teams averted unethical donations. Families of deceased donors shared the emotional and institutional neglect they face, calling for formal recognition and healthcare support.

Dr. Thomas Mueller, Co-Chair DICG, stressed the need for the highest ethical standards in transplantation, urging focus on donor dignity, autonomy, and long-term care as living donation rises in the private sector. **Dr. Samiran Nundy**, considered architect of India's transplant laws, highlighted the shift from public-sector-led deceased donation to privatized living donor transplants, warning against commercialization and calling for systemic reforms.

The round table underscored the need to address gender bias, coercion, financial barriers, and regulatory gaps to ensure a transparent, ethical, and equitable transplant system.

To cite : Jairam J, Kumar P. Round Table on Access, Justice, and Autonomy in Transplantation in India. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p10-11.

Charity Golf Event in Hyderabad: A Drive to Save Lives through Organ Donation

A charity golf tournament was organized by MOHAN Foundation aimed to promote organ donation and support transplant surgeries for patients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Held on Feb 15, 2025, the venue Hyderabad Golf Association Club in Hyderabad buzzed with energy as golf enthusiasts gathered for a noble cause. It was a well-attended tournament with the participation capped at 102 players. Special invitee for the tournament was Mr. Karhun Nanda, a heart transplant recipient from New Delhi. He served as a powerful reminder of how organ transplantation can save and transform lives. Format for the tournament was Stableford Format - 2 ball scramble format (a well-known team game where the better score of two partners counts for each hole).

The evening ceremony was graced by speeches from Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee of MOHAN Foundation, Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director MOHAN Foundation, Dr. Sandeep Attawar, transplant surgeon and Mr. Karhun Nanda who commended the participants and supporters for their contribution to this life-saving cause.

The tournament was supported by Vamsiram Builders, NMDC, Dodla Dairy, Azad Engineering, Kapil Steel, Volvo, BLS Sports Akshaykalpa Organic and Ballantine's among other esteemed organizations.



Swastik Bihani supporter of MOHAN Foundation at the event



Team MOHAN Foundation with volunteers and supporters



Golfers on the field



Prize distribution

To cite : Kanvinde H, Raghuram L. Charity Golf Event in Hyderabad: A Drive to Save Lives through Organ Donation. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p11.

MOHAN Foundation Partners with Tripura Government to Initiate Deceased Organ Donation Program



Ms. Pallavi Kumar explaining the significance of organ donation promotional materials to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura Dr. Manik Shah

A team from the MOHAN Foundation, comprising Dr. Sunil Shroff (Managing Trustee), Ms. Pallavi Kumar (Executive Director), Ms. Laishram Monica Devi (Programme Officer) along with Prof. Deepak Gupta (Department of Neurosurgery, AIIMS Delhi) visited Tripura in January 2025. The primary objective of the visit was to assist the state government in initiating a deceased organ donation program by conducting a series of discussions, workshops, and meetings with key stakeholders.

On January 29, 2025, a workshop titled **"Strengthening Organ Donation & Transplantation"** was organized for the first time in Tripura to introduce the concept of organ donation to key stakeholders. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the importance of deceased organ donation in the region. Dr. Sankar Chakraborti, Medical Superintendent & HOD of AGMC & GB Pant Hospital, opened the session by providing an overview of the hospital's journey in living donor renal transplantation. He emphasized the urgent need for deceased organ donation to address the growing demand for organs. The session was followed by an address from the Secretary of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Tripura, who highlighted the state's commitment to improving healthcare and expanding transplant services.

Dr. Sunil Shroff, Prof. Deepak Gupta, and Ms. Pallavi Kumar were key speakers at the workshop, elaborating on the importance of deceased organ donation and the pathway involved. The session also included a hands-on activity, allowing participants to engage with the practical aspects of the deceased donation process. A panel discussion on "Deceased Organ Donation in Tripura: The Way Forward," moderated by Dr. Shroff, provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the state. The workshop saw nearly 60 stakeholders in attendance, including healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, police officials, and media representatives.

Later in the day, a high-level meeting was convened at the Chief Minister's War Room to discuss the steps needed to strengthen organ donation and transplantation in Tripura. Chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, Dr. Manik Shah, the meeting

included key stakeholders from the state government and healthcare sector. Shri Kiran Gitte, Secretary of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Tripura, welcomed the MOHAN Foundation team and acknowledged the support of Shija Hospitals & Pvt. Ltd. in facilitating the living donor transplant program in the region. He also provided an overview of Tripura's healthcare system and its connectivity to other cities, which could support the expansion of organ donation services.

Dr. Sunil Shroff presented a detailed roadmap for initiating a deceased organ donation program in Tripura. His presentation focused on the importance of training, infrastructure development, and creating awareness to ensure the program's success. In his address, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Manik Shah, expressed full support for the deceased organ donation initiative. He emphasized the necessity of such a program for the state, particularly to address the critical shortage of organs for transplantation. He assured the MOHAN Foundation and all stakeholders of the government's commitment to advancing the cause.



Dr. Sunil Shroff handing over the Indian Transplant Newsletter to Shri Kiran Gitte, Secretary of the Health & Family Welfare, Government of Tripura

The visit concluded with a shared sense of optimism and commitment from both the MOHAN Foundation and the Tripura government. The discussions and collaborative efforts have laid a strong foundation for the successful initiation of the deceased organ donation program, with all parties eager to work together to bring this life-saving initiative to fruition in Tripura.



Meeting at the Chief Minister's War Room

To cite : Kumar P. MOHAN Foundation Partners with Tripura Government to Initiate Deceased Organ Donation Program. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p12.

A Masterclass on 'Living Donation Documentation - Making Transplants Safe'

A masterclass on 'Living Donation Documentation - Making Transplants Safe' was organized by MOHAN Foundation on 14th February 2025 at Chennai. This exclusive session was tailored for aspiring transplant coordinators, providing them with essential skills and knowledge to navigate the legal and ethical dimensions of live donor transplant program.

Key Focus Areas:

- Legal documentation in living organ donation
- Communication with patients and families
- Legal compliance Vs. Ethical integrity
- Case discussions



Welcome address by Dr. Sunil Shroff,
Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation

The event attracted transplant coordinators across Tamil Nadu, providing a platform for discussions, knowledge sharing, and exchange of best practices. The engaging discussions, debates, and practical insights helped participants gain greater clarity on documentation procedures and legal requirements involved in living donor transplant program. To ensure an interactive learning experience, the sessions incorporated group activities and online quizzes, keeping the participants engaged throughout.

Some of the key issues discussed:

- Inconsistency in documentation requirements among the authorization committees within the State
- Legal immunity to the transplant professionals and transplant centres
- Facilitating swap donation and transplant - Practical challenges
- Approval for living related donor transplants

The program included a panel discussion on 'Establishing altruism - Insights from experts' which focussed on topics such as altruistic donations, accountability in maintaining an ethical program, shared responsibility in ethical practices, and the impact of gender differences in living donation and power dynamics in the decision-making process.



Establishing Altruism - Insights from Experts - Panel Discussion



Documentation checklist in living donor transplant program (Group Activity)

To cite : Suriyamoorthi S. A 'Masterclass on Living Donation Documentation - Making Transplants Safe'. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p13.

Organ Donation Masterclass

The 11th Organ Donation Masterclass took place on January 10 - 11, 2025, at the M S Ramaiah Advanced Learning Center in Bangalore. Jointly organized by the Liver Transplant Society of India (LTSI) and Medtronic, the course has been conducted annually for the past 11 years, training over 350 surgeons in organ recovery.

The two-day workshop focused on various aspects of deceased organ donation and covered topics such as:-

- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissue Act
- Diagnosis of brain death and maintenance of a deceased donor
- Coordination of a multi organ retrieval
- Principles of organ preservation
- Introduction to Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD)
- Machine perfusion




11th Organ Donation Masterclass

Date: 11th & 12th Jan 2025
Venue: M. S. Ramaiah Advanced Learning Centre, Bangalore

Key Highlights:

- Hands-on experience
- Practical session at wet lab
- Bench preparation
- Implantation session
- Quiz
- 6 participants per cadaver
- Immersive learning experience
- Limited to 20 participants

For registration, please contact: 9632801645
Registration charges for the workshop - Rs. 10,000/- (exempted for Govt institute participants and LTSI fellows)



Participants at the wet lab



Course Director Dr. Sonal Asthana
(Senior Consultant, Hepatobiliary Surgery and Multi Organ Transplantation, Aster CMI Hospitals, Bengaluru) giving an overview of the program



Dr. Harsha Jauhari, renowned Renal Transplant Surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital speaking on organ donation law in India

To cite : Kumar P. Organ Donation Masterclass. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p13.

Championing Organ Donation at Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025

The Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025, held on January 19, was a remarkable celebration of unity, resilience, and compassion. Among the thousands of participants who took to the streets of Mumbai, over 25 employees from MOHAN Foundation and Verma Medicine Research Trust, along with dedicated volunteers, ran with a single mission-raising awareness about organ donation.

The MOHAN Foundation leveraged this prestigious platform to promote the life-saving significance of organ donation while also raising funds for transplant surgeries through its initiative, Anudaan: Making Transplants Affordable. This initiative continues to be a beacon of hope for patients in need of organ transplants but facing financial constraints. Through the collective efforts of MOHAN

Foundation staff and Organ Donation Ambassador Jayalakshmi Krishnan, an impressive Rs. 2.5 Lakhs was successfully raised, ensuring more lives could be saved through affordable transplants.

A standout moment of the marathon was Jayalakshmi Krishnan's inspiring 10 km run, where she passionately advocated for organ donation. Her dedication and commitment reinforced the need to spread this critical message across the country. Meanwhile, participants in the Dream Run (5.9 km) amplified the cause with vibrant enthusiasm, wearing crowns and carrying banners with impactful slogans like "Donate Organs, Save Lives" and "Angdaan Mahadaan" (Organ donation is the greatest form of donation). Their spirited display of advocacy made a lasting impression on thousands of spectators, reinforcing the urgent need for increased organ donation awareness.

To cite : Jairam J. Championing Organ Donation at Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p14.



Organ Donation Awareness Initiative at Jaipur Literature Festival 2025

MFJCF (MOHAN Foundation - Jaipur Citizen Forum) participated in the Jaipur Literature Festival 2025 (January 30 - February 3, 2025) with a creative and emotionally resonant campaign to raise awareness about organ donation. Blending advocacy with art and human connection, the centerpiece of the initiative was a striking vintage-style red Post Box - a symbolic installation that encouraged people to reflect, pledge, and express support for the cause.

With its bold red design, heart imagery, and an adjacent info panel, the installation became a festival highlight, sparking conversations around life and legacy.

Engagement & Participation Highlights

- Footfall Engaged: 5,000+ visitors interacted at the stall and installation
- Pledges Collected: Over 1,500 individuals pledged to become organ donors
- Postcards Dropped: Around 800 heartfelt notes were written
- Social Media Reach: The Post Box selfie spot created a buzz with 20,000+ impressions
- Celebrity Endorsements: Writers, poets, and influencers amplified the campaign by signing pledges and posting online



Sh. Dr. R Mehta, IAS (Retd.),
Former Chairman SEBI at the JLF



A youngster taking part
in the Postcard campaign

The Red Post Box: A Symbol of Giving

Branded with the campaign tagline "Be a Lifeline. Pledge. Inspire. Donate.", the Post Box served as a heartfelt medium for visitors to:

- Write messages to organ donors and recipients
- Pledge their support for organ donation
- Drop postcards of gratitude and hope for donor families



Sh. Rajiv Arora (R), Chairman of MFJCF



Flimmaker Imtiaz Ali

To cite : Jagwani B. Organ Donation Awareness Initiative at Jaipur Literature Festival 2025. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p14.

Nagpur ZTCC Honours Deceased Donors and Families for Their Selfless Contribution

Dr. Rahul Saxena
Hon. Secretary
Zonal Transplant Coordination Center (ZTCC), Nagpur Zone

On January 16, 2025, the Nagpur Zonal Transplant Coordination Center (ZTCC) organized a heartfelt event at Vanamati Auditorium, Nagpur, to honour deceased organ donors and their families. In 2024, Nagpur ZTCC facilitated 39 organ donations, contributing to approximately 23% of Maharashtra's total 172 donations for the year. All 39 donor families were felicitated during this special occasion for their extraordinary act of kindness amidst personal grief.



Dr. Anil Kumar, Director, NOTTO at the inaugural ceremony

The event was graced by Dr. Anil Kumar, Director of the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO). Representing ZTCC Nagpur were Dr. Sanjay Kolte (Chairman, ZTCC Nagpur), Dr. Rahul Saxena (Secretary), and Mr. Dinesh Mandpe (ZTCC Coordinator). Renowned ophthalmologist and actor Dr. Debashish Naha also attended the event, adding to the significance of the occasion.

Dr. Anil Kumar, lauded Maharashtra's exceptional contribution to the national organ donation movement. In his address, he stated, "In the painful moment of losing a loved one, the decision of their family to donate organs is truly commendable. Their selfless act grants new life to many patients in need."

The atmosphere turned emotional as donor families shared heartfelt stories and memories of their loved ones. While many were moved to tears, they also expressed solace in knowing that their decision had helped save lives.



Dr. Anil Kumar felicitated by ZTCC Nagpur

The event also recognized the contributions of hospitals and medical professionals who played a pivotal role in promoting organ donation and transplantation in the region.

- AllMS, Government Medical College (GMC), and Super Specialty Hospital, Nagpur – For recording the highest number of organ donations in 2024.
- Care Hospital and KIMS Kingsway Hospital – For achieving the highest number of heart retrievals in 2024.



Donor families felicitated at the event

To cite : Saxena R. Nagpur ZTCC Honours Deceased Donors and Families for Their Selfless Contribution. 2025 Jan-Mar; 24(1):p15.

Dr K M Cherian

8 March 1942 - 25 January 2025



A pioneer in Indian cardiac surgery, Padma Shri Dr. K M Cherian performed the country's first coronary artery bypass surgery and its first heart-lung transplant, leaving an indelible mark on medical history.

Tributes pour in for a man whose unwavering dedication to advancing cardiac care, mentoring generations of surgeons, and saving countless lives.

His legacy will live on—in the hearts he healed and the hands he guided.





Jayalakshmi Krishnan Organ Donation Ambassador

In 2016, I attended an awareness session on organ donation conducted by MOHAN Foundation at Siddhachal Phase 6, Thane. The session left a lasting impact on me and my family. The idea of organ donation profoundly resonated with us. So, that day, my husband, Appa (my father-in-law), and I registered ourselves as organ donors through MOHAN Foundation. We had a desire to make a difference, however small, in the lives of others.

Five years later, when Appa passed away, we fulfilled his wish of organ donation: We decided to donate his skin. Knowing that his gift would give burn-victims a lease of life was a moment of solace for us - a tribute to his generosity and humanity.

Determined to do more, I underwent a volunteer training program 'Organ Donation Ambassador' with the MOHAN Foundation. Since then, I have been committed to spreading awareness about this vital cause. Whether addressing runners at marathons or conducting sessions in my office (Income Tax Office, Mumbai), every conversation has been an opportunity to share the life-changing idea of organ donation and encourage others to become part of this mission.

Here are some of my contributions to the noble cause of organ donation:

- Since September 2019 - Conducted awareness talks for diverse groups in Thane.
- January 2020 - Completed Tata Mumbai Half Marathon; raised funds of Rs. 81,100.
- November 2022 - Addressed a women's gathering at a saree run organised by Pinkathon Thane Ambassadors.
- January 2023 - Volunteered at the Tata Mumbai Marathon and raised funds of Rs. 51,000.
- January 2024 - Participated in a virtual run to raise awareness and funds.
- November 2024 - Joined the core team of Pedal for Life, a Cyclothon in Thane with over 150 participants.
- December 2024 - Organised a Cyclothon for children in my residential society, with 80 young participants enthusiastically supporting the cause.
- Jan 2025 - Participated and raised funds at the Tata Mumbai Marathon



To cite : Life begets life. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2025 Jan-Mar;24(1):p16.

Every step of this journey has been one of hope, purpose, connection. Organ donation is not just an act of giving - it is an act of faith, a belief that even in the end, we can bring life, light, and love to others. This mission has enriched my life, and I am humbled to play a small role in spreading its message.

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