



# ASTS

American Society of  
Transplant Surgeons

# Patient Voice Initiative: Welcome Webinar

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

6:30PM ET

# Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions to ASTS Leadership & Staff
2. ASTS Mission & Activities
3. ASTS Advocacy Landscape
4. Patient Voice Initiative

*We encourage attendees to submit questions in the Q&A window, and we will answer all of these during the live Q&A at the end.*

# ASTS Leadership Joining Us Today



**Ginny L.  
Bumgardner, MD,  
PhD**  
ASTS President



**Tayyab Diwan, MD**  
ASTS Councilor-at-Large



**Kiran Dhanireddy,  
MD**  
Chair, ASTS  
Legislative &  
Regulatory  
Committee



**Maggie Kebler-  
Bullock, CFRE**  
ASTS Executive Director



**Emily Besser, MA, CAE**  
ASTS Associate  
Director, Advocacy &  
Professional Practices

# ASTS Executive Committee

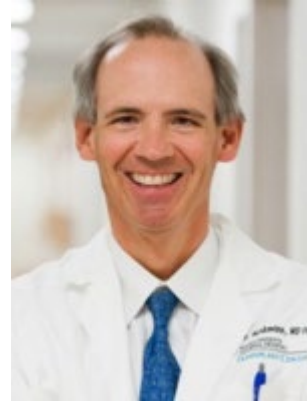


**President**



**Ginny Bumgardner, MD, PhD**  
*The Ohio State University*

**President-Elect**



**James Markmann, MD, PhD**  
*Penn Transplant Institute*

**Secretary**



**Debra L. Sudan, MD**  
*Duke University Medical Center*

**Treasurer**



**Julie Heimbach, MD**  
*Mayo Clinic*

**DEI Officer**



**Henry Randall, MD, MBA**  
*SSM Health Saint Louis University*

**Immediate Past President**

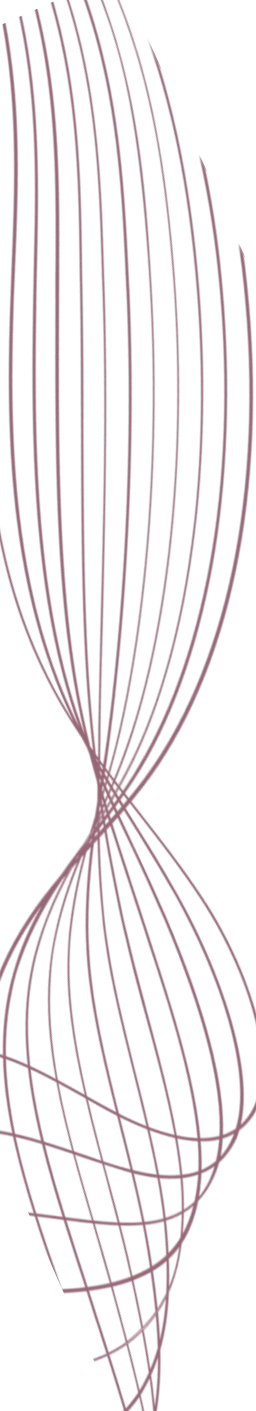


**Elizabeth Pomfret, MD, PhD**  
*University of Colorado*

**Past President**



**William Chapman, MD, FACS**  
*Washington University in St. Louis*



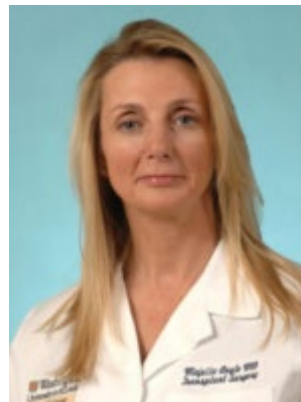
# ASTS Council



**Andre Dick, MD, MPH**  
*University of Washington*



**Tayyab Diwan, MD**  
*Mayo Clinic Rochester*



**Majella Doyle, MD, MBA**  
*Washington University in St. Louis*



**Jacqueline Garonzik Wang, MD, PhD,**  
*University of Wisconsin Madison*



**Sunil Geevarghese, MD, MSCI**  
*Vanderbilt University*



**Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH**  
*Northwestern University*



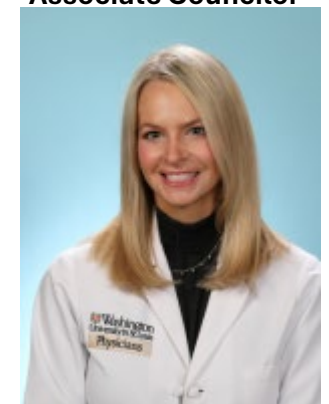
**Matthew Levine, MD, PhD**  
*Penn Medicine*



**Robert Montgomery, MD, PhD**  
*NYU Langone Transplant Institute*



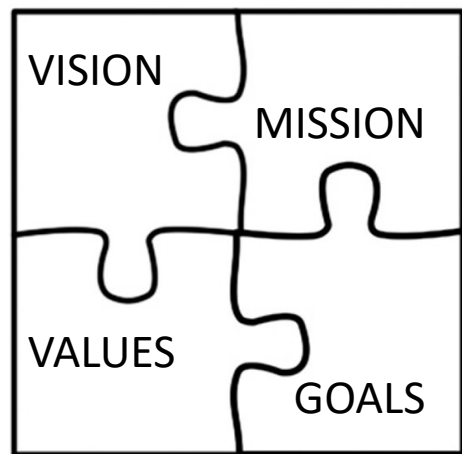
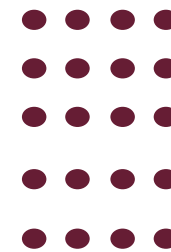
**Dinee Simpson, MD**  
*Northwestern University*



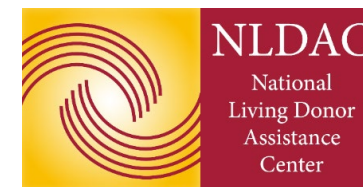
**Samantha Halpern, MSN,  
APRN, FNP-C**  
*Washington University, St. Louis*

## Associate Councilor

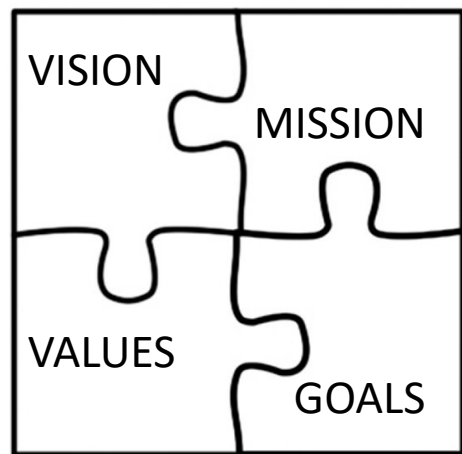
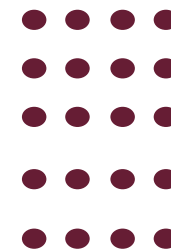
# American Society of Transplant Surgeons



- **Vision:** Saving and improving lives with transplantation.
- **Mission:** ASTS advances the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy.
- **Values:** Integrity, Excellence, Forward Focus, Respect, Diversity, and Compassion.



# American Society of Transplant Surgeons



## Strategic Goals:

- Training & Professional Development
- Research
- Advocacy
- Optimal Patient Care
- Innovation
- Lifelong Learning
- Organizational Excellence



# Transplant Accreditation and Certification

## Optimal Patient Care → Transplant Surgery Workforce



*The Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council (TACC) serves the public, healthcare community, and transplant surgeons by promoting excellence and professionalism through education, accreditation, and certification.*

### **Accreditation**

72 Abdominal Transplant Surgery programs are TACC accredited in the US and Canada.

81 fellows started fellowship in 2024.

### **Optimal Patient Care**



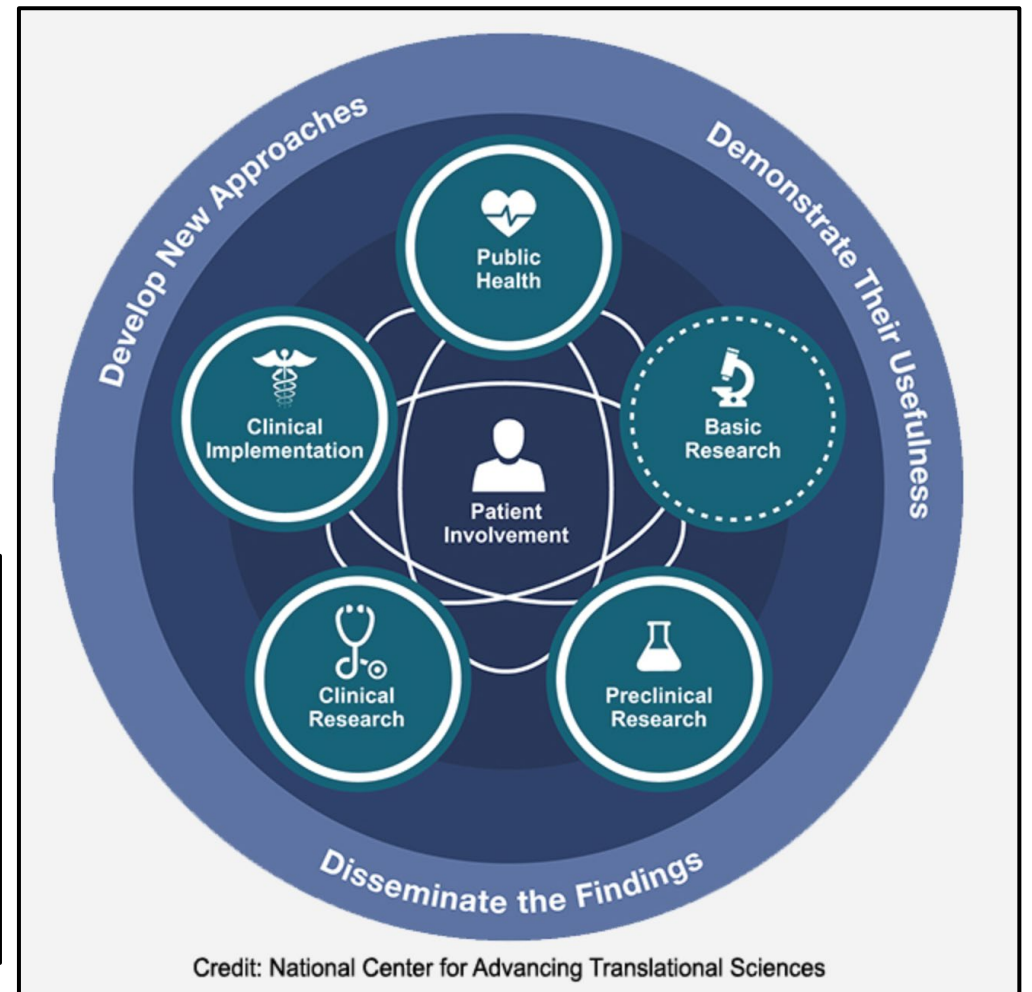


# ASTS Foundation: Research

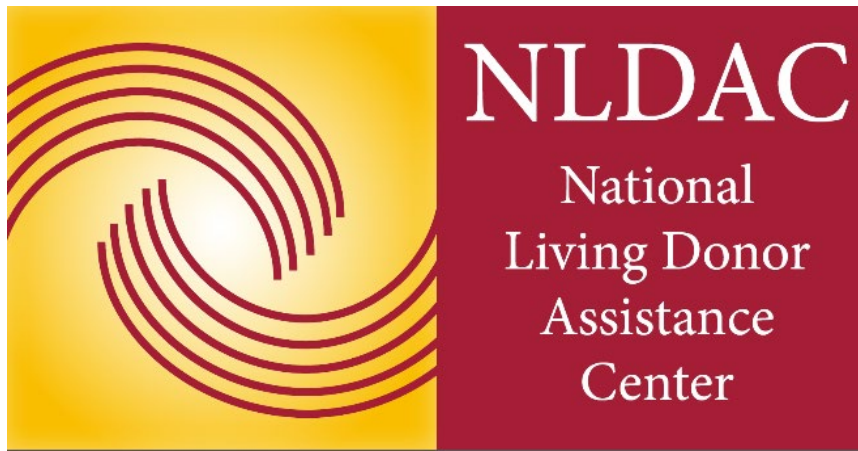


**ASTS**  
FOUNDATION  
American Society of  
Transplant Surgeons

The mission of the ASTS Foundation is to promote **philanthropy** in the field of transplant surgery. Funds support ASTS initiatives such as education, fellowships, scholarships and other training, and **research**.






# Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program: Overview



- Funded through a collaborative agreement with the HHS- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- The grant is awarded to Dr. Ojo (KUMC) and ASTS is a sub-contractor on the grant.
- ASTS/NLDAC staff run the day-to-day operations of the program and are supported by an IT & evaluation team at Arbor Research.

# Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program: **A Jewel of a Program!**



Reimbursement Category	Payment Method	Limits
 Travel Expenses	Controlled value card	Covers expenses such as transportation (airfare, gas, rental car, Uber/Lyft), lodging (hotels or Airbnb), food, & incidentals US travel only
 Lost Wages	Direct deposit or check	3 days for evaluation 4 weeks for surgery & recovery 2 weeks for rehospitalization or follow-up trips
 Dependent Care	Direct deposit or check	Covers expenses such as travel for a family member to come care for donor's dependent(s), a babysitter, a home health aide, or extra hours at daycare Daily maximum allotted (\$60 or \$72)

# Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program: **Program Impact**

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Donor expenses reimbursed: \$38 million



Donation surgeries supported: 10,008



Applications received: 17,913



Donors who report could not have donated without this support: about 80%

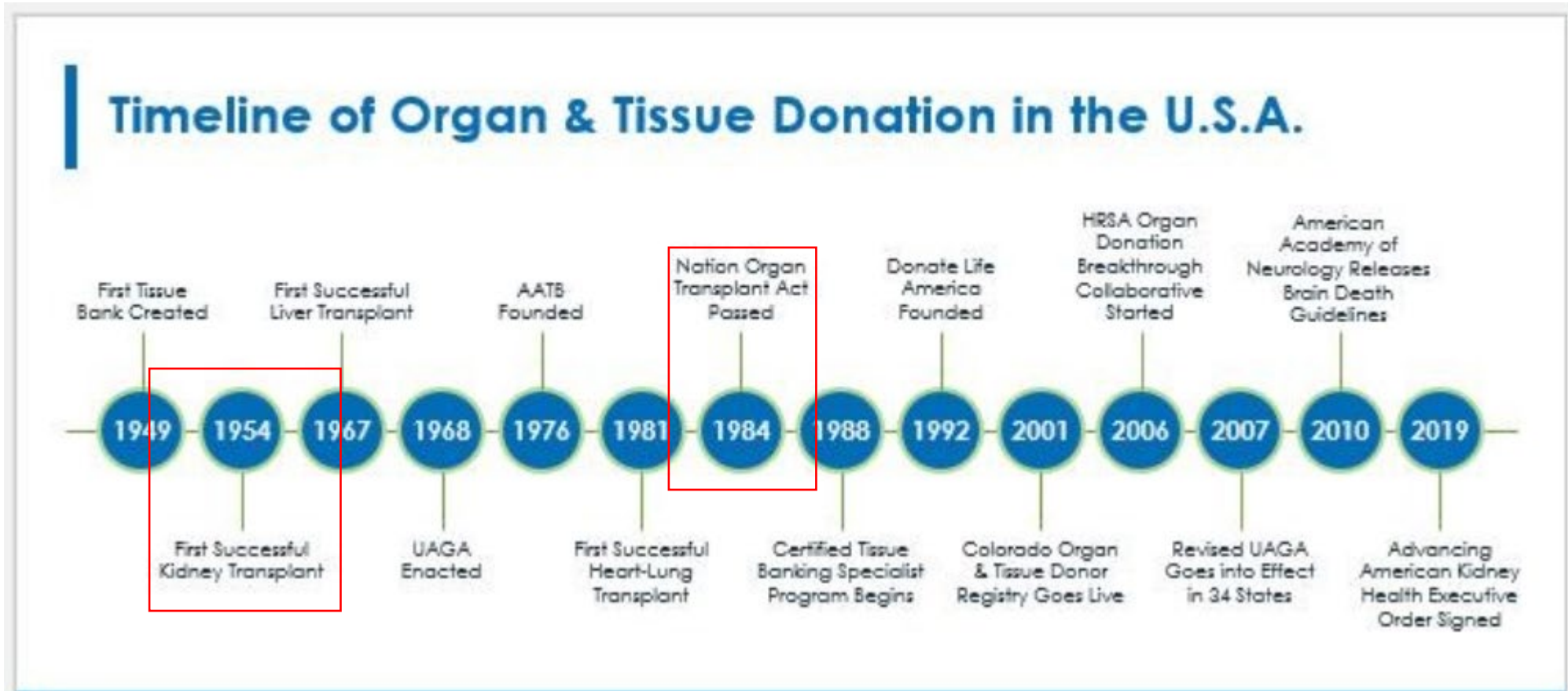
# Introduction to ASTS Advocacy

*Kiran Dhanireddy, MD*

*Tampa General Hospital*

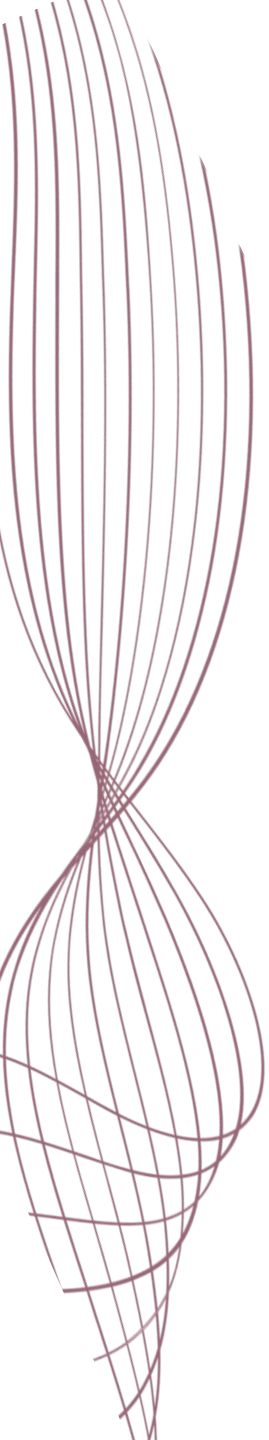
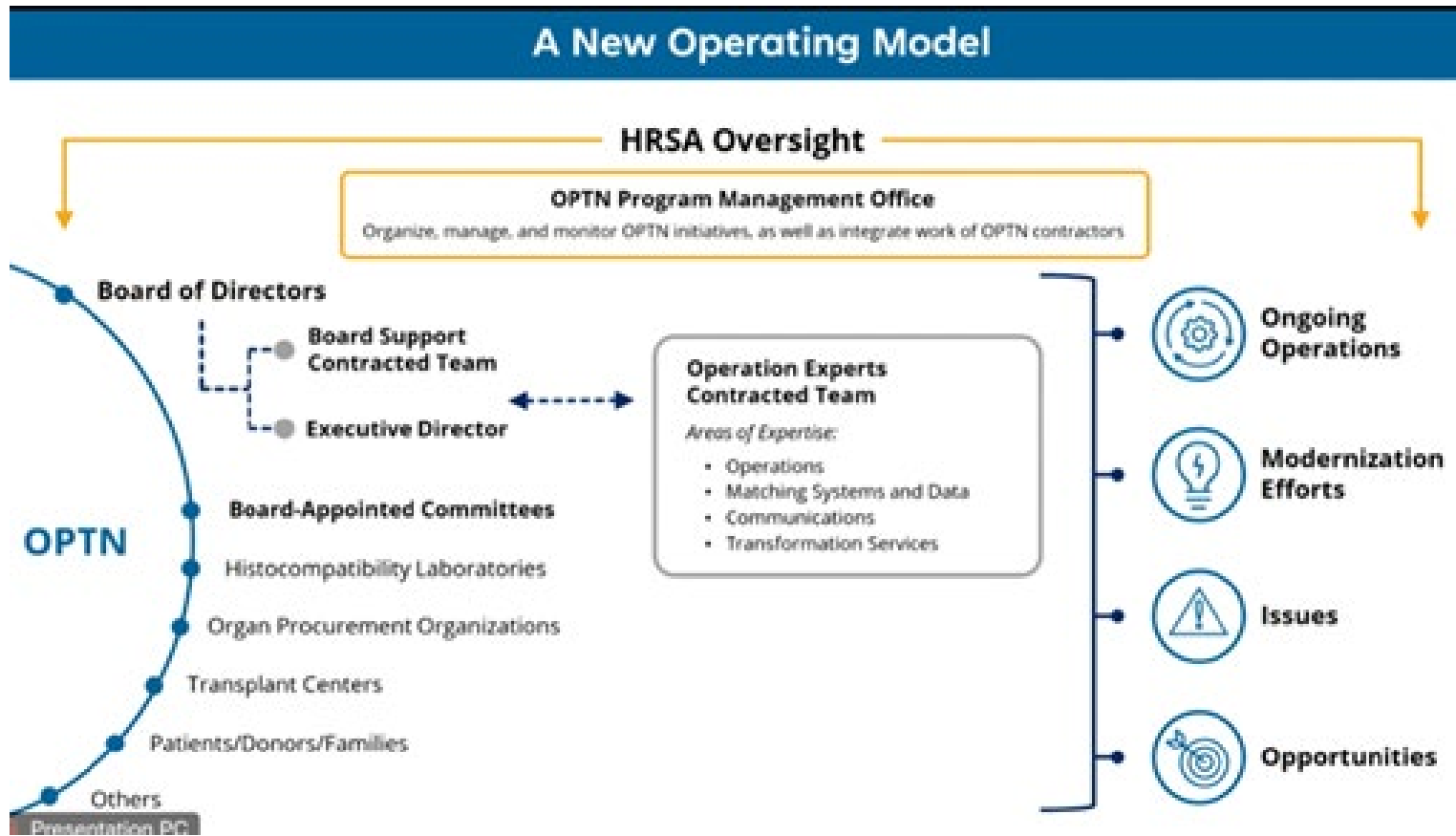
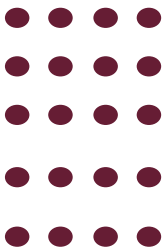
*Chair, ASTS Legislative & Regulatory Committee*

# Timeline of US Transplant History

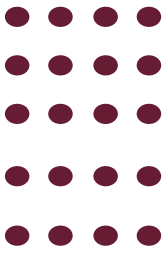


Source: Donor Alliance

# Structure of Government Oversight



# OPTN Modernization



## Congress authorizes overhaul of troubled organ transplant system

Updated July 28, 2023

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Expert witnesses testify at a July 20 Senate Finance Committee hearing about reforming the organ transplant system. (Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post)



# The ASTS Supports OPTN Modernization

<https://www.astsonline.org/advocacy/optn-modernization-initiative>

# ASTS OPTN Modernization: Guiding Principles



Maintain public-  
private  
partnership



OPTN Governance  
should include  
stakeholders in  
transplant system



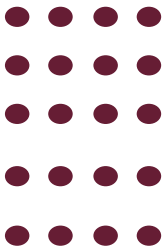
Priority should be  
equity and access



Transparency of  
the process and  
data are critical

# Key Legislation & Opportunities for Advocacy

# Legislation: Key Bills



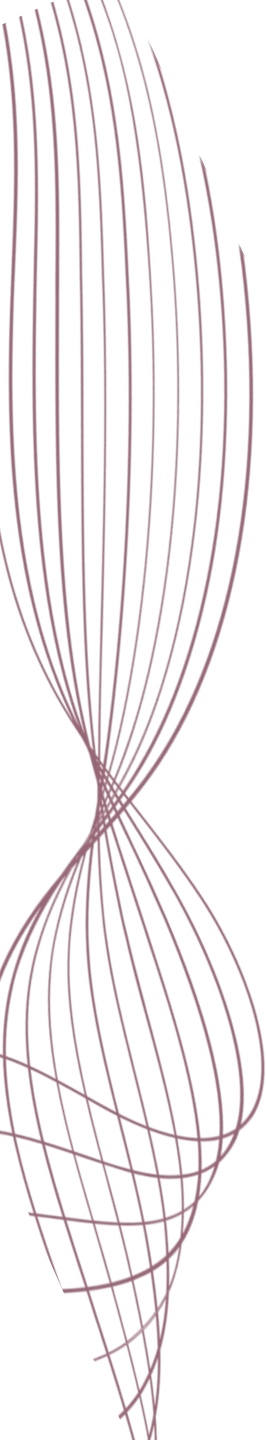
BILLS	SUMMARY
<i>The Living Donor Protection Act (LDPA) (H.R. 2923/S. 1384)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibiting life, disability, and long-term care insurer from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors.</li> <li>Amending the Family and Medical Leave Act to include living organ donation as a serious health condition (private/gov't).</li> <li>Directing HHS to update materials on living organ donation to reflect these new protections, encourage more donors.</li> </ul>
<i>The Living Organ Donor Tax Credit Act of 2023 (H.R. 6171)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$5,000 one-time refundable tax credit to living organ donors who were not reimbursed for the costs of organ donation by the National Living Organ Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) or any other entity.</li> </ul>
<i>The Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act (H.R. 6020)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This legislation would no longer limit donor eligibility based on the income of the intended recipient. Currently, a donor can only be reimbursed if the combined income of the recipient and donor is less than 350% of the HHS poverty level.</li> </ul>
<i>Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 10282)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reauthorize the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) and allow more organ donors to receive financial assistance to help cover donation-related expenses.</li> <li>Raise the household income eligibility to include more potential donors and increase the maximum reimbursement level to \$10,000, with discretion given to the Secretary to keep payments within the budget provided.</li> </ul>

Will be reintroduced in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

Possible re-introduction in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, there are questions about valuable consideration

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# Patient Voice Initiative

*Ginny L. Bumgardner, MD, PhD, FACS*  
*President, American Society of Transplant Surgeons*  
*Ohio State University*

# Why the Patient Voice Matters

From Jan. 2025 ASTS President's message:

**Purpose:** *Amplify patient perspectives and engage patients in advocacy by sharing their valuable insights and unique stories.*

**Activities:** *Participants in this initiative will join our members on Capitol Hill to meet with legislators and regulators, collaborate on educational content to inform the community about critical issues, and work closely with us to drive awareness and meaningful change.*

**Why?**

**Why now?**

**Why ASTS?**

# Patient Voice Initiative

## Mission, Vision, Objectives

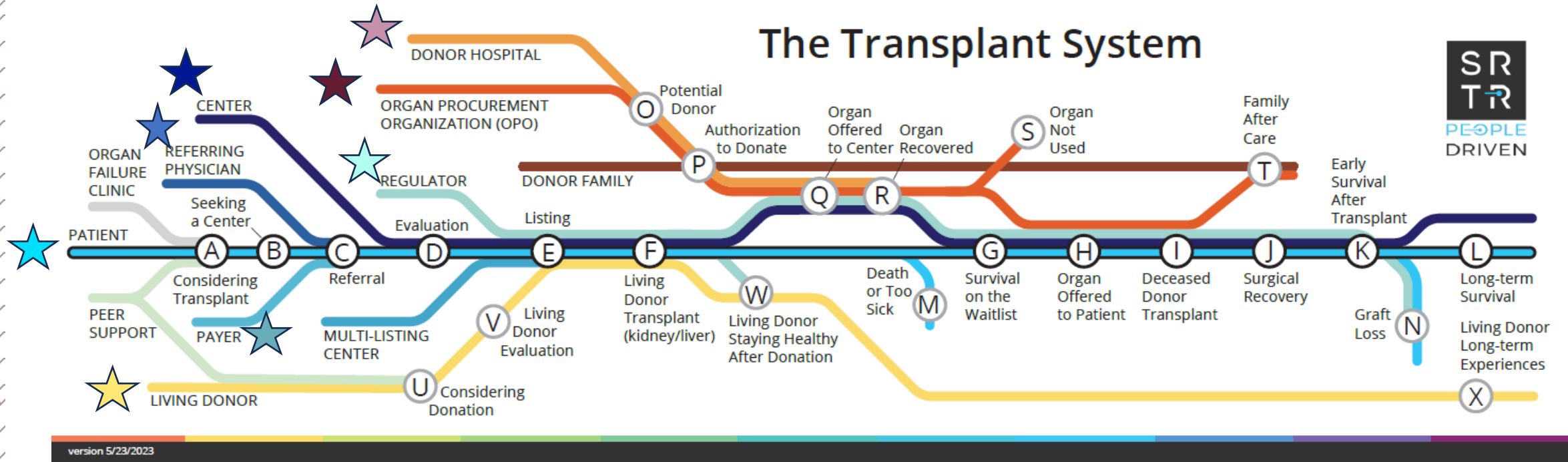
**Mission Statement** – Engage a diverse volunteer group of patients, donors, and families whose experiences, expertise and voice will enhance the *ASTS mission to save and improve lives through transplantation*.

**Vision** – Ongoing patient engagement to understand patients' experiences and perspectives and to gather patient ideas is critical to informing and strengthening ASTS led advocacy and other mission-based endeavors.

### Goals:

- 1) Increase patients' awareness of transplant legislation, regulations and national initiatives
- 2) Enhance transparency about the national transplant system and provide patients an avenue for input into transplant processes, policies and priorities
- 3) Share patient stories to highlight the impact of federal policy-making on their lives
- 4) Inform ASTS advocacy and other mission-based endeavors in a patient-centric fashion

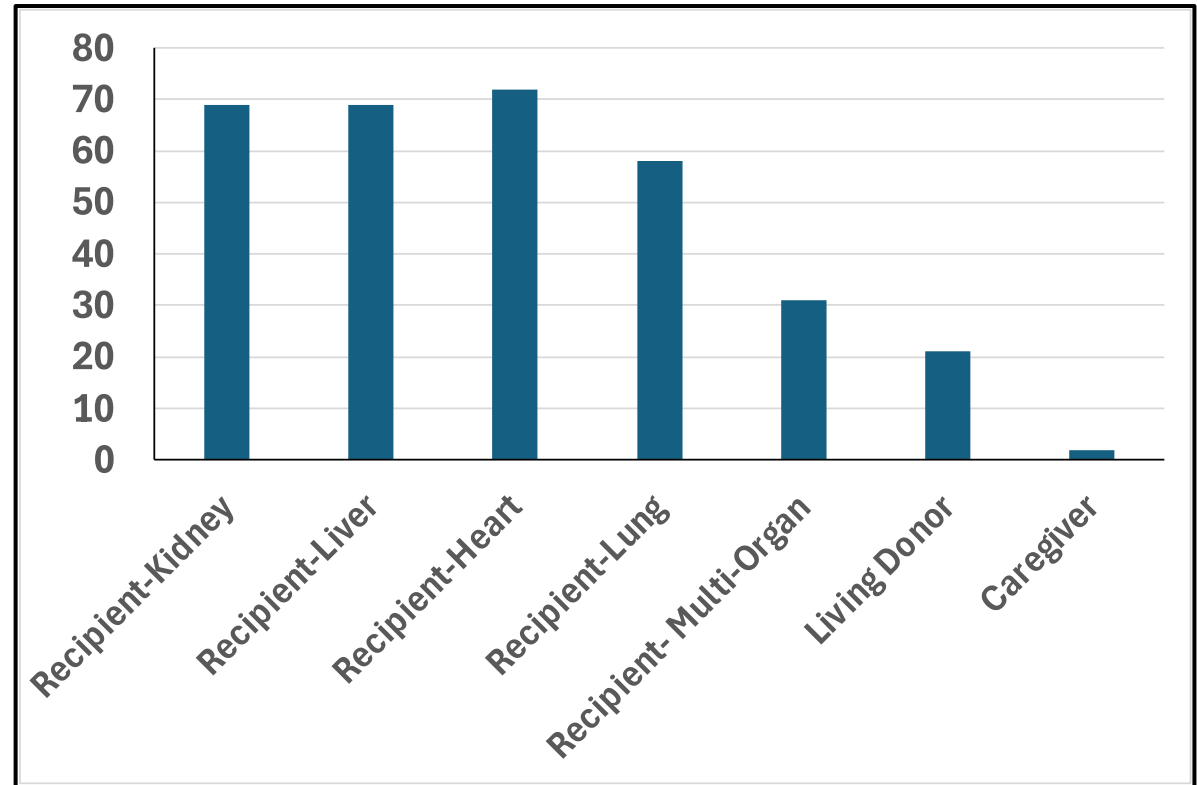
# Why the ASTS? Transplant Surgeons Accompany Patients Along the Entire Journey





# Joining Us ...

October 2024 through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, n>300



# ASTS Spring Advocacy Day

- April 16 – 17, 2025
- [www.asts.org/advocacy-day](http://www.asts.org/advocacy-day)



# ASTS Advocacy Day Fall 2024

## ASTS Supports Modernization of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)

**ASTS URGES CONGRESS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, CONTINUED STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, AND DATA ACCESS UNDER THE NEW OPTN STRUCTURE**

### TRANSPARENCY

- We urge Congress to ensure that the new modernized OPTN, which we understand will be solely controlled by HRSA, be fully transparent to the transplant stakeholders and the public.

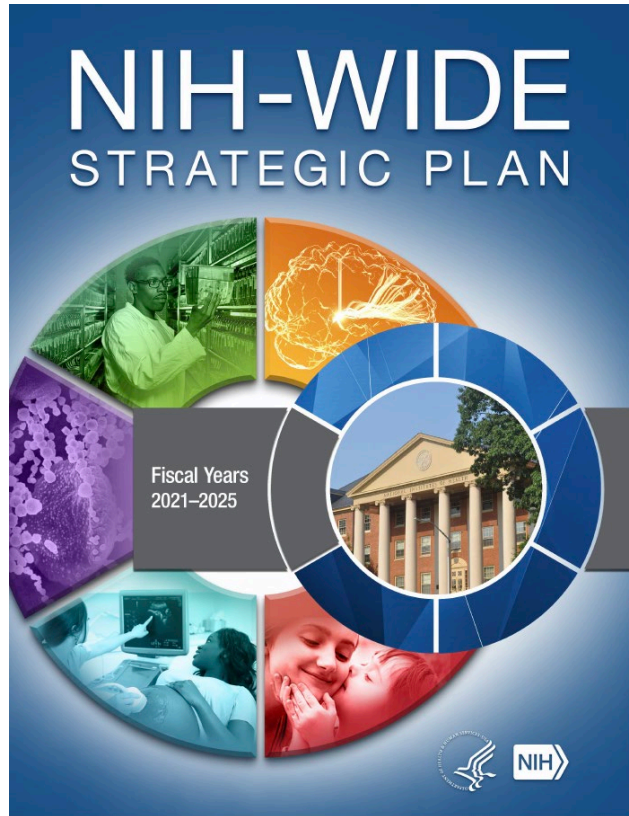
### STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- We urge Congress to ensure that the transplant community elect the OPTN Board and that existing Board nomination procedures be followed (including for any special Board election held by the Secretary).
- We urge Congress to ensure that OPTN policymaking, which involves complex clinical considerations, be conducted without political or administrative interference.

### DATA ACCESS

- We urge Congress to ensure that all OPTN data remain accessible to the public; that research directed by the transplant community priorities continue to be conducted to determine the impact of OPTN policies; and that such research be disseminated to the public irrespective of political considerations.

# ASTS Advocacy: **Transplant Research**



**2021-2025**

**NASEM Consensus Report 2022**

**Achieving Equity in Organ Transplantation:  
Recommendations for Action Based on the  
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,  
and Medicine Report**

Leigh Anne Dageforde, MD, MPH,<sup>1,2</sup> Rebecca A. English, MPH,<sup>3</sup> and Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH<sup>4</sup>

# ASTS → Stakeholder Engagement

## ASTS Winter Symposium January 16–19, 2025

- **Saturday, January 18, 2:30 – 3:30pm**  
Stakeholder Perspectives & Recommendations for OPTN Modernization
  - Lloyd Ratner MD MPH – OPTN Board
  - David Foley MD – AST President-Elect
  - Ryo Hirose MD – Chief of Transplant, Univ of Washington
- **Sunday, January 19, 10:00am – 11:30am**

### Measuring Progress & Success Towards OPTN Modernization

Moderated by: Ginny L. Bumgardner MD PhD, ASTS President

#### Panelists:

AAKP – President, Edward V. Hickey III JD

AOPO – Councilor-at-Large, Jennifer Prinz

ASHI- President, Cathey Murphey PhD HCLD/CC(ABB)

NATCO- Executive Director, Donna Dickert BS

OPTN Data – Ryo Hirose MD

The Alliance – President, John Magee MD



# Live Q&A / Polling Questions for Participants

# Questions for the Group

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**TOPICS YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED  
IN FOR FUTURE WEBINARS.**



**WEBINAR FREQUENCY  
& TIMING**

Thank you for joining us!

Questions?

*advocacy@asts.org*