Growth of Liver Transplants in India

The growth of liver transplants in India over the last two decades has been phenomenal. This growth has been mainly confined to the private sector with only a handful of government hospitals developing a sustainable and viable transplant program. This does lead to problems with equity in a country like India where the out of pocket expenses for healthcare means limited access to such transplants to the less affordable population.\(^1\)

The first successful deceased donor and living donor liver transplants took place in 1998.\(^2\) Early attempts in 1995, with deceased donor liver transplants were unsuccessful. It was another decade before the liver transplant numbers became significant and by 2014 India had become a major hub for liver transplants in this part of the world with around 1400 transplants performed.\(^3\) At present, it is estimated that more than 1800 liver transplants are performed in India. Although these are done in 90 - 100 registered hospitals, 60% of all such transplants are performed by only about five hospitals in the country.\(^4\)

It is estimated that 70 to 80% of livers come from living donors (80% are male recipients) and 20 to 30% from deceased donors. There are significant regional variations with the south and west having more deceased donors compared to North India, where the majority are living donors.

The high volume centres also attract many trainees from other countries to learn the techniques for safe living donor liver transplants. The growth of liver transplants has also meant that the deceased donation program has more support when it comes to retrieval of organs and because of the cost implications and return, the senior hospital managements are supportive to help with the growth of deceased donation.

The current issue of ITN carries the international and national data on liver transplants. The data is derived mainly from the WHO-Global Observatory website.

References


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Giving the Gift of Life: Couple in China donate a kidney each to save their twin daughters

By giving one kidney each, a Chinese couple was able to save their teenage twin daughters who were experiencing renal failure. Both the sisters were diagnosed with uremia caused by a genetic mutation and required kidney transplants. Their health continued to deteriorate after three months of peritoneal dialysis, and no donor call was received during the waiting period. The family then decided to pursue living donor kidney transplants. The 18-year-old twins received a kidney each from their mother, Ms. Hu, and their father, Mr. Liu.

The transplants were performed at Renmin Hospital in Wuhan, central China’s Hubei province, in April and June 2022 respectively. “The parents’ kidneys were healthy and of good quality,” said doctor Zhou Jiangqiao from Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University, who performed the operations. Donations from family members are normally safer and save the patients long wait times and money, he added.

It might be the such case where that both the parents have donated their kidneys each to their twin girls for a transplant that will save their lives.

Swiss opts for ‘presumed consent’ on organ donations

To combat the shortfall of organs for transplant, Switzerland has shifted to “opt-out” system of organ donation in May 2022. Everyone is now potentially a donor unless an individual has actively chosen to opt out and the new rule was supported by 60 percent of voters in a referendum. The government will have to develop regulations implementing the new legislation. The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) has indicated that the new legislation will come into effect in 2024 at the earliest. “The public have shown that they are ready to give a chance to the people who are on the waiting list,” said Franz Immer, the director at the Swisstransplant. Interior Minister Alain Berset said that the transition to the new law would be done “very carefully”, and that the priority will continue to be on securing the most important piece of information: the true will of the deceased person regarding their organ donation.

In 2021, Switzerland, a nation of over 8.6 million people, had 1,400 transplant candidates on the waiting list. There were 166 deceased donors who donated their organs, and 484 organs were retrieved and transplanted. However, 72 patients died waiting on an organ transplant waiting list, according to the Swisstransplant.

The majority of the European Union nations have adopted the soft opt-out consent model with Switzerland joining the list recently.

Pancreatic Islet Transplantation in Type 1 Diabetes: 20-Year Experience of University of Alberta Hospital, Canada - A Single-Centre Study

World’s largest islet transplant program has changed the lives of many people with diabetes, after 20 years of perfecting their technique. The team behind the largest islet cell transplant program in the world reports the procedure is a safe, reliable and life-changing treatment for people with hard-to-control diabetes. In the results published in May 2022 in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, the researchers report on patient survival, graft survival, insulin independence and protection from life-threatening low blood sugars for 255 patients who have received a total of more than 700 infusions of islets at the University of Alberta Hospital over the past two decades.

“We’ve shown very clearly that islet transplantation is an effective therapy for patients with difficult-to-control Type 1 diabetes,” says James Shapiro, professor of surgery at the University of Alberta, Canada Research Chair in regenerative medicine and transplant surgery, and the lead of the team that developed the protocol known as the Edmonton Protocol. “This long-term safety data gives us confidence that we are doing the right thing.”

“This data shows really strong proof that cell-based therapies can deliver a meaningful and transformative impact for people with diabetes,” says Peter Senior, Charles A. Allard Chair in Diabetes Research and director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute. “We are delivering something which all other treatments for diabetes don't deliver - there's a comfort, a predictability, a stability to blood sugar levels that don't exist with anything else.”
Anil Srivatsa, a kidney donor, intends to travel 56,000 kilometres in order to compete in the World Transplant Games (WTG) 2023, to be held in Australia. His journey from Bengaluru began in April 2022; crossing 17 countries, he will be reaching Perth before the event starts in April 2023.

Anil Srivatsa donated one of his kidneys in 2014 to save his doctor brother Arjun Srivatsa, who had chronic kidney disease. This was the beginning of his journey towards organ donation, and since then he has participated in the renowned games to further the cause and inspire more individuals to donate their life-saving organs. He has been actively involving himself in organising numerous awareness campaigns throughout the society.

The Srivatsa brothers demonstrated that having an organ transplant does not prevent living organ donors and recipients from living healthy lives by competing in the WTG 2019 held in Newcastle, United Kingdom and bringing home two gold medals in golf and ball throwing.

6-year-old Roli becomes youngest organ donor in the history of Delhi AIIMS

Roli Prajapati, a six-year-old girl hailing from Noida became the youngest organ donor ever in the history of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi and saved the lives of five people in April 2022. Roli Prajapati was shot in her head by unknown assailants and was admitted to AIIMS, Delhi. Doctors declared the young girl brain dead after repeated futile attempts to revive her.

“We diagnosed her to be having brain death. Subsequently, our team of doctors sat with the parents and talked about organ donation. We counselled the parents and sought their consent if they would be willing to donate organs to save the lives of other children,” said Dr. Deepak Gupta, Professor of Neurosurgery and in charge of organ procurement services at the trauma centre in AIIMS, Delhi.

Despite their sorrow, Roli’s parents consented to donate her organs, and her liver, kidneys, corneas, and heart valves were transplanted to the needy patients. The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) distributed the donated organs. A seven-year-old from Lucknow received Roli’s liver, while a 12-year-old received her kidneys.

In February 2020, a newborn infant who lived for only 68.3 hours donated his organs at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. The kidneys from the three-day boy who had irreversible brain abnormalities were given to a 21-year-old woman, saving her life. This was likely to be the country’s youngest organ donation.

Organ transplant has been added to the Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance scheme (Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana) in Rajasthan. The yearly medical coverage sum has increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, with an additional accident cover worth Rs 5 lakh, according to the budget release announced in April 2022.

According to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot’s budget presentation, the software has undergone the necessary changes and guidelines were issued to all hospitals associated with the scheme regarding new packages.

State Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said five packages of cochlear implant, nine of bone marrow transplant, eight of liver transplant and seven of heart transplant have been added to the packages of the scheme. This would allow people to receive expensive treatment of such diseases free of cost.

This state insurance scheme is likely to give a boost to the organ donation and transplant program in Rajasthan.

In Death, A Doctor in Kolkata Gives a Fresh Lease of Life to Three

Dr. Sanjukta is no more, but her legacy lives on. That is how doctors in Kolkata mourned the death of Sanjukta Shyam Roy, a 43-year-old Kolkata doctor who gave a fresh lease of life to three people. Dr. Sanjukta, an anaesthesiologist was pronounced brain dead at the Apollo Multispecialty Hospital, Kolkata, the very same hospital where she had been attached to. Dr. Sanjukta had suffered a massive cardiac arrest and was rushed to the hospital. Despite the efforts of the doctors, she did not gain consciousness, and was declared brain dead on May 3, 2022.

When asked, Dr. Sanjukta’s family agreed to donate her organs. Dr. Sanjukta’s liver and kidneys were retrieved and allocated to the Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGIMER), Kolkata and ILS Hospital, Dum Dum.

“We have ten liver recipients listed with ROTTO. But the wait gets too long since donations are rare,” said Dr. Mahesh Goenka, Director of the Institute of Gastro Sciences at Apollo Multispecialty Hospital, Kolkata.

Apollo Hospitals, Kolkata has been doing pioneering work in deceased donation program in West Bengal. The state’s first deceased organ donation was facilitated at the very same hospital in July 2016.
## Liver Transplants around the World

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Top 5 countries by number of liver transplants

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Living donor Vs deceased donor liver transplants in India

Deceased organ donors & deceased donor liver transplants in India

FORM – IV

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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
Date: 30th June 2022
Signature of Publisher
One day, we were watching ‘Dance India Dance’ - a reality TV show, in which a participant performed as a child suffering from cancer, and lost his hair due to chemotherapy. To make him feel equal, the rest of the children in the class shaved their head. Tashvi asked me with the great innocence, “Mamma, how did this child become bald?” I then explained to her about cancer, chemotherapy, and that one of the side effects of the treatment procedure was hair loss.

Since I was aware of the hair donation, I just asked her whether she would agree to donate her hair to a needy and she agreed instantly. Tashvi studies in Amrita Vidyalayam where donation to the underprivileged is encouraged by the students, especially on special days like birthdays. So, in 2017, on Tashvi’s birthday which was on January 01, we decided to take her for her hair donation. We went to the salon and the scissors started snipping and within a few minutes, 16 inches of hair were gone. I was in full praise of Tashvi for the large-hearted gesture of hers. Her spontaneous donation made me feel happy and every time I touched her hair, I would think of a happy girl wearing a wig made of my daughter’s hair – the thought always brings a smile to my face.

When Tashvi’s hair grew again, she asked me “Mamma, can we donate again?” However, this time she wanted to donate on a regular day because she felt that if the time of someone’s need is not fixed, then how can the donation time be set. On February 06, 2022, my little big girl donated her hair again for the second time.

If you too wish to make someone smile with your precious hair, then here is how you can donate your hair:

- Hair needs to be clean and dry and placed in a braid or ponytail before it is cut.
- Your ponytail or braid needs to be a certain length to be accepted.
- Curly hair can be pulled straight to make the measurement. Requirements usually range above 12 inches.
- Ensure that your hair is perfectly secured with rubber band and cut your hair just above the rubber band.
- Now securely put the cut ponytails in a zip-lock bag and put it in a mailing envelope.
- Ship it to your chosen NGO’s address and within about 15-20 days you will be receiving a receipt of acknowledgment and an e-certificate.

That’s it, your precious hair will now add a new ray of happiness in someone’s life. We have been making hair donation at Cope with Cancer, Madat Trust based in Mumbai, which also has a Help Desk at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

Make a hair donation and like Tashvi, you will never have a bad hair day.

Donor Story

Letting her hair down: My Daughter’s Hair Donation Story

Ms. Sukhvinder Lal, Senior Officer, Manipal Organ Sharing & Transplant (MOST), HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Dwarka

My daughter Tashvi (14 years) has been familiar with the term ‘organ donation’ as she has been hearing this term ever since she was five years old. As I have been working for the cause of organ donation and transplantation, this has become a part of our casual conversations. She did not understand the intricacies of organ donation those days, but she understood the meaning of the word ‘donation’. She knew that ‘donation’ is when you give something of yours to someone who needs it more than you need it.

One day, we were watching ‘Dance India Dance’ - a reality TV show, in which a participant performed as a child suffering from cancer, and lost his hair due to chemotherapy. To make him feel equal, the rest of the children in the class shaved their head. Tashvi asked me with the great innocence, “Mamma, how did this child become bald?” I then explained to her about cancer, chemotherapy, and that one of the side effects of the treatment procedure was hair loss.

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A week later, when we went to visit the family at their home, this was what the father said to me, “I keep thinking what if I had gone to some other hospital and hadn’t met you. I would have not been able to do this. I would have lost my son anyway and not had the opportunity to save the lives of others.”

I remain overwhelmed and humbled - and I feel richer as I do after every such interaction with a donor family. The lungs were flown to Hyderabad, heart to Jaipur, kidneys, liver and corneas were transplanted to recipients in Delhi.

On March 27, 2022, while I was celebrating my birthday, this young man, Bhupendra was fighting between life and death. He had met with a tragic road accident where he was hit by a car while riding a motorcycle.

He had sustained serious head injuries and was declared brain dead later that night.

I was called into the hospital on March 28 to speak to the family for organ donation. I met the distraught father. Years into this work and having spoken to so many families, I still cannot understand where families gather the courage to agree to organ donation.

The father not only consented but also agreed to do the unenviable task of speaking to his wife who hadn’t even been properly informed of Bhupendra’s demise. Despite the sadness and tragedy that had befallen him and his family, the courageous man agreed to donate Bhupendra’s organs. He realised that, even though his kid was no longer living, he was in a position to help many others who were fighting for survival.

Bhupendra was born in Panchkula. A second-year Bachelor of Arts student at a Delhi-based open university, he had been working as a Dispatch Head in a private company for 4 years and had many dreams regarding his future life. His was a small close-knit family and he was the binding glue of the family and cared for everyone – the old and the young.

“The morning of that fatal day, he had bathed and readied his old grandfather and the latter shared this as tears poured down the old man’s wrinkled face.

Bhupendra was well-known for his compassion, and willingness to assist others. Mr. Harish Kumar, his father, said that he always placed himself to help others. He was a regular blood donor and had received a medal for the same. The mother weeping inconsolably shared, “He used to say, mummy we can get blood anytime we need as I have donated so many times. Alas, nothing helped save his life when the time came.”

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Role of police in Medico Legal Cases (MLC)

Most organ donations come out of road accidents (brain death as a result of head injuries). These become what are called Medico Legal Cases (MLC) and the police gets involved and so does the forensic. Very often, we struggle to make donations happen in the given limited time as the police is unable to cooperate simply because they do not understand the process or their role in it.

In this donation, Inspector Hari Krishnan was so humane, sensitive and cooperative throughout, both with regards the processes and the family. The week after the donation, we met him at his police station to express our gratitude. He truly stands tall! (and not just because he is 6’3) Inspector Hari Krishnan also pledged to be an organ donor. May his tribe grow.
As part of the workshop, panel discussions on initiating a program in emerging regions, challenges in implementation, independent donor advocacy, maintaining standards and overall impact of transplantation programs were also conducted.

The workshop included the following sessions addressed by eminent faculty from India, Iran and UAE:

- Xeno Transplantation - Recent heart transplant and its implications
- Incentives in organ donation
- Islam and organ donation - Global perspectives (including India)
- Building team India’s participation - Indian Transplant Games, World Transplant Games 2023, NGO effort
- Starting a transplant program in an emerging region - Challenges and rewards
- NABH & JCI policy standards for transplantation
- Directed deceased donation

As part of the workshop, panel discussions on initiating a program in emerging regions, challenges in implementation, independent donor advocacy, maintaining standards and overall impact of transplantation programs were also conducted.
On April 2, 2022, MOHAN Foundation organized a one-day Stakeholders’ Workshop at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, New Delhi under the aegis of National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO). The workshop was supported by the SBI Foundation & SBI Card, Transplants Help the Poor Foundation and Milaap.

The high-level workshop titled “Towards Affordability” included international and Indian stakeholders from the field of healthcare and organ transplantation who came together to discuss ways to make organ transplants affordable for underprivileged people and to increase the deceased donation rate in the country.

The topics covered in the program ranged from understanding transplant costs for liver & kidney transplants, who should pay for the transplant costs, raising funds for poor patients, experiences of transplant coordinators on raising funds for poor patients, government schemes that support transplant costs and utilization of these government schemes.

The experienced faculty included eminent doctors from established transplant hospitals of the country (both from the private and government sector), representatives from NGOs that provide support to transplant patients, government officials, transplant coordinators etc.

The sharing of their experiences during the interactive sessions provided valuable insights to the delegates and made them aware and understand the importance of collaborative efforts to support underprivileged people for organ transplants.

The workshop also provided an opportunity and a forum for healthcare professionals, senior consultants & transplant coordinators to meet, interact, share challenges and success stories and get a chance to update their knowledge on government and private schemes for supporting transplants of poor patients.

A session on “The Missing Last Mile in Driving Licenses - What needs to be done” included discussions on leveraging organ donation clause in driving license, current status of organ donation on driving license and perspectives from other countries.
“Anudaan – Making Transplants Affordable” is an initiative launched by MOHAN Foundation in the year 2021, as a mark of its journey towards saving lives for the last 25 years. This initiative aims to provide financial assistance to the economically underprivileged, thus enable access to life-saving transplants. Most transplants take place in the private sector and the prohibitive costs makes them inaccessible to the poor. Since hardly any government hospitals perform transplants, affordable transplants remain elusive to the poor. Anudaan has been providing partial contribution to the transplant cost of individuals and has been working with hospitals to bring down the transplant costs.

This initiative is being supported by philanthropic individuals and corporate houses such as Century Plyboards India Limited, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance, Ethos Watch Boutiques and BNP Paribas. MOHAN Foundation also partners with likeminded organisations such as THPF (Transplants Help the Poor Foundation), TANKER Foundation and MFJCF to name a few to share the transplant costs. We have also been raising funds on Milaap, our Crowdfunding partner. This quarter, we were able to support the transplant of nine individuals, many of them children under the age of 10 years. Anudaan aims to touch the lives of these individuals and help them achieve their aspirations.

Support this endeavour and enable us to aid many more transplants and aspirations.
The World Transplant Games are held every two years by the World Transplant Games Federation, which was established in 1978 and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The Games offer an opportunity to transplant recipients and donors to represent their country in a sporting event, competing at a high level against their peers. With more than 60 countries represented and 2000 athletes participating, it is, in essence, the Olympic Games for transplant patients.

Of the many challenges facing the Team Managers, perhaps the most frustrating challenge is how few people know about the games. Fewer still know that India has been participating, and winning medals, at the games for more than a decade. Despite having trained and funded themselves, Indian athletes have done our country proud by winning medals against well-trained and well-funded teams from across the world.

The athletes who have won medals is nothing short of inspiring - Balveer Singh, a government teacher from a small town outside Lucknow who is a kidney recipient and, Davies Kollanur, a transplant coordinator from Thrissur and a two-time kidney recipient and cancer survivor are just two examples. They have struggled to put together finances to travel to almost every Games since 2011, but continue to strive towards excellence. Together, they have won six medals while representing Team India.

India’s last outing at the Games in Newcastle in 2019 saw the largest contingent till date, a team of 14 athletes, including 3 donors and 11 recipients travelled to Newcastle.

Managed by Light-a-Life – Reena Raju Foundation, the team came back with a haul of 7 medals from disciplines as varied as golf, athletics, and badminton. For the first time, an Indian donor, Ankita Shrivastava, came back with three medals, two golds and one silver.

Raising funding for a large-scale event such as this is a daunting task, but we believe it is of vital importance to the cause of organ donation awareness. The participating athletes are a source of inspiration and hope to transplant patients everywhere, that not only can there be life after transplant, but there can be an exceptional life after transplant, for both recipients and living organ donors.

But perhaps more importantly, it allows us to leverage the larger, more visceral appeal of sports to get our message to a wider audience. To tell the world the stories of these exceptional people, recipients and donors, survivors and saviours, in the hope of inspiring more and more people to engage with the cause. In this endeavour, we will need all the help we can get, donors, sponsors, partners, supporters. If you would like to join us in helping the Indian team, reach out to us. Stand with us. Help us take our team to Gold in Australia.

With the 2021 Games cancelled due to COVID-19, the next Games are scheduled to be held in Perth, Australia in April 2023. ORGAN India, an NGO based in New Delhi that spreads awareness on organ donation has been appointed as the Member Organization for India for the 2023 Games. Our endeavour is to take a substantial, well-trained, and well-funded team to the games. More than 75 transplant athletes have already registered with us and are hoping to make it to the Games.

For more information about Team India at the World Transplant Games 2023
http://www.wtgindia.com | team.manager@wtgindia.com
The one-week face-to-face transplant coordinators' training program was attended by 22 participants from different parts of the country - Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. The participants were from varied backgrounds such as nursing, social work, hospital administration, dialysis technology and physician assistant. Dr Amalorpavanathan J, Former Convenor - Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) was the special guest at the valedictory function. Rtn. Vijayagopal Reddy, Rotary Madras Southwest (RMSW) & Managing Trustee, Dodla Parthasarathy Reddy and Lalithamma Trust also joined the function as an invited guest. ‘Transplant coordinators play a pivotal role in transplant program and the success of this program lies on effective coordination and counselling’, said Dr Amalorpavanathan J.

MOHAN Foundation in partnership with Manipal Organ Sharing & Transplant (MOST) conducted a training program on Transplant Coordination from March 22 to March 26, 2022 at Manipal Hospitals, Dwarka (MHD) under the aegis of National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO). The training drew 35 delegates from 7 states: Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Manipur, Gujarat, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. They included transplant coordinators, nurses, managers, senior executives, nurse educators, consultants, medical officers, marketing executives and counsellors.
As part of the training, a panel discussion and an open house were organized to address the participants' questions. Dr Harsha Jauhari (Senior Consultant, Department of Renal Transplant Surgery, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital), Ms Lalitha Raghuram (Country Director, MOHAN Foundation), Dr (Lt Gen) CS Narayanan (Head, Neurology, MHD), Dr Archana Kumari (Consultant Coordination, NOTTO), Dr Anurag Saxena (Head, Neurosurgery, MHD), Dr Srikanth Srinivasan (Head, Critical Care, MHD), and Ms Nomita Sarkar (Head, Nursing, MHD) were among the panelists. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr (Col) Avnish Seth (Head, MOST) and Ms Pallavi Kumar (Executive Director, MOHAN Foundation).

The one-month online 'Transplant Coordination Professional Certificate' course was successfully conducted in the months of March, April and June 2022 respectively. The participants were from all across India as well as from Nepal. As part of the course, webinars were conducted through the Zoom platform where participants were given the opportunity to interact with experienced transplant coordinators across the country. A total of 91 candidates completed the course in these three batches and received their certificates.
In the year 2017, MOHAN Foundation undertook to work in the Northeast region of the Country. A very underserved area, the whole of Northeast lacks in medical advancements and the infrastructure required to provide critical facilities, such as lifesaving transplants, for its population.

Supported by SBI Foundation, they decided to start their efforts in Manipur. This was like a godsend for the state. Imphal, the capital city, has one central medical institute (RIMS) and a state-run medical institute (JNIMS). As the Urologist in JNIMS (Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences), I felt a deep desire to start the kidney transplant program for the people of Manipur. I saw firsthand the acute need for the same as poor patients requiring transplants would go to bigger cities, at great personal, physical, and financial discomfort.

Post the meeting, MOHAN Foundation facilitated a scholarship for me for a fellowship for a year at the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, UK. I came back more confident and determined to start the transplant program at JNIMS.

With MOHAN Foundation and Dr. Sunil Shroff’s support, my resolve was strengthened. The Foundation started a systematically planned intervention to engage the stakeholders and help them understand the importance of organ donation and transplantation. The first CME was conducted at JNIMS in December 2017. A gap analysis was done and collectively needs were identified.

Post the meeting, MOHAN Foundation facilitated a scholarship for me for a fellowship for a year at the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, UK. I came back more confident and determined to start the transplant program at JNIMS.

The Medical Directorate has formed a ‘State Brain Death committee’ involving the public and private institutes having ICU facilities. Covid did break the momentum for some time, however, MOHAN Foundation renewed its efforts with us in 2021. We were able to provide an office to MOHAN Foundation staff within JNIMS.

The month of June 2022 was a historic month as it marked the beginning of the living donor kidney transplantation program. With the help of MOHAN Foundation and under the guidance of Dr. Sunil Shroff, Founder, MOHAN Foundation, our team at JNIMS successfully performed 3 living donor renal transplants. Dr. Nagaraj, Consultant - Surgeon, MOHAN Foundation shared his expertise and led the team. The first kidney transplant was performed on June 18, 2022, followed by 2 more transplants on June 19 and 20 consecutively. All the recipients and their donors are doing well.

This is the first time that kidney transplants are being performed in a government hospital in the state of Manipur and only the second one in the whole of Northeast after Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Assam.

All the three recipients availed the benefit of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) package and did not bear any expenses except for the medical investigations done outside the JNIMS. Many people in the region needing kidney transplants are now coming forward to register at JNIMS. On the other hand, MF team has boosted public education on organ donation and hopefully we will start our deceased organ donation program soon.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of the State, Shri N. Biren Singh visited JNIMS on June 26, 2022, and congratulated the entire team. He also officially discharged the first recipient. During his visit, he announced a reward of Rs. 5 Lakhs to the entire team involved in the transplants. It was a moment of extreme pride and joy for all of us.

Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri N. Biren Singh's post on his official Facebook page

Dr. Rajo Singh, Director, Directorate of Health Services (DHS) invited MOHAN Foundation as their “Knowledge Partner” and encouraged them to conduct public awareness and training to promote organ donation and transplantation in the state.

Subsequent to this, the Foundation undertook an intense awareness drive and organised many training programs, workshops, meetings and other activities involving stakeholders from the government, hospitals (government and private), police, forensic etc.
The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth (CW) Games present a unique opportunity to showcase organ and tissue donation and transplantation activities of Commonwealth nations towards the noble cause of saving lives.

Through the sharing of knowledge and expertise, we will increase ethical organ and tissue donation and transplantation, regardless of transplant infrastructure, for the benefit of all Commonwealth citizens. We would empower health professionals to achieve a step towards equality for 2.3 billion citizens of CW countries, approximately one third of the world population.

The Commonwealth Tribute to Life project was formally launched on March 14th, 2022, bringing together regional coordinators, supporting organisations, and the global community for organ donation and transplantation.

A series of webinars were conducted on topics wide ranging to achieve the educational ambitions of the project to promote organ and tissue donation. The webinars shall be accessed from:


- Donation: Changing donation culture
- Transplantation: Starting a sustainable transplant program
- Promotion: National campaigns
- Tissues: Corneal donation and transplantation
- Transplantation: Travails of setting up a liver transplant programme
- Donation: Death determination
- Promotion: Regionally focussed campaigns
- Transplantation: Living kidney donation
- Tissues: Skin banking
- Donation: Donor coordinator role of donation nurses
- Transplantation: Transplant immunology laboratories
- Promotion: Honouring deceased donors
- Promotion: Community engagement
- Donation: Opt-out legislation
- Transplant Sport
- Donation Education
- Transplant Registries
- Preventing Unethical Transplantation
- Donation Physicians and Clinical Leads
- Two Nation Focus: The national organ donation and transplantation system in Singapore and Sri Lanka

Opt-out legislation in Canada by Stephen Beed

Regionally Focussed Campaigns on Organ Donation - Initiatives from India by Dr (Colonel) Arvind Seth

Donation: Donor Coordinator Role of Donation Nurses (clockwise) - Alison Hodack (Australia), Jill Featherstone (UK), Yoni Hope-Hodgetts (Australia), Pallavi Kumar (India) and Olive McGowan (UK)
PARTNERING TO TAKE ORGAN DONATION & TRANSPLANTATION TO NEWER FRONTIERS
NORTH-EAST - MANIPUR

- Organ donation activity is uneven across India
- South and West are active contributors
- Negligible activities in North-East – citizens travel to other states for treatment or die for want of an organ

MOHAN Foundation in partnership with SBI Foundation is working to initiate an organ donation and transplantation programme in Imphal, Manipur