

INDIAN TRANSPLANT NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Desk**The Giving Indian**

The decision to donate organs and tissues of a loved can be difficult during an emotionally traumatic moment in one's life and those who are able to accept the inevitable end and say yes to donation, do it selflessly. There are no expectations in return for this noble act and this makes it truly a very gracious societal act of giving. The thought process of a grieving relative who faces such an unnecessary death of their loved one, but manages to let go off their roller-coasting emotions that can swing from anger to denial and still go on to say yes to donation is most remarkable.

Brain death in India, is tragic loss of a young life and the death is usually sudden and senseless. Most head injuries that lead to brain death are due to road traffic accidents and over 80% of such victims are between the age group of 20 to 40 years.¹

Currently only 13 of the 36 states and union territories have so far done deceased donation.² Of these only about 5 to 6 do it regularly and have a proper system for organ donation and allocation.³ When we say India's donation rate is 0.8 per million population (pmp), the bulk of the figures reflect the donations from these few states.⁴ If the program was to become pan-India this figure would be at least 10 times higher.

Most publications blame the low donation figure on the public's ignorance and reservations on the subject as no proper in-depth analysis has ever been done on this subject. Let us understand if Indians are 'giving people' and let us move away from solid organ donation rates and look at two other donations that are more popular in India - eye and blood donation.

India's eye donation rate was around 29 pmp in 2017 - 2018 and 69,343 eyes were donated.⁵ Most donations come from homes and are voluntary when a relative of the deceased calls the nearest eye bank. We only have around 370 eye banks in the country and most are located in the urban tier-one or tier-two cities.⁶ The majority of the population living in 600,000 villages has no access to such an eye bank or collection centre.⁷ The states that do bulk of organ donation also do most of the eye donations. This means that the eye donation rate of 29 pmp reflects donation from approximately only 30% of the population that lives in bigger towns and cities.⁸ If access was available, this figure could easily become over 90 pmp. India has one of the largest home eye donation programs in the world.

Next let us look at the blood donation rate. Almost 1% of our population donates blood and, in 2015, 11,645,791 units of blood were donated.⁹ This figure again is from about 30% of the Indian population that has access to blood banks and hence donation. This again could escalate to over 30 to 40 million.

Although organ donation is the most difficult and complex of all the three donations, in the last six years about 3100 families have said yes to donation and over 9100 organs and tissues were donated (2012 - 2017).² Most donations come from ordinary people who have the extraordinary conviction and courage to say yes to donation despite their own personal loss.

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First Regional Meeting of The Transplantation Society held in Istanbul, Turkey



At the 1st Regional Meeting of The Transplantation Society - (left to right) Dr. Sunil Shroff, India, Mr. Howard Nathan, USA, Dr. Sumana Navin, India, Dr. Rishi Kumar Kafle, Nepal and Dr. Stefan Rohrig, Qatar

The 1st Regional Meeting of The Transplantation Society (TTS) was held on 28th and 29th March 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The theme of the meeting was "Deceased Donation: Expanding the Donor Pool." Dr. Mehmet Haberal, President, The Transplantation Society said that the meeting aimed at providing insights into the medical, legislative, ethical, cultural, and social hurdles that needed to be overcome to increase deceased donation rates in the Middle East, Africa, and Mid Asia as well as the world.

The plenary sessions and parallel sessions covered a gamut of topics. Nancy Ascher (USA), Immediate Past President, TTS in her session on Burden of Disease and Development of Self-Sufficiency said that a nation must assess the country's burden of disease (in terms of life lost and the impact of chronic organ failure) and gather robust data. This is required to develop public-health policies and personnel to treat these individuals, and also develop organ procurement and transplant policies and personnel involved in transplantation as a definitive treatment for organ failure and insufficiency. Mr. Howard Nathan, President and CEO, Gift of Life Donor Program, Philadelphia, USA shared that for the 11th consecutive year, Gift of Life Donor Program was USA's leading organ procurement organisation (OPO), coordinating the most life-saving organs for transplant among 58 U.S. OPOs. Gift of Life broke two national records in 2018, representing the highest totals ever recorded for organ donors and transplants for a U.S.-based OPO in a single year.

- Organ donors – coordinated life-saving gifts from 615 organ donors
- Organs transplanted – donations resulted in 1,671 organs transplanted

Gift of Life's annual donation rate, 55 organ donors-per-million-population, and annual transplant rate, 149 transplants-per-million population, both rank among the highest in the world (www.donors1.org).



Dr. Mehmet Haberal, President, The Transplantation Society, making a comment



Dr. Riadh Fadhil, Doha International Academy of Organ Donation outlining the Reach Out for Organ Transplantation Self-sufficiency (ROOTS) programme

Dr. Mustafa Al-Mousawi, Kuwait spoke about the Experience of Gulf Countries in Reaching Self-sufficiency in Organ Procurement. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, constituting the Gulf Corporation Council not only have a common language, religion, and culture, but also a large expatriate community. Most deceased donors in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are expats and in Qatar all deceased donations are from expats. Dr. Mousawi concluded by saying that religious leaders are mostly not supportive of deceased donation. He added that Islam allows a good act to be rewarded with a reciprocal act and some sort of support (educational grants, health insurance, interest free loans) for donor families may help the programme.

The Doha International Academy of Organ Donation sponsored a symposium entitled "Regional Legal, Ethical, and Religious Challenges of Deceased Organ Donation Programme." Dr. Riadh Fadhil said that the symposium was the first activity of the Reach Out for Organ Transplantation Self-sufficiency (ROOTS) programme – a new Qatari collaborative initiative to develop or improve organ donation programmes in the developing countries and Qatar. Eminent faculty addressed key issues at the symposium – Ethical Considerations for Deceased Organ Donation by Dr. Dominique Martin, Australia, Legislating an Ethical and Sustainable System for Deceased Organ Donation by Prof. Alexander Capron, USA, and Organ Donation: Islamic Ethical Perspectives by Prof. Mohammed Ghaly, Qatar. Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee and Dr. Sumana Navin, Course Director, MOHAN Foundation were invited to attend the meeting by Dr. Riadh Fadhil on behalf of The Doha International Academy of Organ Donation – Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar.

60-Year-Old Brain-Dead Woman Donates Bones in addition to other Organs and Tissues

The family of Snehalata Shidgane who was 60 years old from Juinagar in Navi Mumbai consented to donate her organs after she was declared brain stem dead on 19th March 2019. This noble gesture marked the city's 26th organ donation for the year that has seen a record number of donations since January. On 18th March after she suffered a brain stroke, she was rushed to Apollo Hospital in Neral. Doctors said there was slight improvement in her condition but despite efforts the patient could not be revived and had an irreversible brain damage. The patient was declared brain stem dead on 19th March, as per the protocol.

The family had inquired about organ donation and once they were given the information about the process and how it would save lives they wholeheartedly came forward to donate her organs. Even though the family consented to donate all her organs, only her kidneys and liver were used due to unavailability of suitable recipients. In addition to the organs her corneas and bones were also donated. "When the doctors informed us about her brain death, they also explained how not everyone can be a donor. It has to be a person whose brain has suffered damage, but her organs are supported in an ICU set-up. I am happy that my mother could save lives in her death," Ritesh (donor's son) said.

Parents Donate their Three-Year-Old Daughter's Body

The parents of a three-year-old girl who unfortunately lost her life to a congenital heart disease have set an example for many others to follow. After her death at AIIMS Jodhpur on 6th June 2019 her parents donated her body. Dr. Ashish Nayyar, co-professor at the AIIMS Anatomy Department, said this is probably the first case of body donation at such a young age. Jyoti's father, Umaid Singh, a Deputy Assistant Manager at the Jodhpur Roadways Depot, said that he wanted to donate his daughter's organs but agreed to body donation when he found that organ donation was not possible. "My heart is happy that the life of my daughter is of use to the country. We always wanted to keep her alive. So, I talked to my wife Rajukunwar and we decided to donate her organs so that we could see her living in somebody else's body. Talking to the doctor, we came to know that in Jodhpur, there is no facility for organ donation. We were disappointed but decided to donate the body for the students of MBBS," he said. Speaking about the priceless gift that is body donation Dr. Nayyar said that students generally get to examine an adult's body only, but now students would be able to better understand the difference between the body of an adult and the body a child. Mrs. Bhavna Jagwani, who heads MOHAN Foundation-Jaipur Citizen Forum, a Jaipur based NGO working on organ donation, said, "I think the parents of this child must be really evolved to have taken such a decision."

A Rise in Green Corridors for Speedy Organ Transport in Maharashtra

The number of green corridors has increased in Maharashtra over the last few years to ensure speedy transport of donated organs to patients requiring a transplant. The number of green corridors increased from four in 2016 to 18 in 2018 in Mumbai. And 11 green corridors have already helped speed up transportation of organs so far this year in 2019. "The increase in the number of green corridors shows that the process of organ donation and transplantation has become a lot more efficient. From merely allocating the organs within the city, the Zonal Transplant Coordination Centres are ensuring that the organs are utilised in the best possible way by reaching out to other cities and States depending on the availability of recipients," said Dr. Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, who heads the Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation in Mumbai.

Pune has also seen a consistent rise in the number of green corridors, from seven in 2015 to 35 in 2018. Pune alone has created 21 green corridors to transport organs from January to June 2019. In a rare feat in 2018, a liver was transported from Aurangabad to Nagpur, covering nearly 600 kms through green corridors created by the districts en route. An article published in the Indian Journal of Transplantation in 2018 said setting up a green corridor is a tedious process due to the involvement of multiple stakeholders. The donor institute has to coordinate with different State police authorities, airport authorities, airport security, Central Industrial Security Force and the recipient institute, all within the possible shortest duration to keep the organ viable.

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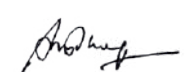
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I, Sunil Shroff, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/-

Sunil Shroff

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Signature of Publisher



Organ Donation in BAME community in the UK



Dr Sanjay Deshpande

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The rate of organ donation in the UK is among the lowest in the developed world. At 63%, the family consent ratio in Britain compares poorly with that in countries like

Spain, U.S., Croatia and Portugal, where authorisation rates remain consistently above 80%. Despite changes in policies, clinical practices and an improvement in the overall number of donors in the country over the last decade, three people die every day in the UK due to lack of organs. The paucity of organs is partly attributable to the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic or BAME communities, who mostly remain opposed to the idea of organ donation due to their deeply-entrenched cultural and religious beliefs discouraging organ donation.

The perceptions and attitudes of Britain's ethnic minority communities (Asian, Black African, Caribbean, Chinese and Mixed Race) or BAME towards organ donation in particular have long been viewed as a significant challenge to achieving higher rates of consent. As per official data only six out of every 100 people signed up to the NHS organ donor register are from the BAME communities. Notwithstanding the concerted efforts and targeted public awareness campaigns organ donation in the multi-faith and multi-ethnic BAME communities has remained consistently low, largely due to perceived religious, cultural and social beliefs. The families of potential BAME donors are less likely to consent to organ donation after death than those of the white patients. According to the NHSBT on average 65% of minority ethnic families refuse to donate organs as compared to 44% from the white families. This is in sharp contrast to their overrepresentation on the national transplant waiting list. BAME minorities constitute only 11% of the country's population but make up nearly a quarter of the numbers waiting for a life-saving organ. At 34% the ratio of BAME patients on the kidney transplant waiting list is even higher. This is due to the higher incidence of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and renal failure among the minority ethnic populations, making them more likely to need transplant organs.

In 2018, 7.3% of all donors were from a BAME background (a total of 114 donors - Asian donors: 37, black donors: 25, donors from other ethnic minorities: 52). This figure is increasing and compares to 5.6% five years ago. The current situation is:

- Over 1,800 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic patients are currently waiting for a transplant.
- 114 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic patients donated organs when they died last year. If more people donated their organs after death, or as a living donor, then transplant waiting times would reduce.

The changes following the awareness of low donation rates have resulted in changes in legislation and campaigns to change the behaviour amongst BAME communities. In October 2017 British Prime Minister Theresa May announced plans to introduce the presumed consent system for organ donation in England. Highlighting the BAME communities' greater need for organs and transplants due to chronic diseases, she emphasised that the presumed consent model would help save hundreds of lives across the country.

NHSBT has incorporated events and opportunities that facilitate public acknowledgment of BAME Donors and families. The events organised locally or regionally, can be a part of community celebrations and organ donor registration drives, and will give adequate exposure through social and traditional media. Public awareness programmes should be geared towards behaviour change rather than just creating awareness. Equal emphasis will be placed on disease prevention in BAME communities to reduce the number of patients needing a transplant, which in turn can bring down the overall costs of renal replacement therapies such as dialysis, transplantation, and post-operative costs for both donors and recipients.

References

<http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk>

...In the News - International continued from page 2

Fifth International Transplant Conference organised at University of Warwick, Coventry, UK

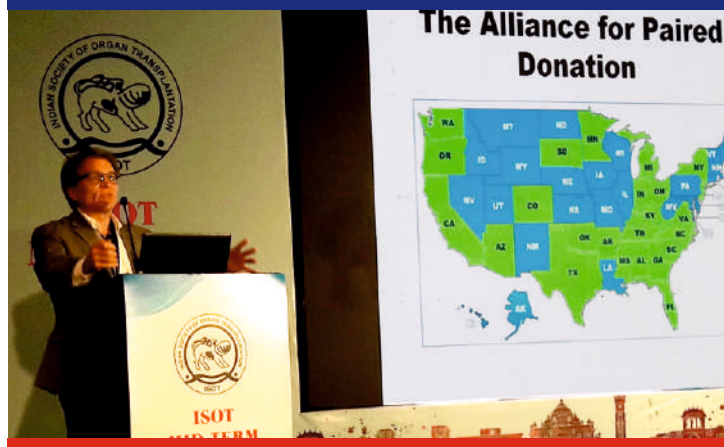
The Fifth International Transplant Conference was organised at the University of Warwick on 9th and 10th May 2019 by University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW), UK in collaboration with National Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), Birmingham and University of Warwick, UK.

Over 80 people attended the conference. The meeting was endorsed by The Transplantation Society, British Transplantation Society, NHSBT, UK and MOHAN Foundation. Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation attended the conference.

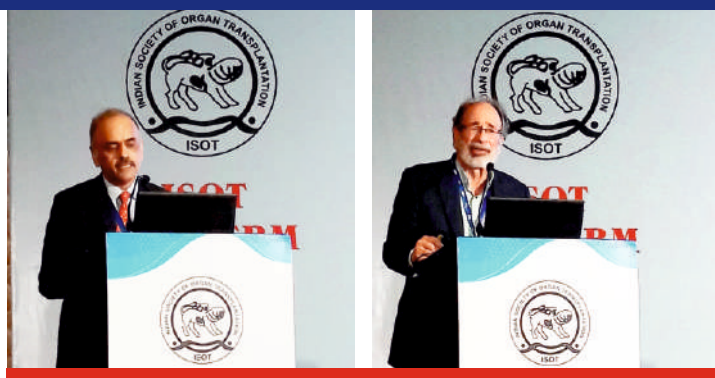
The aim of the conference was to examine the clinical, scientific and socio-cultural barriers to kidney transplantation as well as organ, blood and stem cell donation. The focus was also to address the concerns of the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities with regard to this. A Consortium of Commonwealth Countries in Transplantation (CCCT) was launched with the purpose of promoting ethical organ donation and transplantation in developing countries and increasing organ donation and transplantation among the BAME communities in developed countries. The idea is to have the CCCT up and running by 2022 so that 'Organ Donation and Transplantation' can be the theme for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham, UK that year with the motto 'Tribute to Life'.



Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) Mid-term meeting 2019 held in Ahmedabad



Dr. Michael Rees, Urologist, University of Toledo Medical Center, Ohio speaking about The Alliance for Paired Donation



Dr. Sandeep Guleria, President, ISOT speaking on Kidney Paired Donation versus ABO Incompatible Kidney Transplantation - which one is better

Nobel laureate Prof. Alvin Roth speaking on History and Organization of Kidney Exchange

The Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) held its mid-term meeting on 11th and 12th May 2019 at Hotel Crowne Plaza, Ahmedabad. The theme of the meeting was 'Expanding the Donor Pool through Deceased Donor Organ Transplantation and Kidney Paired Exchange.'

The international faculty included Nobel laureate Prof. Alvin Roth, Professor of economics at Stanford University and Dr. Michael Rees, Urologist, University of Toledo Medical Center, Ohio. Both of them have done pioneering work in Kidney Paired Donation (KPD). Prof. Roth said that some lessons could be learnt from market design. According to him, to achieve efficient outcomes market places needed to make markets sufficiently thick, uncongested and safe, and this was true of the field of organ donation and transplantation as well. Dr. Michael Rees spoke about the work being done by the Alliance for Paired Donation - KPD, Non-simultaneous Extended Altruistic Donor (NEAD) Chain, Deceased Donor-initiated NEAD Chains, Kidney Exchange Matching Software, and Global Kidney Exchange.



Inaugural function - Dr. Vivek Kute, Secretary, ISOT welcoming the dignitaries

In his keynote speech, Dr. Sandeep Guleria, President, ISOT compared the pros and cons of ABOi kidney transplantation and KPD. Dr. Vivek Kute, Secretary, ISOT elaborated on the ISOT Guidelines (2017) for KPD to increase living donor kidney transplantation in India.

The guidelines include -

- DRP (Donor-Recipient Pair) to be counselled about KPD in an easy-to-understand format as early as possible in the process of CKD care
- Transplant team members trained for counselling about risks and benefits of KPD, non-KPD options, consent process
- DRP screened for pre-transplant immunological risk, infections, coronary artery disease to prevent and reduce post-transplant unequal outcome
- Better HLA match counteracts effect of higher DR age difference
- Simultaneous > sequential surgery, 3-way exchange optimum
- Donor travel > kidney transport

(Reference – Kute et al Indian J Nephrol 2018;28:1-9)

There were sessions on the law, National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), deceased donor organ transplantation, and various aspects of kidney transplantation. Eminent faculty from across the country shared their experiences.

Dr. Vasanthi Ramesh, Director, NOTTO said that while swap transplant between two pairs of near relatives was permitted under Indian Law, legal opinion must be sought regarding longer chains of kidney exchange. Dr. Bharat Shah through case studies explained the need for clarification of certain aspects of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (mentally challenged donors, status of No Objection Certificate in case of living related transplants when near relatives are from different states).

Dr. Sumana Navin, Course Director, MOHAN Foundation spoke about the role of social media in organ donation and transplantation. She said that with its vast reach social media could be leveraged for collaboration. Her suggestion was that ISOT and other like-minded societies could form an 'Organ Donation and Transplantation Collective' on the lines of the Neph Collective for Free Open Access Medical Education (FOAMed) and creating novel content, research, mentoring, advocacy, and social support.

Organ Procurement and Transplantation Course (OPAT 2019) held in Coimbatore



Delegates and faculty at OPAT 2019

The third Organ Procurement and Transplantation Course (OPAT) 2019 was conducted on March 29th and 30th, 2019 by the Department of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic (HPB) Surgery & Multi-organ Transplantation, PSG Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (PSGIMSR), Coimbatore. The course was conducted in association with the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) and MOHAN Foundation. 13 participants from various parts of the country attended the hands-on liver and kidney procurement training on a live porcine model.

The course began with a welcome address by Dr. Swaminathan S, Consultant HPB Surgery & Multi-organ Transplantation, PSGIMSR and Dr. B. Joseph John, Consultant, HPB Surgery & Liver Transplantation, PSGIMSR. A series of didactic sessions were held to prepare the participants for hands-on work in the Animal Labs. Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi, MIS & Programme Manager, MOHAN Foundation gave an overview of Transplantation of Human Organs Act and its provisions. Following that was a session on 'Coordinating deceased organ donation and family counselling' by Ms. Rathi R, Transplant Coordinator and Clinical Nurse Specialist, PSGIMSR. Dr. Anand Bharathan, Consultant Surgeon, HPB Surgery, Sri Ramakrishna Hospital, Coimbatore spoke on 'General Principles of Organ Retrieval.' He enlightened the participants with a step-by-step approach to achieve maximum utilisation of organs and thus honour the donor and the family for their gift of life to many. Dr. S. Vivekanandan, Managing Director, RPS Hospitals & Consultant, Liver Diseases & Transplantation, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai handled a session on 'Liver Retrieval and Back Bench.' His session also included a video on surgical procedures for procuring liver graft.

A guest lecture on 'Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD) – The Indian Context' was given by Dr. Mohamed Rela, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre. He talked about the key elements in setting up the DCD programme such as legislation, guidelines and resources. He also emphasised the practical and ethical issues surrounding DCD - multi-disciplinary approach, potential for perceived conflicts of interest, supporting and maintaining the trust of bereaved families.

Following this, was a session on 'Kidney Retrieval and Back Bench' by Dr. N. Sezhian, Consultant Urologist & Kidney Transplantation, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai. Dr. Ilango Sethu, Sr Consultant, Surgical Gastroenterologist, MIOT Hospital, Chennai spoke on 'Back Bench in Kidney Retrieval'.

The participants were taken for hands-on organ procurement training at the PSGIMSR's Animal Labs in the afternoon where they were mentored by eminent faculty.

Day 2 started with a didactic session on 'Donor Optimisation' by Dr. Senthil Kumar, Additional Professor, Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi. He stressed that optimal donor management is essential for increased number and functional quality of organs available for transplantation.



Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi giving an overview of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act

Dr. Gabriel C. Oniscu, Consultant, Multi-organ Transplantation, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, UK felicitating Dr. Mohamed Rela, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre

Dr. Gabriel C. Oniscu, Consultant, Multi-organ Transplantation, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, UK spoke about 'Pancreas Retrieval' as well as 'Novel Approaches to Organ Preservation.' He mentioned that the pancreas was the organ most likely to be damaged during the retrieval surgery and the surgical skills of the surgeons were key for the success of pancreas transplantation. Dr. Srinivas Reddy, HPB Surgery and Liver Transplantation, Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre spoke on 'Split Liver'. Though the split liver transplant would maximize the benefit of an available donor organ, it is technically demanding and crucial evaluation of donor organs and effective logistics management are the key elements in this programme.

Dr. Frederick Vyas, Professor and Head, Department of HPB Surgery and Liver Transplantation, CMC Vellore spoke on 'Small Bowel Retrieval'. He said that apart from being a complex surgical procedure, the risk of rejection of graft post-transplantation was very high in small bowel transplantation.

Dr. Paari Vijayaragavan, Consultant HPB Surgery and Multi-organ Transplantation, Kovai Medical Center and Hospital made a presentation on 'Complex Situations in Organ Retrieval' and interesting case scenarios were discussed during his session. The participants were awarded a course completion certificate at the end.

ICU Workshop on Brain Death and Organ Donation organised at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur



Panel discussion (left to right) Dr. K. Sholay Meitei, Dr. Gojendra, Dr. Palin Khundongbam, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. S. Thoibahenba Singh



Mr. Aman Bhaiya, Asst. Vice President & Program Head, SBI Foundation speaking at the inaugural function



Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation explaining how to start a deceased donation programme in a hospital

MOHAN Foundation in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) organised an ICU Workshop on Brain Death and Organ Donation on 8th June 2019 in Imphal, Manipur with the support of SBI Foundation and SBI DFHI Limited. There were 90 participants at the workshop that included anaesthesiologists, intensivists, neurosurgeons, and nurses.

The dignitaries present at the inaugural function were the Chief Guest Prof. Th. Bhimo Singh, Director, JNIMS; Prof. S. Rajendra Singh, Former HOD, Dept. of Urology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal; Mr. Aman Bhaiya, Asst. Vice President & Program Head, SBI Foundation, Mumbai; Dr. S. Thoibahenba Singh, Organising Chairman, Dept. of Anaesthesiology, JNIMS; Dr. Rakesh Nongthombam, Organising Secretary, Dept. of Anaesthesiology, JNIMS; and Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation. A handy ICU manual for the participants was released on the occasion. Prof. Bhimo Singh said that they would focus on getting the transplant license for JNIMS. Mr. Bhaiya commented that SBI Foundation was keen on working towards more CSR involvement in Manipur. Dr. Shroff encouraged the audience saying that there was a unique opportunity in deceased organ donation to improve the profile of the state.

The expert faculty comprised Dr. Rahul Pandit, Director-Critical Care, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, Mumbai, Dr. Sunil Shroff, Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, and Dr. Sumana Navin, Course Director from MOHAN Foundation. Dr. Rahul Pandit said that organ donation is a by-product of good intensive care. He emphasised that establishing irreversibility is key in brain-stem death. He gave the participants a number of practical tips through case studies in his sessions on brain-stem death testing and certification, and management of a potential organ donor (Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine: Position Statement). Dr. Sumana Navin spoke about the legal framework for organ donation and transplantation in India, and Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram on how to start a deceased donation programme in a hospital. Films on testing for brain-stem death and counselling were shown.

Dr. Rajesh Waikhom, Nephrologist, spoke on 'Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Manipur – Hospital based study.' He presented the results of retrospective data collection (May 2017 to May 2019) of 690 patients with CKD Stage 3 or above.

The cause was diabetes mellitus in 42%, unknown etiology in 32%, and renal stone – obstructive nephropathy in 19% of the patients. He said that 60% of patients were initiated on dialysis without any access and that the outcome of renal replacement therapy was very frequently limited by financial constraints. A number of activities throughout the day ensured practical learning.



Dr. Rahul Pandit (extreme left), Director-Critical Care, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, Mumbai moderating an activity on role allocation

The panel discussion on the way forward for Manipur was moderated by Dr. Sunil Shroff. The panelists included Dr. S. Thoibahenba Singh, Organising Chairman, JNIMS; Dr. Palin Khundongbam, Chairman cum Managing Director, Shija Hospitals; Dr. Gojendra, Neurosurgeon, RIMS; Dr. Kennedy, Intensivist, Shija Hospitals, and Dr. K. Sholay Meitei, Urologist, JNIMS. At the end of the discussion there was consensus that the following needed to be done – educating doctors, paramedical staff, and the public about organ donation, strengthening ICUs, formulating a robust policy for organ donation in medico-legal cases, creating a state organ sharing network with allocation criteria, and forging a public-private-NGO partnership. The workshop ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

Critical Care Conclave Workshop held at Army Hospital (Research & Referral) New Delhi



Communication exercise in progress

AORTA (Army Organ Retrieval & Transplantation Authority) in partnership with MOHAN Foundation successfully conducted a Critical Care Conclave Workshop on March 16, 2019 at Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantt, New Delhi. 15 medical officers and critical care specialists from various service hospitals across India attended the conclave. Lt. General U.K. Sharma, Commandant, Army Hospital (R&R) gave the welcome address and Col Vikas Srivastava Senior Advisor, Anaesthesia & Critical Care, Army Hospital (R&R) gave an introduction to the day-long workshop.



Participants performing an activity on personnel involved in deceased organ donation

Technical sessions were conducted by the senior faculty from Anaesthesia & Critical Care Department of Army Hospital (R&R). The sessions on soft skills, communication and counselling as well as a number of activities/practical sessions were conducted by Dr. Sunil Shroff, Dr. Sumana Navin, and Ms. Pallavi Kumar from MOHAN Foundation. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Col. Satish Mendonca, Director AORTA & Senior Advisor, Med & Nephrology, Army hospital (R&R). The training was supported by SBI Foundation and SBI DFHI Limited.

Advanced Transplant Coordinators' Workshop 2019 held in Chennai



Group photo with the participants.

MOHAN Foundation in collaboration with the Network and Alliance of Transplant Coordinators (NATCO) organised an Advanced Transplant Coordinators' Workshop on 21st and 22nd June 2019 in Chennai. Around 50 transplant coordinators and healthcare professionals from across the country participated in the workshop. The scientific sessions included:

- Hand Transplantation – Perspectives of a Recipient, Surgeon and Transplant Coordinator
- Patient Support Group - Stakeholder Viewpoints
- Social Media as a Tool to Promote Causes
- Islamic Perspectives on Organ Donation

Ms Shreya Siddanagowder, Asia's first bilateral above elbow hand transplant recipient, spoke about the transplant and recovery process. She expressed her immense gratitude to the donor family. This was followed by a talk on the hand transplantation procedure by Dr. K. Subramania Iyer, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi. He took the transplant coordinators through the basics of hand matching and the surgical process. He explained the importance of constant counselling for patients and their families, pre and post-transplant. The next speaker Mr. V. G. Prasad, Transplant Coordinator from Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi spoke about the legal requirements to set up and run a hand transplant centre as well as patients on the waiting list and the large number of patients who contact him frequently.



Dr. Subramaniya Iyer and Ms. Shreya Siddanagowder during the session on Hand Transplantation

Ms. Aneka Paul handing over a memento to Dr. Balaji Kirushnan, Nephrologist, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai

He requested MOHAN Foundation to train counsellors in requesting for hands and upper limbs to be donated along with other organs. The coordinators found the session both motivational and educational. The chairpersons were Dr. R. Krishnamurthy from SIMS Hospital and Ms. Pallavi Kumar of MOHAN Foundation

The discussion on Patient Support Group was chaired by Ms. Aneka Paul, Tata Trusts and Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram of MOHAN Foundation. Mrs. Jaya Jairam spoke briefly about her experience as a recipient and her decision to receive an organ from her mother. Ms. Sohini Chattopadhyay spoke (via Skype) about how a family does not have many options and avenues to gather information about transplantation and donors in India. Mrs. Usha Balasubramanian spoke of her experience of caring for her late husband who was a chronic kidney disease patient. Mr. Kamal Shah, Co-Founder of NephroPlus, spoke of his journey of trying various dialysis options, lack of information available to patients and ways to access them. Finally, Dr. Suresh Sankar, Nephrologist, spoke of the limitations doctors have and the importance of having a support group. A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Sankar had the speakers along with Dr. Balaji Kirushnan, Nephrologist from Kauvery Hospital discuss the shaping of a support group.

Mr. Adinarayana Dasika, Vice President, MOHAN USA chaired a session on using social media as a tool to promote causes like organ donation. The speaker, Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation, offered a comparison of various social media platforms and explained ways to optimally use them. He mentioned that Twitter has a wide reach and YouTube is most impactful. Using infographics and templates on social media was also shown by Ms Amala – Graphic Designer, Medindia. An impromptu crowd funding exercise was demonstrated for the participants as well.

Dr. Sunil Shroff chaired the next session on Islamic Perspectives on Organ Donation which began with the reporting of research findings on 'Islamic Perception on Organ Donation' by Ms. Ishwarya Thyagarajan, MOHAN Foundation. The survey indicated that religion strongly influences decisions made in relation to donating or receiving organs in the community. Religious leaders and religious texts have considerable clout in the matter. The results also suggested that while there is a strong reluctance to donate organs, receiving organs is widely accepted. A lack of general awareness regarding organ donation and transplantation was evident as well. This was followed by a comprehensive talk by Dr. Riadh Fadhil, Director of Qatar Organ Donation Centre, (via Skype) on how the Islamic rulings on organ donation, brain death, living donations came about in different countries. He also explained how these rulings helped the community to understand the concept and accept organ donation.

Mr. Amjid Ali, Strategic Partner, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), UK (via Skype) shared the initiatives taken and the progress made in improving organ donation in Muslim communities in UK. He concluded his talk saying that, looking at UK's experience, 'Educate – Inspire – Reform' would be the way forward for effective community engagement.

Mr. Faizur Rahman A, Secretary, Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought, Chennai spoke on how Islam should be viewed not as a religion, but a way of life that has humanitarianism and peace at its core.



From (L to R) - Moderator-Dr. Suresh Sankar, (Nephrologist) Mrs. Usha Balasubramanian (Caretaker), Mrs. Jaya Jairam (Kidney Transplant Recipient), Dr. B. Balaji Kirushnan (Nephrologist), Mr. Kamal Shah(Co-Founder-NephroPlus) and Ms. Sohini Chattopadhyay (Journalist-on the screen) during the panel discussion on Patient Support Group



Mr. Amjid Ali, Partner and project lead, NHSBT, UK during his session on Improving Organ Donation in Muslim Communities in the UK



Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, Senior Consultant, Reconstructive Medicine, SIMS Hospital sharing his thoughts



Participants during the workshop

...continued on page 12

Shreya Siddanagowder – Asia's first bilateral above elbow hand transplant recipient



Before Transplantation



After Transplantation

Back in 2016, I was pursuing my engineering from MIT, Manipal. I had dreams and aspirations like any other 18 year old. On 28th September 2016 my life took an unexpected and an unimaginable turn. I was in Pune with my parents for one week vacation. I was traveling back to Manipal in a Volvo coach bus. At around 5 a.m., due to the rash and negligent driver, the bus overturned and was dragged for a substantial distance of around 100 meters. In this tragic accident I sustained a lot of injuries. My right forearm was completely crushed, my left forearm was dangling through some muscles and skin, a bad injury on my right knee, my abdomen was filled with wounds and skin had peeled off, a deep injury in the chin, various cuts on my face and a head injury.

It's funny, how writing about my injuries doesn't perturb me anymore. I was rushed to Kasturba hospital in Manipal. Doctors couldn't save my forearms because of the magnitude of the crush injuries. Two days later when I was still in the ICU, my parents revealed that I had lost both my forearms. The loss of both forearms hit my consciousness like a paralysing dart. To be frank I didn't know how to react or what to say. But then my parents assured me that there were a few options available and they would support me in every possible way to make me independent again. Few days later, I saw my stumps for the first time. As the gauze bandages unravelled, I saw that it was all black, skin peeling out from a few places, blood oozing out ...it was a gory sight. That's when reality punched me in my guts. I had been condemned to an existence I'd never choose. The loss of both my forearms was devastating. I had to surrender myself to the amputation. The most personal and basic needs such as going to the washroom, wiping my nose and even wiping my butt had been taken away from me. With the exception of breathing, swallowing food and walking, I was dependent on my mother for every other thing. Nevertheless, I am grateful to have a mother who would do anything for my comfort. There was a lot of self-bred negativity that I had surrounded myself with. The obscurity of my future perturbed me to no end. That feeling was so unsettling that I often asked my mother "why me?", "why have I been heaped with so much adversity." My mother said, "you have been heaped with so much adversity because only you can face it, and if you can't then I don't know who can." That's when I realised that giving up on myself is not an option.

I feel that you need to have a heart to see something good even the in the worst possible situation. I had lost my forearms, but I had not lost my legs and most importantly I had not lost my will and spirit to live. Within a few days I trained my toes to operate my phone, laptop, Kindle and even television remote. After a few months I started using prosthetic hands. I have used mechanical as well as myoelectric prosthesis (battery operated artificial hand). I despised them and dreaded to even wear them as they were heavy, manly, they had hooks and belts and were unwieldy. The prospect of leading my life of another 40-50 years with the help of prosthetic hands was mind numbing and I was under no obligation to lead a life without forearms because of someone else's mistake. When I was admitted in the hospital after my accident, my parents had mentioned about hand transplant and such a surgery had been thrice carried out successfully in India itself. My disdain for prosthetic hands made me consider bilateral hand transplant as the best possible option. My mother and I, we both used to google lots of articles and information related to hands, their functionality and the advantages and disadvantages of undergoing a hand transplant. Some people and doctors discouraged us and said that such a surgery is quite complex in nature and there is a high possibility that it would fail and I'd be back to square one. In fact, their actions and body language shouted that I'd be confined to the four walls of my house and leading my life with 'lakdi ke haath' (wooden hands) as the best possible solution for me. But no amount of demoralising comments could deter me from my decision to get the transplant done.



Ms. Shreya with her parents (extreme left) and the Hand Transplantation team

I did know what I was signing up for and even the implications it came with. This surgery is complicated and extensive. It is a lifetime commitment because you have to take immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of your life and there are a few serious side effects of those drugs which may or may not arise. Also, unlike other transplants, a hand transplant recipient has to undergo intensive therapy and rehabilitation to gain functionality in the new hands and it depends upon the level of surgery. So, on 5th August 2017, I visited Kochi to meet Dr. Subramania Iyer (Dr. Iyer and his team are the pioneers of hand transplantation in India) and also to register my name on the Kerala organ donation site. Previously I had met Dr. Iyer twice to know more about the procedure and also to undergo a series of mandatory tests and a few counselling sessions. In the last few years there has been a lot of awareness regarding internal organ donation. Usually people are ready to donate internal organs but are reluctant to donate hands because of the cultural beliefs associated with respect to donating external organs. But I was fortunate enough to get a suitable donor match on the day of registration itself, without any waiting period. Before preparing for the daunting surgery Dr. Iyer asked me whether I had any apprehensions about receiving male hands. The answer was a straight no because I knew the importance of getting hands and also how much they mean to me. So, on 9th August 2017 after almost 14 hours of surgery, I became the first person in Asia to undergo a bilateral above elbow hand transplant and also the first girl in the entire world to receive male forearms. On the early morning of 10th August, after almost one year without forearms, I felt complete again. I cannot express the amount of happiness I felt when I saw my new hands for the first time or even the amount of gratitude I felt for Sachin, who is my donor and his parents. I've met his parents quite a few times and all they have ever said is that they've willingly and wholeheartedly donated most of his organs. Sachin is still alive in 6 people today. They will always be there in my prayers.

It has been more than 18 months since my transplant and I know how much it has transformed my life. I know that it's not a life-saving, but a life-altering surgery. Today I can do most of my work without anybody's help and this has given me a sense of unwavering confidence. I do know how life altering this surgery has been and it was possible because my donor's parents decided to donate his hands in spite of their grief. I will forever be grateful to them.

I've met some great doctors, therapists, nurses and other medical staff who have tirelessly worked on me since the last two years just so that I could be independent again. I am really glad they were a part of my journey. I have realised that in the last two years I've grown and transformed as an individual. Yes it was immensely hard, yes I've had my own share of frustration, angst and agony, but those were the days that helped me grow and love myself even more.

Today without any doubt I can say that I love the perfectly imperfect me as I am mentally stronger and tougher and no accident could take away my will power, grit, and determination. That accident could have been the end of me but strangely enough it turned out to be the beginning of something new, better, and beautiful.

...Editorial continued

At MOHAN Foundation we have always believed that the Indian public is willing to consider organ donation and this fact is firmly instilled during the training of transplant coordinators undertaken by the Foundation for the last 10 years. Most who work in the hospitals take up the difficult organ donation conversation with confidence and without any prejudice. The conversion rate of such trained coordinators is 66% in some of the hospitals in Tamil Nadu.¹⁰ The donations have come from the poorest of the poor and the richest of the rich. Many who have donated had never heard about brain death and organ donation before, and what mattered was supporting the families in their decision at the time of such grief.

As we celebrate 25 years of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act that was passed on the 8th of July 1994, we Indians should be proud that we are a giving nation, be it blood, eye or organ donation. Let us strengthen our trauma services in the hospitals, get more states and union territories to start deceased donation and improve our donation rates so that we can help many of the patients who wait for a life-saving organ.

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Letter to Donor Family



Dear Donor Family,

I am a 41-year-old male who received the precious gift from your loved one. I know there are no words that can truly express my feelings for your family. It takes a special kind of person to make such a decision to sacrifice in their time of grief and need. I would like you to know that your loved one and your family are in my thoughts and prayers everyday. I know I will never be able to thank you enough for giving me a Second Chance at life. I will try to live up to the example set by your loved one and help other people.

I thought the family would like to know how things are going. The doctor says everything is progressing well. I had no signs of rejection and the heart is functioning extremely well. It has been just about 10 days since the operation after the surgery. I would have written sooner, but I wanted to make sure everything was working so that I could show you what has been accomplished by your family's decision to donate.

I would also like to say how sorry I am for your loss. I would give it all up to put your family all back together again. It is nice to know that there are such people who are very special in this world who love about other people so much.

Saying thank you just doesn't seem like enough when what somebody does is basically save life. I sincerely hope that life treats your family to nothing but happiness and prosperity. If there is anything that your family would like to know about me, please don't hesitate to ask. I just want to say thank you once again.

God Bless the family
Srin, Bala and Poornika

Editors' note: Used with permission from
Dr. Sandeep Attawar,
Chair & Program Director,
Cardiac Surgery and Thoracic organ transplantation,
Parkway-Global Hospitals, India

...Workshop - continued from page 9

Dr. P.K. Abdul Rahiman: Collating and presenting the existing fatwas on organ donation to the different sections of Muslim communities in India has to be initiated. This would help tide over the various questions raised on fatwas by the common Muslims and therefore help the larger well-being of the society.

Mr. Faizur Rahman: Organ donation is low among the Muslims; the religion Islam is as such not a reason, but the Islamic interpretations are. Interpreting the Qur'an to the modern times without violating the basic values of Islamic faith is the need of the hour.

Dr. T. Ameen Ahmed: Religion may not be the lone hindrance. There may be other factors which could have been experienced by non-Muslims. These factors should be looked at and addressed as well.

Mr. Amjid Ali: A multi-dimensional approach would help in holistic education. Disseminating knowledge about the religious faith among the medical community; educating the ulemas on the medical science; engaging the faith groups which will appeal the human interest.

Mr. Senthil Kumar: Muslims who have expressed their unwillingness have stated only religion as the reason for refusal, even if they had other personal concerns.



Group photo with panelists of Islamic Perspectives on Organ Donation and the MOHAN Foundation Team

4th AORTA-MOHAN Foundation training on Transplant Coordination held under the aegis of Office of DGMS (Army) IHQ of MoD (Army) & NOTTO



Panel discussion in progress (from left to right) Dr Avnish Seth, Lt Gen U. K. Sharma & Dr. Sunil Shroff



Role Play moderated by Ms. Pallavi Kumar in progress

MOHAN Foundation in partnership with AORTA (Army Organ Retrieval & Transplantation Authority) successfully conducted the 4th Transplant Coordinators' Workshop from March 11-15, 2019 at Army Hospital (Research and Referral) Delhi Cantt, New Delhi. It was held under the aegis of Office of DGMS (Army) IHQ of MoD (Army) and NOTTO (National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization). 24 delegates that mainly included medical officers and nursing officers attended the training. There was representation from 13 states (Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh) and two Union Territories (Delhi and Chandigarh). The training was organised by Col. Satish Mendonca (Director, AORTA) and the logistics coordinated by Lt. Col. Sandhya V Nair, Transplant Coordinator, Army Hospital. On the last day, Lt Gen U.K. Sharma, Commandant, Army Hospital (R&R) gave away certificates to all the delegates who successfully completed the course. The training was supported by Tata Trusts.



MOHAN Foundation team being felicitated

One Week Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme held in Hubballi, Karnataka



Dignitaries at the Inaugural function

For the first time in North Karnataka, MOHAN Foundation under the aegis of Jeevasarthakathe, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka in association with the Department of Nephrology, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Hubballi conducted a one-week Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme from 8th to 12th April 2019. There were 54 participants from Karnataka and Punjab. This was the 62nd training programme conducted by MOHAN Foundation. The training programme was supported by Tata Trusts. Present at the inaugural function were Dr. Ramalingappa Antaratani, Director, Dr. Arunkumar.C, Medical Superintendent, Dr. M. C. Chandru, Principal, Mr. Basavaraj Somannavar, CAO, Dr. S S Katkol, RMO, Dr. Venkatesh Moger, Prof and HOD, Nephrology, Smt. Ashirvadamma Dokka, Nursing Superintendent and Smt. Annapurna. G, Principal, Nursing College from KIMS, Hubballi.



Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi and Dr. Venkatesh Moger handing over an appreciation certificate to Dr. Amruth (in the middle)

The MOHAN Foundation team was represented by Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi, Manager - Information Systems and Ms Ann Alex, Programme Associate. At the valedictory function the participants received their completion certificates.



Dr. Nagraj Naik, (participant) asking a query



Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram moderating an activity on team building



Mrs. Manjula. K.U speaking on the functions of Jeevasarthakathe

10th One Month Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme held in Chennai



Group photo with the faculty and participants

MOHAN Foundation conducted its 10th One Month Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme from 2nd to 29th May 2019 in Chennai. A total of 52 candidates from Assam, Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu were present. The participants hailed from various professional backgrounds such as social work, medical sociology, nursing, Accident and Emergency Care Technology, and dialysis technology. The training was supported by Tata Trusts and Astellas.



Dr. G. Raja, Assistant Professor & Instructor, A&E Department, Aarupadai Veedu Medical College and Hospital, Puducherry giving a demonstration during the Basic Life Support Workshop



(L-R) Prof. Dr. K. Deiveegan, Dept. of Neuro Surgery, SRM Medical College & Hospital Research Centre and Prof. S. Jeswanth, Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology & Liver Transplantation, Govt. Stanley Medical College & Hospital felicitating Dr. Anand Bharathan, Sr. Consultant Surgeon, HPB Surgery, Sri Ramakrishna Hospital



Participants displaying the kits they prepared for the activity on 'Honouring deceased donor families'

Highlights

Participants underwent a workshop on 'Basic Life Support (BLS)', which was conducted by Dr. G. Raja, Assistant Professor, A&E Department, & Instructor, Aarupadai Veedu Medical College and Hospital, Puducherry. They were also given the opportunity to visit an Eye Bank (Sankara Nethralaya's C U Shah Eye Bank), Skin Bank (Right Hospitals), Blood Bank (Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre and MGM Healthcare and Right Hospitals) and a Dialysis Unit (VS Hospitals and Sooriya Hospital). Mr. K. Veerapandian, Consultant Psychologist and Assistant Professor, The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM) took the participants through intensive sessions on counselling and ended with a mock counselling session. Dr. Suryakumari Duggirala, The Academy of Life and People Skills (The ALPS) encouraged the participants to bring out their creative side to tap social media and asked them to make awareness videos on public support for organ donation.



(L-R) Dr. M. Edwin Fernando, Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital, Dr. R. Kanthimathy, TRANSTAN, Dr. Kishore Phadke, Jeevasarthakathe, Dr. Sunil Shroff, Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram and Dr. Sumana Navin from MOHAN Foundation handing over the completion certificate to Mr. Hanmant Anandrao Rajee, Bhatia Hospital, Mumbai

The training also included a session on 'Experience sharing by a transplant recipient' in which Ms. Vinitha, a liver transplant recipient spoke. She spoke about the quality of life before and after transplant. Mrs. Bharathi, Ms. Vinitha's mother shared her experience as a caregiver and how the family came to a standstill during that period, but fought back with the support of the doctors and transplant coordinator.

Mrs. Usha Balasubramanian (also a participant) shared her experience of being a caregiver and how her husband lost his life to Chronic Kidney Disease. Dr. Anand Bharathan, Sr. Consultant Surgeon, HPB Surgery, Sri Ramakrishna Hospital, Coimbatore spoke on the General principles of organ retrieval. He also spoke on Ethical dilemmas in organ donation and transplantation during a dinner lecture for the faculty.

There was a panel discussion with senior transplant coordinators from various transplant centres in the city on the panel. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi, Manager - Information Systems, MOHAN Foundation. The panel discussion touched upon areas such as legal liabilities of a transplant coordinator in the transplant programme; challenges when the same transplant coordinator works with both the recipient as well as donor (deceased / living donor); knowing about the recipients and their post-transplant conditions - how could it affect deceased organ donor families; space for transplant coordinators to express their ethical views within the programme.

Present at the valedictory function were Dr. R. Kanthimathy, Member Secretary, Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN); Dr. Kishore Phadke, Convener, Jeevasarthakathe, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka; Dr. M. Edwin Fernando, Prof. & Head, Department of Nephrology, Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital; Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director and Dr. Sumana Navin, Course Director from MOHAN Foundation. During the valedictory function, the participants received their completion certificates. They also shared feedback about the training and staged performances on 'Honouring the deceased donor families.'

Note: The participants of the Post Graduate Diploma in Transplant Coordination and Grief Counselling attended the face-to-face contact sessions on counselling, grief counselling, soft skills, and health care team management. They were also taken for field visits as per the course requirement. These components were incorporated into the one-month training as well. The E-learning programme is supported by Tata Trusts, SBI Foundation and SBI DFHI Limited.



Participants from the e-learning course during the one week contact session with the MOHAN Foundation team

Samarthan 2019 - A musical evening to create awareness on Organ donation



The Nizami Bandhu performing at Samarthan 2019



A tribute to Transplant Coordinators - 'You are the clay You are the potter' compendium



Audience enjoying the music during the event

On 2nd March 2019, MOHAN Foundation organised its annual awareness event, 'SAMARTHAN 2019 – A Sufiyana Night with Nizami Bandhu' at Zorba, MG Road, New Delhi. The objective was to create awareness around organ donation as well as to raise funds that would go towards the Foundation's endeavour to ensure that organs are available for all those who are waiting for a life-saving transplant. During the evening, the renowned Nizami Bandhu regaled the audience with their soulful Sufi music. Close to 300 guests attended the event.

A compendium titled, "You are the Clay, You are the Potter" - a tribute to the Transplant Coordinators of India – was released on the occasion. The compendium is a collection of inspiring donor stories from Transplant Coordinators from hospitals across the country and stories of real heroes who are making efforts to boost organ donation. Ms. Pallavi Kumar, Executive Director, MOHAN Foundation, Delhi-NCR invited Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation and supporters of the Foundation to release the Compendium. The main sponsors of the event were – Ethos watch Boutiques, Dr. Lalpath Labs, Dalmia Bharat, Intas Pharmaceuticals and Alfa Cotech Industries.

MOHAN Foundation's organ donation awareness campaign titled "Life Before Ashes" sweeps the IAA Olive Crown Awards 2019 with three Golds and a Silver



Mrs. Jaya Jairam and Dr. Jimmy Gupta with the IAA Olive Crown Awards



MOHAN Foundation's bold and hard-hitting campaign, "Life Before Ashes" bagged three Golds and a Silver at the IAA Olive Crown Awards 2019. ZEE Entertainment's Olive Crown Awards recognises outstanding work in sustainability and the preservation of our ecosystem every year. The award ceremony was held at ITC Grand Central, Parel, Mumbai on 18th April 2019.

"Life Before Ashes" is a poignant yet hard-hitting message by MOHAN Foundation to spread a very simple message – 'What has now become ashes, could have been another person's heart or kidney or liver or eyes, if only they were donated.' The travelling art installations in the shape of human organs such as the heart, kidney, liver and eyes, which were made from a mix of real human ashes and mud from the graves, were displayed at malls, hospitals, conferences, etc., throughout the country, thus spreading the message and motivating many more to take the pledge for donating their organs. The Social Street was the collaborating ad agency for this campaign.

The awards were received in the following categories -

- Press Services – GOLD
- Events – GOLD
- Out of Home – GOLD
- Campaign of the Year - SILVER

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