

# ODT Associate Medical Director's Communication



*Blood and Transplant*



## March 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I have just returned from a highly educational and hugely enjoyable BTS meeting in Harrogate. ODT staff presented a large number of abstracts, not least at the opening session – these talks demonstrated new data from organ donation, various types of organ transplantation and ideas for further improvement.

All the slides from these presentations are already on the website, for those of you who had to "hold the fort" and stay at home, the link to these presentations is [here](#)

I launched a strategy for organ utilisation, which draws on the ideas of a large number of colleagues from around the UK. The session to discuss this topic was very well attended and promoted passionate discussion. The strategy itself can be found [here](#)

We also had a very interesting session on the perception and communication of risk, and consent issues. A number of us are thinking how we can take some of the ideas presented at that session and develop these for better facilitation of consent around the time that a patient is put onto the waiting list.

### **SaBTO**

I asked Jim Powell, surgeon and SaBTO member to bring us up to date with the state of the new microbiology guidelines, he writes.....

"The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) is finalising a major revision of guidance last published in 2011 that aims to ensure the microbiological safety of organs, tissues and cells for transplantation. The new SaBTO Microbiological Safety Guidance (MSG) for transplantation takes account of changes in the understanding and management of many infectious diseases, and also includes advice regarding the risk from new and emerging diseases that were not included in the previous guidance. Where possible the guidance is designed to be permissive encouraging transplantation rather than being restrictive. The MSG emphasises the

need to consider the risk/benefit ratio of undergoing a transplant from any given donor alongside the risk of remaining on a transplant waiting list at a time where demand for transplantation exceeds the number of donated organs. Those involved in making decisions regarding transplantation must do so knowing the contents of the MSG.

The full updated SaBTO MSG will be available on the NHSBT ODT website. Acknowledging that the main guidance contains a lot of information that may prove challenging in the middle of the night, a brief aide-memoire/user guide is being developed as a joint project between NHSBT, SaBTO and the British Transplant Society. This shortened document will also be made freely available and has been designed to make the main document more accessible rather than replace it.”

### **Tom Starzl, 11<sup>th</sup> March 1926 - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

As we put together this newsletter, news of Tom Starzl’s death came through. A man who was a towering force in academic surgery with a breadth of skills across technical surgery and scientific endeavour. I was going to try to pen a few more words about this man who I met when I happened to have lunch with him at a small congress when I was a junior research registrar – he was charming and encouraging and it was only later that I found out who he was.

But then I read the obituary written by Sir Roy Calne.....a moving, personal tribute that can be found on the BTS website [here](#).

I cannot add to that and commend it to you.

With best wishes



Professor John Forsythe  
Medical Director  
Organ Donation & Transplantation Directorate

### **The January 2017 ODT SMT Performance Report:**

Headlines:

- In January 345 patients received a transplant thanks to the generosity of 132 deceased donors and 193 families or patients who gave consent.
- Over the last four months, the monthly average number of deceased donors and transplants was 130 donors and 343 transplants.
- YTD 1636 families or patients have given consent; there have been 1182 deceased donors and 1127 utilised donors where at least one organ was transplanted. This all means that 3110 patients have received a deceased donor transplant over the last 10 months.
- January was a great month for consent, with an overall consent rate of 69% (75% DBD and 64% DCD).
- Living donor data is available a month in arrears, but in addition to the 322 deceased donor transplants performed in December, 68 patients received a transplant from a living donor. However, the last time the monthly number was as low as 68 was April 2011.
- Approximately 90k patients registered an opt-in decision on the ODR in January, bringing the total YTD to over 900k.

- Please read the full January ODT performance report [here](#) and the potential missed opportunities shown below and determine how you can play a part in making every opportunity count.

Potential missed opportunities:

- Although we've seen a great improvement in the DCD referral rate over the years and sustained the high DBD referral rate, we still see a lot of missed referral opportunities each month. In January there were 84 patients who met the referral criteria but were not referred (3 DBD and 81 DCD) and YTD this equates to 787 missed referral opportunities (41 DBD and 746 DCD).
- There were 21 occasions in January where neurological death was suspected but tests were not performed.
- In January there were 3 occasions where families were approached without a SNOD despite the patient being on the ODR (and 91 occasions where the SNOD was involved). There were also 23 occasions where families were approached without a SNOD when the patient was not on the ODR (and 163 occasions where a SNOD was involved).
- There were 6 occasions where families overruled the patient's donation decision in January (all DCD), which is consistent with the Q3 average. Overall there have been 73 (22 DBD, 51 DCD) overrides YTD which is 18 fewer than the same period last year (-4 DBD, -14 DCD).
- There were 5 full coroner refusals in January and a further 21 partial refusals. Coroners and Procurators Fiscal gave full permission for donation on 80% of occasions where permission was requested in January (also 80% YTD).

**Cautionary Tales:** Please click [here](#) for the January 2017 issue.

**NHSBT Organ Specific Reports 2015/2016:** Organ Specific Annual Reports detailing activity and outcomes for all transplant centres are available on the website here: <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/organ-specific-reports/> . These include a wealth of information and are supported by slide sets for anyone to use.

We are inviting feedback on these reports so that we can make improvements and meet the needs of all interested parties. Please follow this link to complete a short survey on these reports: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2DB9RHP> .

The survey will close soon so this is your last chance to voice your opinions.

**Organ Donation Trust/Board Performance Reports Survey:** These reports are produced biannually to provide a detailed summary of organ donation activity within each Trust/Board in comparison with UK data and targets. We are currently reviewing the quality, content, and accessibility of these reports and ask that members of the donation community fill out a questionnaire to provide feedback. Please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QHVRH8V> . This survey closes in March; the results will be collated to inform a formal review of report content.

Please take this opportunity to have your say in how we can make clearer the missed opportunities within your Trust/Board to help the UK become world-class in organ donation and transplantation.

**Organ Donation and Transplantation Activity Report:** The Organ Donation and Transplantation Annual Activity Reports for 2015/2016 are available on the ODT website. You can access them through the following link <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/annual-activity-report/> . The reports are accompanied by a slide set that you can download for your own use.

**Up-to-date figures** on a weekly basis can be found at: [www.odt.nhs.uk](http://www.odt.nhs.uk) click on 'latest statistics'.

**NHSBT Board:** Board papers are published after each meeting and are available at: <http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/who-we-are/introducing-the-board/board-papers/>

**Statistics and Clinical Studies:** Please click [here](#) for the up-to-date April 2017 NHSBT Structure.

**Organ Donation Marketing and Campaigns Bulletin:** Shared with internal clinical staff for Organ Donation and Transplantation plus the wider community attached [here](#) is Issue No 8.

## **FUTURE ODT MEETINGS/EVENTS: 2017**

- **Clinical Lead Organ Donation - Induction**  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The Wesley Hotel, London
- **PAGISG (Pancreas Islet Sub Group)**  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Royal College of Surgeons, London
- **BAG (Bowel Advisory Group)**  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – West End Donor Centre, London
- **NRG (National Retrieval Group)**  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London
- **PAG (Pancreas Advisory Group)**  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Association of Anaesthetists, Portland Place, London
- **AGChC (Advisory Group Chairs Committee)**  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - CIWEM Venue, 106-109 Saffron Hill, London
- **TPRC (Transplant Policy Review Committee)**  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - CIWEM Venue, 106-109 Saffron Hill, London
- **CTAG (Cardiothoracic Advisory Group)**  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Association of Anaesthetists, Portland Place, London
- **KAGPSG (Kidney Paediatric Sub Group)**  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - West End Donor Centre, London
- **NODC PSG (National Organ Donation Committee Paediatric sub-group)**  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - Royal College of Anaesthetists, London
- **LAG (Liver Advisory Group)**  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London
- **RINTAG (Research, Innovation & Novel Technologies Advisory Group)**  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - The Royal College of Anaesthetists, London
- **CTAG Patient Group Meeting**  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 – West End Donor Centre, London

## INFORMATION FROM OTHER BODIES:

**Blood and Transplant Matters:** Please click [here](#) for issue 50.

**Organ Donation and Transplantation – Wales E Bulletin:** Please click [here](#) for Issue 49

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

**The Hesperis Course:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Rome. Hesperis attempts to provide advanced knowledge in transplantation for professionals who are entering the field.

The main objective is to provide advanced overviews and inspiring discussions of the most relevant aspects of transplantation for physicians, surgeons and scientists entering the field of transplantation in a European transplant centre. Please click on the following link for further information <http://www.esot.org/events-education/events>

**International Hands-on Course - Live Donor Course Nephrectomy (LiDo course)** 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Educational Objectives: To provide a podium for transplant surgeons and urologists who are specialising in live donor kidney transplantation and to learn the surgical techniques for minimally-invasive kidney donation under the guidance of established and internationally recognised leaders in the field.

Target Group: Transplant surgeons and urologists coming mainly from Europe. Surgeons or urologists in a transplant fellowship or consultant position who want to start a live kidney donation programme.

Surgeons who want to enrich their surgical skills for live donor nephrectomy. Please follow this link for further information. <http://www.esot.org/events-education/events>

**BigBangBarcelona Conference:** 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be inspired, educated, connected and entertained. Come and experience a new level of medical meetings in transplantation. At ESOT we have put a focus on the quality of the science but also the formats in which the content is delivered and the opportunity to network with your colleagues. Get engaged in this interactive meeting and take an active role in shaping the future of transplantation research and medicine. The ESOT 2017 Second Announcement is now available for download, with more information on the Congress' ground breaking sessions and speciality symposia.

<http://esot2017.esot.org/news/second-announcement-now-available>