

## History of Organ and Tissue Donation

- 1869 First fresh allograft of skin – transplanting one person's tissue to another person. (Swiss surgeon Jacques Louis Reverdin)
- 1906 First corneal transplant. (Dr. Edward Zirm)
- 1954 First living-related kidney transplant. The donor and recipient were identical twins. (Drs. Joseph Murray and John Harrison, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital)
- 1960 First kidney transplanted on the west coast (Stanford University Medical Center)
- 1962 First cadaveric kidney transplant is performed at Brigham Hospital in Boston.
- 1963 First lung transplant. (Dr. James Hardy, University of Mississippi)
- 1963 First liver transplant. (Dr. Thomas Starzl, University of Colorado)
- 1967 First heart transplant. (Dr. Christian Barnard, South Africa)
- 1968 First U.S. heart transplant. (Dr. Norman Shumway, Stanford University)
- 1968 Uniform Anatomical Gift Act passed by Congress making it legal to donate a deceased individual's organs and tissue for transplantation.
- 1968 First pancreas transplant. (Drs. Richard Lillche and William Kelly, University of Minnesota)
- 1981 First heart/lung transplant. (Drs. Norman Shumway and Bruce Reitz, Stanford Medical Center)
- 1982 Barney Clark receives the first permanent artificial heart. (University of Utah)
- 1983 The FDA approves Cyclosporin, an anti-rejection drug.
- 1983 First successful lung transplant. (Dr. Joel Cooper, Toronto General Hospital)
- 1984 First heart/liver transplant. (Dr. Starzl, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh)
- 1984 Congress establishes National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) prohibiting the selling of organs and tissues and establishing the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) – a fair and equitable method to allocate donated organ and tissues.
- 1984 Baby Fae receives a walnut-sized baboon heart in an operation at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She was the first infant to receive an animal organ, and she lived for 21 days.
- 1986 The first successful double lung transplant. (Dr. Joel Cooper, Toronto General Hospital)
- 1986 The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), Richmond, Virginia, obtains a federal contract to ensure equitable access and allocation of organs. UNOS sets membership criteria and standards for transplant centers.
- 1987 Medicare begins paying for heart transplant at hospitals that meet survival and experience criteria set by the Health Care Financing Administration.
- 1987 The California Transplant Donor Network established in San Francisco.
- 1988 The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) sets donor identification and notification standards. Requires hospital to have policies and procedures in place for the identification, referral and procurement of organs and tissues.
- 1990 Medicare agrees to pay for liver transplants in adults 18 and older at approved sites, excluding cases where patients have liver cancer.
- 1990 Dr. Joseph E. Murray, who performed the first successful kidney transplant, and Dr. E. Donnall Thomas, who pioneered bone marrow transplants as a cure for leukemia, received the Nobel Prize.
- 1991 First successful small intestine transplant.
- 1993 National survey by Gallup indicates more than 80% of the population in the United States supports organ and tissue donation.
- 1994 National Coalition on Donation formed and partners with the Advertising Council to develop an ongoing national public education campaign on organ and tissue donation.
- 1994 Nicholas Green, a young boy from California, is killed by highway robbers while vacationing in Italy. His family's decision to donate greatly increased awareness of organ donation in Italy and the U.S.
- 1996 U.S. surgeons at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, University of California, San Francisco, and Stanford University Hospital perform split-liver transplants, a procedure that has been attempted fewer than 100 times worldwide with mixed results. Surgeons work with blood vessels and bile ducts so small that the suture material used to reattach them is barely visible to the naked eye.

- 1996 Congress passes the Organ Donation Insert Card Act, authorizing the mailing of information about organ and tissue donation with income tax refunds (sent to approximately 70 million households).
- 1997 Vice President Al Gore, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, announces a national organ and tissue donation initiative to increase donation 20% by 2000.
- 1999 The Department of Health and Human Services issues the amended "Final Rule" for Organ Procurement and Transplantation. Among the stipulations, it calls for a broader sharing of organs and more consistent medical criteria to be used for allocation. The goal is to make the allocation system fairer and to assure that patients with the most urgent medical conditions receive transplants.