

INDIAN TRANSPLANT NEWSLETTER

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MULTI ORGAN HARVESTING AID NETWORK

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Editorial Desk**Why do kidney rackets take place despite the law that bans it?**

The recent spurt of kidney commerce at leading hospitals in India has once again brought into focus the problems of kidney shortage that result in such scams. Despite a stringent Transplantation Law in India these scandals keep resurfacing at regular intervals. There seems to be no easy answer to this difficult problem. Most police complaints take place due to the kidney donor not being paid the promised sum. When such an incident happens and there is a media flare up, there is a knee jerk reaction and the blame game starts. The public feels that the doctors are involved; the doctors think it is the Government/Hospital Authorisation Committee that has not done its job adequately and has not checked the papers of donors and kidney recipients, and the hospital management thinks it is a problem of the doctor and patient. Most commercial transactions happen due to a small loophole in the current 'Transplantation of Human Organs Act.' The provision available in Sub Clause (3), Clause 9 of Chapter II of the Act states that-

"If any donor authorizes the removal of any of his human organs before his death under sub-section (1) of Section 3 for transplantation into the body of such recipient, not being a near relative as is specified by the donor, by reason of affection or attachment towards the recipient or for any other special reasons, such human organ shall not be removed and transplanted without the prior approval of the Authorization Committee".

This section of the law has been misused or misinterpreted, since the Act was passed. The donor needs to show 'affection' to the recipient and convince the Authorisation Committee that gives clearance for such transplants. When there are 15 to 20 families awaiting clearance and the Authorisation Committee has only an hour to spend for the interviews and do all the paper work, they hardly have adequate time to go into great details of why the donor is donating, what is the financial status of the donor, does the donor understand the risks involved in surgery or does the donor have a health insurance policy. Establishing 'true affection' can be also sometimes tricky for the committee. For example if a driver or a servant serving his master for 20 years comes forward for kidney donation, can the committee doubt his affection? And subsequently if cleared and the master awards the driver or servant some money how can one prevent such private transactions. There are also genuine cases of affection where a friend has donated to another friend or a cousin has donated to a relative or a mother-in-law to daughter-in law or son-in-law and so on. However, what is not acceptable is when a stranger suddenly poses and wishes to donate; this is where the commerce angle should be suspected. With smaller families and rising lifestyle diseases many families have genuinely no one available who is eligible to donate. Many a time the Authorisation Committee will overlook such cases sometimes sympathising with the recipient and clearance is given in what is clearly likely to lead to commercial transaction. It is these types of cases that get into problems and result in kidney scams. This is easily preventable. Another is where there is falsification of all documents to show relationship. In this type of offence the lawmakers seldom realise that the current amended law views both the recipient and the donor as criminals and both can be fined and arrested. If this is done, it will send a strong message to society and is likely to put an end to such scams.

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Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram receives the “Women in Transplantation Hero Award 2016” in Hong Kong

In a glittering awards ceremony on 22nd August 2016, at the 26th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) in Hong Kong, Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation received the “Women in Transplantation Hero Award 2016.” Women in Transplantation, a wing of The Transplantation Society, recognises the efforts of some outstanding women across the globe, working in the field of transplantation, and making a difference to the community. The award was presented to Mrs. Raghuram by Dr. Nancy Ascher, incoming president of The Transplantation Society and Dr. Philip O’Connell, the current President of The Transplantation Society. She shared the award with Dr. Elmi Muller, Head of the Transplant Unit at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa.



The Women in Transplantation Award



Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram receiving Women in Transplantation Hero Award 2016



Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi with her poster on Deceased organ donation in a public hospital – A model programme

Ms. Sujatha Suriyamoorthi, Manager – Information Systems, MOHAN Foundation also attended the conference that was held from 18th to 23rd August 2016. Her abstract on **“Deceased organ donation in a public hospital – A model programme”** was accepted for poster presentation, in which she showcased the deceased donation programme of Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) – the apex public sector hospital in Tamil Nadu. Only a handful of public hospitals in India are participating in this programme and RGGGH is the leading hospital in this sector with the largest number of multi-organ donors between 2010 and 2015. She also presented a paper on **“Mobile apps to improve organ donation rate”**. The three mobile apps that were developed by MOHAN Foundation are – 1) Donor Optimisation App (developed in association with NHS Blood and Transplant, UK) 2) Organ Registry/Allocation App 3) e-donor card app. Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram presented a paper on **“Progress in deceased organ donor transplantation in India”**. The team’s participation at the conference was supported by Mrs. Virginia Vaidhyanathan, Treasurer/Founder, India United States Transplant Foundation, Inc. (I-USTF).



MF Team with Prof. Adibul Hasan Rizvi (2nd from right) & Dr. Anwar Naqvi (2nd from left) from Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi

Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram invited to speak in Australia

Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation was invited to speak at the 2016 Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN) that was held from 17-21 September 2016 in Perth, Western Australia.



Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram with the Donate Life, Australia team

She made a presentation on ‘Overview of Deceased Organ Donation in India’ in the plenary session. She also made presentations in Rockingham Hospital and Donate Life, Perth. All the presentations were extremely well received and many members of the audience expressed interest in sharing their expertise to support organ donation in India.



Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram with Dr. Ravi Sonawane, intensivist at Donate Life and Dr. Rajasekar Malvathu, consultant nephrologist, Rockingham Hospital

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Skin Bank started in Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai

Skin donation is vital to saving the lives of many burns victims. In August 2016, the first skin bank under the government in the state of Tamil Nadu was opened at the Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai. The bank was set up at a cost of around Rs. 80 lakhs.

"For patients with burns, acute skin failure due to drug allergies, degloving injuries, flaying injuries, friction and skin injuries, acute slicing injuries and several kinds of ulcers, processed skin from the skin bank can be used as a cover," said Dr. G. R. Ratnavel, Head, Department of Cosmetology, at the hospital. "This skin will act as a dressing and fall off within 15 days, by which time the patient's own new skin would have formed. It also prevents infections as cadaver skin is the best dressing," he added.

Skin from a deceased donor is generally harvested within six hours, stored in glycerol and antibiotics and then taken to a skin bank where it is processed and preserved. The donor needs to be above the age of 18. However, skin is only taken after donors are screened for HIV and Hepatitis B and C. The skin is harvested from the back and legs in a process that takes approximately 45 minutes.

Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney Transplant performed in Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad

On 14th September 2016, the first Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney (SPK) transplantation at Osmania General Hospital (OGH), Hyderabad was performed successfully.

The marathon transplant surgery lasting 23 hours was performed on a 27-year-old patient with Type 1 diabetes with multiple complications including diabetic retinopathy, neuropathy, and nephropathy. The patient had developed kidney failure eight years ago and was being dialysed at OGH. The organs were donated by the family of 23-year-old Vijaykumar, a resident of Karnataka, who was declared brain dead at Continental Hospital the previous day.

"The patient needed a pancreas transplantation as the pancreas had stopped producing insulin, leading to high blood sugar levels. Before the surgery, the patient's blood sugar was 600 mg/dl. He needed 60 units of insulin every day to survive," said Dr. Ch Madhusudhan, Head, Surgical Gastroenterology department, OGH, who led the team of doctors performing the surgery. Post transplant, the patient's blood sugar level came down to 135 mg/dl removing the requirement for insulin injections.

Lung transplantation to start in PGIMER, Chandigarh

The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, is set to become the first public sector medical institute for lung transplantation in the country soon. "It is the need of the hour. And being one of the leading medical institutes of India, PGIMER is ready for the same," said Dr. Yogesh Chawla, Director, PGIMER in July this year. A team of experts from the institute is undergoing training in the United Kingdom. Lung transplantation is a surgical procedure in which a patient's diseased lungs are partially or totally replaced by lungs which come from a donor. Donor lungs

can be retrieved from a living donor or a deceased donor. Living donors can donate part of one of their lungs called a lobe.

"There is an acute lack of deceased donors in the country that make transplants a difficult proposition. Besides, the costs are high but will come down drastically once the procedure becomes common," said Dr. Vipin Kosuhal, Nodal Officer, Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTTO), PGIMER.

Actor Irrfan Khan is ambassador for 'More to give' organ donation campaign

On the occasion of Kargil Diwas (26th July), NDTV in partnership with Fortis Healthcare launched a campaign to encourage organ donation in India. 'More to give' is a nationwide campaign aimed at sensitising people as well as encouraging them to pledge their organs in an effort to positively impact the well-being of the nation.



Eminent actor Mr. Irrfan Khan (centre), ambassador for the More to give campaign with the NDTV and Fortis Healthcare team

The campaign ambassador is actor Irrfan Khan and he is lending his star power to the cause. "On Kargil Diwas we salute the spirit of all the countrymen who have fought and are fighting for our nation. I am proud to be associated with the 'More to give' organ donation initiative. I would urge all fellow Indians to support the cause and pledge to donate their organs," he said.

Facts 'n Figures

Deceased Organ Donation and Transplantation in Pune, Maharashtra
(16/1/2016 – 31/10/2016)

Deceased Donors Transplanted	46
Kidneys	65
Liver	47
Pancreas + Kidney	01

Did you know...?

Of the six hearts retrieved, five were shared with ZTCC, Mumbai and one with AIIMS, Delhi

Source: ZTCC, Pune

... Editorial continued

The clause of 'affection' may have been included so that genuine cases are not deprived of a donation and transplantation. However the clause has been more often abused and will possibly continue to be exploited in the future. Meanwhile what is required for every transplanting hospital is to have its own counselling team that spends enough time with the donating family and kidney donors to understand the family dynamics before they are presented to any committee. A preliminary report from such counsellors may help the committee come to a decision. There are tools available in such donor interviews that can unravel any misgivings and the experienced counsellors can pick out such cases and prevent them from proceeding any further.



Late Mrs. Kannambal & Dr. Gomathi Karmegam – an unbreakable bond



Mrs. Kannambal



Dr. Gomathi Karmegam

The 10th of August 2016 was a special day for all of us at MOHAN Foundation – it was the first time that we were part of a CME for doctors on ‘Brainstem death and deceased organ donation’ in Government Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital. A short but comprehensive programme had been drawn up. The CME proceeded smoothly with interesting sessions by the faculty. It was close to the lunch hour when Dr. Gomathi Karmegam, Senior Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anaesthesia started her session on ‘Maintenance of a potential organ donor.’ I had heard many speakers tackle this topic, some more lucidly than others. Dr. Gomathi’s lecture was crystal clear and covered every aspect of donor maintenance including the care in the operation theatre. But what came across very strongly were her passion, commitment and deep understanding of the nuances of the deceased organ donation programme. Once the CME came to an end, I went up to speak to Dr. Gomathi and congratulate her on a great lecture. We were just a couple of us there as the rest had proceeded to lunch. And as I continued speaking to Dr. Gomathi, her eyes suddenly filled with tears and she said, “We donated the organs of my aunt, Mrs. Kannambal in 2003 when she met with an accident. People say time heals, but I still miss her. It’s only because of her that I chose this career path. I cannot think of a single important moment in my life where she didn’t have an impact.” I could not believe what I was hearing. In my association of 18 years with MOHAN Foundation one of the people whom I had interacted with and involved many a time in our organ donation advocacy programmes

was Mr. Chandrasekaran, the husband of Mrs. Kannambal. I had met their daughter Dr. Chitrabharathi and even written a piece on Mrs. Kannambal titled ‘In the footsteps of Florence Nightingale...Forever’ in the Indian Transplant Newsletter (Vol.5 Issue No.14 – Feb to June 2003).

I met Dr. Gomathi again to learn more about the woman who had touched so many lives and only then did I realise that Mrs. Kannambal was an even more remarkable person than I had earlier thought. Dr. Gomathi recollected that it was Mrs. Kannambal who had initiated the conversation on organ donation and insisted that they get a donor card. She still doesn’t know where her aunt first heard about this noble cause, but her commitment to it was as complete as it was with everything else she took up. As one of the finest operation theatre nurses in the city, she helped many doctors set up their operation theatres. She worked tirelessly, made it all look so effortless and was always there for everyone. How she did it is still a matter of wonderment for Dr. Gomathi.

As they waited anxiously in the hospital where Mrs. Kannambal was admitted after she met with an accident, they found her Donor card in her purse. There was a rewind to the conversation that they’d had and it became clear to them what needed to be done next – they had to fulfill her last wish. Mr. Chandrasekaran felt that she’d died this way because she wanted to continue helping people even in her death. Dr. Gomathi added that it was only at Mrs. Kannambal’s funeral did they learn the full extent to which she had helped people – education, jobs, a Diwali gift of a sari every year for a senior citizen in an old age home. She truly believed in an old Tamil saying – “Do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing.”

I can see that Mrs. Kannambal has passed on her work ethic and dedication to Dr. Gomathi, and I feel inspired. What this family has done transcends words and emotions, they kept their word to the wife/mother/aunt that they all loved and admired. How does one say thank you to a woman who did it all...in life and...death...

Dr. Sumana Navin

My Magician

by Miss. Khushboo Mehta, daughter of Late Mrs. Nirmala Mehta, Rajasthan

The first magician whom I saw for the first time...waiting for my little eyes to open...

Who taught me to walk on the path of life...

Who made me smile, love and care...
was MY MOM...

But after the accident my mom didn’t say a word...
Life had taken a ‘U’ Turn. Now I was waiting for her eyes to open...
waiting for some magic to make her walk again, to make her laugh at my jokes, to make her.....



Mrs. Nirmala Mehta



Mrs. Kannambal and Mr. Chandrasekaran at Dr. Gomathi Karmegam’s wedding

I remember that night...

It was silent. She was silent...I was in the ICU with 'maa' holding her cold hands as tight as I could

Cried like a mad person... apologised for each and every misbehaviour of mine...if I had hurt her or made her cry because of me...

It was for the first time that I spoke to her the whole night...

And for the last time too...

"Chup chap rehti hai, kuch bhi nahi kehti hai

Fir bhi kitna batati sikhati hai...maa

Khali khali hatho se kitna de jati hai...maa"

"She is quiet, she doesn't say a word

Even then how much she teaches me...my mother

Even though her hands are empty, how much she gives...my mother"

She was a simple and pious lady with a kind and helpful nature. She was a soldier, she fought for her life till her last breath and after that fought to save someone else's life. It was my brother Abhishek, my family and MFJCF TEAM who gave their support in this noble cause. She is not with us, but we can feel her presence near us. She is alive in some others, my mother. She thought me a lesson in humanity, a spirit of hope and the need to pass on life to others...

"Tujh sang mujhse hasna, or kuch pal rona tha

Chahe jo kuch ho, ye saath na khona tha

Teri hi ungli, tera woh aanchal oddh ke sona tha

Tu kahan chali O maiya, mujhe chod ke

De gayi tu jeevan apna, kisi mod pe

Tera woh hasna, mujko manana yaad aaye pal pal

Mein kahin bhi jaun maa, tera saath ho

Hai yahi dua, bas sar pe tera haath ho"



Khushboo Mehta

"We laughed together, we cried together

Whatever happened, you would always be there with me

You held and sheltered me in this journey of life

Where have you gone, mother, leaving me

In the end, you gave the gift of life so that others might live

I remember your laughter, I remember you placating me

Wherever I go, mother, you are with me

My only plea is that your hand always

be there to guide me."

My magician is now creating magic in someone's life...

Aishwarya's Gift Lights Up Lives

The first thing that I noticed about her was the vibrant blue nail polish on her toes, and then the long braid... Aishwarya was a lively 13-year-old girl, so they all said. And then there were the machines she was connected to as she lay on a bed in the Intensive Care Unit – dead. A sudden catastrophic bleed in the brain, with no warning whatsoever left her brain dead and her family stunned.



Memories, so many of them... yet not enough; these were Aishwarya's mother's feelings. Rama told us with pride that her child would participate in every activity in school, and then murmured brokenly, "She went to school on Monday morning, just like any other day, and now she has returned four days later never to go back again." Her father Prabhakar with tears in his eyes shared that she was the only girl child in his family. An uncle remembered that Aishwarya always had a smile, that she loved to dress up, visit her cousins and play with them. Her friends said that she'd told them that morning that she'd got all that she needed for Diwali and that she was happy.

What struck us when we met the family to counsel them was their unwavering commitment to organ donation. Her maternal uncle said, "We are doing this for Aishwarya...for her life to be meaningful." It meant a long waiting period, more than 24 hours while the procedures were carried out. The entire family waited patiently, stoically till it was all done.

We visited the family on the day of the funeral to pay tribute to Aishwarya. We laid a garland and lit a special candle on which was inscribed "Light...Pass it on." I watched Rama standing by gazing at her daughter's face. Someone had mentioned to me that Rama was a Sanskrit pundit and a long forgotten prayer from my childhood came to me. I reached for Rama's hand, held it, and recited the verse.

*asato ma sadgamaya
tamasoma jyotir gamaya
mrityormaamritam gamaya
O shanti shanti shanti
From ignorance, lead me to truth;
From darkness, lead me to light;
From death, lead me to immortality
Peace, peace, peace*

Rama looked at me and said, "Aishwarya too recited that in school every day..."

On Friday 21st October 2016 Aishwarya donated her heart, two kidneys, liver (that was shared by two children) and the corneas (that allowed two people to see again).

Aishwarya passed on the light of life to seven people whose lives were threatened with darkness.

She attained immortality in death.

We pray that her family attains peace.

Dr. Sumana Navin



Knowledge Enriches and Empowers – 9th Annual Tr



Fortis Healthcare receiving the Best Video Award from Prof. K. L. Gupta, Prof. H. S. Kohli (extreme left), Dr. Narayan Prasad (2nd row left) and Dr. Vipin Koushal (2nd row right)

The 9th Annual Transplant Coordinators' Conference was organised by MOHAN Foundation and the National Association of Transplant Coordinators (NATCO) under the aegis of the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) and National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) on 8th & 9th October 2016 at Hotel Hyatt, Chandigarh. It was supported by the Tata Education and Development Trust.

The NATCO conference inauguration was graced by Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, President ISOT, Dr. Narayan Prasad, Secretary, ISOT, Prof. Dr. Vimal Bhandari, Director, National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), Prof. K. L. Gupta, Chairman, ISOTCON 2016, Prof. H. S. Kohli, Organizing Secretary, ISOTCON 2016, Dr. Vipin Koushal, Nodal Officer, Regional Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (ROTTO), Chandigarh, Dr. Dale Gardiner, National Deputy Clinical Lead for Organ Donation, NHS Blood and Transplant, UK, Dr. Anil Chandraker, President, American Society of Transplantation and Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation.



Dr. Sunil Shroff on Handling S



Ms. A. T. Sunitha Velankanni (left) being felicitated for her presentation on Unusual Case Studies by Ms. Arati Gokhale



Dr. Kara felicitating Dr. Murali Krishnan for his session on Key Issues in Women post Heart Transplant

This was followed by the Swamy Narayan Memorial Lecture by Dr. Dale Gardiner on "Achieving moral balance in organ donation – Clinical decisions". Dr. Dale Gardiner's lecture addressed many pertinent points related to the ethics of organ donation. He emphasised that talking about organ donation was part of good end of life care and that families should be given the opportunity to say 'Yes'. He then went on to speak about how to practise objective ethics and developing ethics as a skill by using the moral balance, i.e., balancing out the four principles of medical ethics – Beneficence, Non-maleficence, Autonomy and Justice.

The conference covered a series of interesting topics which were presented by excellent speakers from across the country and abroad.



NATCO Orga. – Mr. Sudhir D Suriyamoorthi, Ms. Ann Alex



Dr. S. S. Gill, SSP Chandigarh speaking on Green Corridors



Mr. Aneesh P V, winner of Best Free Paper Award, presenting his paper on "A Study to Improve the Transparency of Organ Allocation System in Kerala"



Mrs. Surekha Shantanu Joshi winner of the Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award sharing her experience



Mr. Navdeep Bansal, winner of the Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award sharing his experience



Ms. Trilly Mathew speaking on Living Related Transplants

Ms. Sunay Best Free i on "Trans Organ Trc

Transplant Coordinators' Conference held in Chandigarh



Shroff and Dr. Vrinda Sharma chairing a session on Stress and Burn Out



(L to R) Felicitation of Ms. Sukhvinder Lal by Ms. Saryu Madra, Mr. K. Raghuram and Dr. Muneet Kaur Sahi



Dr. Vinita Jain (right) felicitating Dr. Gomathy Narasimhan (left) for her session on Pregnancy after transplantation



Organising Committee
Mr. Dhruv Dewan, Ms. Sujatha Arathi, Ms. Deepika Arora and Alex



Dr. Dale Gardiner being felicitated by Prof. Dr. Vimal Bhandari (right) and Mr. K. Raghuram for delivering the Swamy Narayan Memorial Lecture



The NATCO family



Sunayana Singh, winner of Free Paper Award, presenting 'Transplant Guide – An Aid to Living Related Transplants'



Mr. J. Nethaji and Mrs. Jayalaxmi chairing the session on Living Related Transplants

Delegates were given the opportunity to present their abstracts through the Free paper and poster session. Ms. Sunayana Singh from ORGAN India won the Best Free Paper Award for her paper on "Transplant Guide – An Aid to Organ Transplants" along with Mr. Aneesh P V from Kerala Network for Organ Sharing for his paper on "A Study to Improve the Transparency of Organ Allocation System in Kerala." Ms. Saryu D Madra from Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) was awarded the Best Poster award for her poster on "Media as a Catalyst for Community Engagement in Organ Donation." Fortis Memorial Research Institute was awarded the Best Video for Promoting Organ Donation. The awards carry a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 2000/-.

Every year the Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award is presented to transplant coordinators who excel in their profession. The award carries a certificate and a cash prize of Rs.5000/-. This year the award was shared by Mrs. Surekha Shantanu Joshi from Grant Medical Foundation Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune and Mr. Navdeep Bansal from PGIMER, Chandigarh.

Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme – Kochi

Under the aegis of National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, MOHAN Foundation in collaboration with the Kerala Network for Organ Sharing (KNOS), conducted a one week Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme from 18th to 22nd July 2016 at Aster Medcity, Kochi, Kerala. This was the first time that such a training programme was held in Kerala. There were 51 candidates not only from Kerala, but also Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry and Delhi.

Dr. Noble Gracious, Nodal Officer, KNOS, Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mrs. Gracy Mathai, Quality Manager, Dr. V. Narayanan Unni, Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Mathew Jacob, Senior Consultant, Hepato Pancreato Biliary and Multi-Organ Transplant Surgery, Aster Medcity were present at the inauguration along with the MOHAN Foundation team. At the valedictory function, Dr. Noble Gracious, Nodal Officer, KNOS and Mr. Ramesh Kumar, COO, Aster Medcity presented the completion certificates to the participants.



Dr. Noble Gracious, Nodal Officer, KNOS handing over participation certificate to Ms. Sangeetha Varghese, A J Hospital, Mangaluru



Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation handing over a certificate of appreciation to Dr. V. Narayanan Unni



Dr. Philip G Thomas, Director-Multi Organ Transplant Surgery, Lakeshore Hospital, speaking on 'Setting up Deceased Donation Programme in a hospital'



Mr. Prasad, Transplant Coordinator, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, giving his talk on 'Champion Speaks'



Mrs. Mehrathaha, Liver transplant recipient (centre) with Dr Mathew Jacob and MOHAN Foundation team

Transplant Coordinators' Training

NOTTO in partnership with MOHAN Foundation conducted the sixth Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme from September 26-30, 2016 at NOTTO office, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. The five previous trainings conducted in partnership with MOHAN Foundation were in Delhi in July 2015 and March 2016, Gurgaon in April 2016, Kochi and Jaipur in July and September 2016 respectively. 39 participants of varied profiles like doctors, nurses, medical social workers, psychologists and quality managers from both private and government hospitals of Delhi-NCR attended the training. Both transplant and non-transplant retrieval centres were short-listed by NOTTO to send their delegates.



Participants at the training

The training concluded with a valedictory function which was graced by Dr. Jagdish Prasad (DGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India), Prof. Dr. Vimal Bhandari, Director, NOTTO and Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation. Dr. Jagdish Prasad congratulated the participants for successfully completing their training and gave away the certificates.



Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme – Jaipur

Navjeevan-MFJCF Team and MOHAN Foundation held a one week Transplant Coordinators' Training Programme at the J K Lon Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan from 12th to 16th September 2016 under the aegis of NOTTO. There were 74 participants from all over Rajasthan and other parts of India.

The inauguration was graced by Mr. Rajendra Singh Rathore, Honourable Health Minister of Rajasthan; Dr. U. S. Agrawal, Principal, SMS Hospital & Medical College; Dr. Man Prakash Sharma, MS, SMS hospital, Jaipur and Dr. Ashok Gupta, Medical Superintendent, J K Lon Hospital, Jaipur and other dignitaries. It was an honour to have the families of two deceased donors at the inauguration – Mr. Shankar Meena (father of deceased donor Mr. Naveen Meena) and Ms. Khushboo Mehta (daughter of deceased donor Mrs. Nirmala Mehta).

The valedictory session was attended by Mr. Omendra Bhardwaj, Ex-DGP, Rajasthan, Moazzam Ali, Secretary, Rajasthan Urdu Academy; Amla Batra, Social Activist and Prof. Dr. Vimal Bhandari, Director NOTTO. Mr. Bhardwaj congratulated the participants, MOHAN Foundation team, Navjeevan-MFJCF team and Convener, Mrs. Bhavna Jagwani for the success of the training and all the delegates who had pledged their lives to this noble cause. The dignitaries presented the completion certificates to the participants.



Ms Pallavi Kumar (standing) moderating the Role Play (L to R) - Ms. Vani Ganpati, Mrs. Rajshree Gaggar, Mr. Uttam Chand Sharma



Dr Vimal Bhandari, Director NOTTO giving away the completion certificate to Ms. Vani Ganpati, participant from Mathura



Faculty and participants in Jaipur



Donor families (L to R) Ms. Khushboo Mehta and Mr. Shankar Meena with Mrs. Hemlata Shah, Navjeevan-MFJCF member (extreme right)

Programme – Delhi



Dr Sunil Shroff addressing the audience



Ms Pallavi Kumar presenting on concepts of organ donation



Mrs Bhavna Jagwani, Convener Navjeevan-MFJCF giving certificate to Mrs Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation

Editor's note: The training programmes are supported by the Tata Education and Development Trust.

MOHAN USA's first Annual Fundraiser at Mirage Banquet hall in Edison, New Jersey



Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation speaking at the fundraiser



Mr. Luv Dhondy talks about his experience while Mr. Mohan Mahal takes a photo. On the slide is the picture of Swamy, the organ donor whose gift saved Mr. Dhondy's life



Dr. Anil Chandraker, President, American Society of Transplantation addressing the guests

The first Annual Fundraiser of MOHAN USA was held at the Mirage Banquet hall in Edison, New Jersey on 10th September 2016. This event was organized to raise awareness about ethical organ donation programs in India, spread the word about the tremendous achievements of MOHAN Foundation, and to build relations with the community half a world away that is sympathetic to the problems patients in India face while suffering from terminal organ failure.

The keynote speakers for the evening were Dr. Anil Chandraker, President of the American Society of Transplantation and Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing trustee of MOHAN foundation. After being introduced by Dr. Anirban Bose, the president of MOHAN USA, Dr. Anil Chandraker spoke of his own experience at the MOHAN Foundation program in Chennai, India. The enthusiasm and dedication he had witnessed amongst the coordinators and grief counsellors of MOHAN Foundation had left him with a lasting impression of their commitment to the cause. He congratulated MOHAN foundation on its work of facilitating deceased donor organ transplants in India, acknowledging the success of the program despite the many challenges faced both in terms of resources and logistics.

This was followed by Dr. Sunil Shroff's speech where he highlighted the many achievements of MOHAN Foundation over the years, including public awareness campaigns, training of grief counsellors, legislative efforts, opening of new branches and offices both India and abroad. Then, he invited Dr. Chandraker to inaugurate the "Be the change" initiative – an online forum where those who wish to volunteer their time

and expertise to altruistic efforts in India can interact with organizations and initiatives with mutually common goals.

Dr. Shroff also introduced to the crowd Mr. Luv Dhondy, a young engineer who had received a life-saving liver transplant, the donor being none other than the son of Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, the country director of MOHAN foundation. His story was followed by other patient stories recounted by Mr. Mohan Mahal, one of the longest surviving heart transplant recipients, and Mr. Srinil Garla the recipient of three kidney transplants. Their stories were a powerful reminder of both the tremendous work of MOHAN foundation and the nobility of this cause.

A lavish buffet was laid out for the hundred plus guests that evening. Music followed with performances by Dr. Suresh and Mrs. Banerjee, who entertained the audience with lively Bollywood numbers from the yesteryears. The floor was opened to the audience who joined with enthusiastic dancing to DJ Aatish's music. Guests opened their hearts to the moving message of MOHAN USA and donated generously, resulting in over \$35,000 being raised that evening. However, more importantly, the message of MOHAN USA rang out loud and clear amongst many more, with instructions to play it forward and spread the word.

The first Annual MOHAN USA launch was a grand success. It will serve as a stepping stone to many more events in the future. We hope to raise awareness, raise funds as well as put to use all our resources to benefit the patients who need an organ transplant to survive the curse of terminal organ failure.

Dr. Anirban Bose



MOHAN USA's first Annual Fundraiser at Mirage Banquet hall in Edison, NJ

Mr. Prabhat Toshniwal, beloved Trustee of MOHAN Foundation passed away on 5th July 2016. He was the Trustee of MOHAN Foundation from 2010. His philanthropy for the cause of organ donation was unmatched. He was our benefactor and guide – in a quiet, gentle and unobtrusive manner. Thanks to his generosity in providing office space for MOHAN Foundation in Chennai the organisation was able to grow and spread its wings. He was a very hands-on Trustee – meticulous, motivating, and helping us to look at our work objectively to pursue it with greater vigour. Mr. Toshniwal played a vital role, behind the scenes, in the growth of MOHAN Foundation's activities across the country. We, the team and beneficiaries, sincerely acknowledge his unwavering support and encouragement for our work.



... In the news – International continued

Dr. Sunil Shroff attends the National Organ Donation and Transplantation Congress 2016 in Warwick, UK

Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation, attended the National Organ Donation and Transplantation Congress 2016 in Warwick, UK. The theme of this year's congress was **"Challenging Paradigms: to match world class performance"**. The conference was organised on 20th & 21st September 2016 in the Ramphal Building on the Conference Park at the University of Warwick. The conference included a mixture of plenary sessions and workshops, the David Price Memorial session, posters and free papers. Other members from India were Dr. Sridhar Nagaiyan, Senior ICU consultant, Intensive Care Unit, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai (he was formerly NHS Blood and Transplant Regional Director for Organ Donation, Midlands, UK), Dr. Sheetal Dhadphale-Mahajani, Medical Gastroenterologist, Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune and Mrs. Arati Gokhale, Central Coordinator, ZTCC Pune.



At the conference in Warwick, UK
(L to R): Dr. Sridhar Nagaiyan, Dr. Sunil Shroff,
Mrs. Arati Gokhale, Dr. Sheetal Dhadphale-Mahajani

This conference celebrated the success of 10 years of the NHS Blood and Transplant Taskforce's recommendations to increase the organ donation rate in the UK. The recommendations recognised the importance of Clinical Lead in Organ Donation (CLOD) and Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation (SNOD) who worked in the ICU. And after the recommendations, the posts of CLODs and SNODs were created in the UK. This conference saw the participation of over 400 CLODs & SNODs. The conference was unique as these were the clinicians and nurses that helped increase the organ donation rate from 12.9 per million population (pmp) in 2006 to 21 pmp in 2015/16 (www.odt.nhs.uk/pdf/activity-report/activity_report_2015_16.pdf). This period also saw the growth in the number of Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) donors in the UK and for the first time in many decades the numbers on the waiting list have started coming down. The positive impact of the task force's success was well felt throughout the two days in the beautiful Warwick University campus where this conference is held every year. It is a conference and a group that needs to be duplicated in many countries that are struggling with the deceased donation programme.

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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





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