



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Paula Valle
JDI Communications, Inc.
213-612-4927
888-477-4319 (Pager: 24/7)
pvalle@jdipr.com

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPLANT DONOR NETWORK
APPOINTS DR. NIKOLE NEIDLINGER
AS MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

OAKLAND, CALIF. – July 28, 2010 – The **California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN)**, the federally-designated organ and tissue recovery agency for northern and central California and northern Nevada, announced today the appointment of **Dr. Nikole Neidlinger** as the organization's first on-staff medical director. Neidlinger will be responsible for the oversight of CTDN's clinical standards of practice as well as the achievement of quality outcomes in the procurement and delivery of transplantable organs and tissues.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Neidlinger to the California Transplant Donor Network as our medical director," said Cindy Siljestrom, chief executive officer of CTDN. "Her previous experience as a transplant surgeon, medical director at an organ recovery agency in Wisconsin and clinical researcher will foster CTDN's continued growth and expertise in the field of organ donation and recovery. We believe that Nikole's leadership skills, compassion and high ethical standards are pivotal qualities that will enable her to carry out the organization's mission and commitment to organ and tissue donation to the highest levels."

CTDN is the link between organ donors in hospitals and patients waiting for transplants. In 2009, CTDN saved hundreds of lives with 266 donors giving 881 organs, for a ratio of 3.31 organs per donor. CTDN's conversion rates, which indicate the ratio of consent among eligible donors, now exceed 71 percent.

"I am passionate about organ donation and it is that passion, which drives and excites me about my role as medical director at CTDN," Neidlinger commented. "I am thrilled to be part of an organization that makes a difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout northern and central California as well as in northern Nevada. I look forward to successfully impacting donation recovery as well as clinical practices."

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Neidlinger comes to CTDN from the University of Wisconsin, where she completed a transplant surgery fellowship as a clinical assistant professor of surgery. As part of her fellowship, Neidlinger dedicated an additional year to the University of Wisconsin's organ procurement organization (OPO) where she was able to increase the number of organs transplanted per donor, assist with issues such as coroner denials, donor hospital and referring physician concerns as well as participate in the medical management of potential donors.

Neidlinger has performed 120 surgical recoveries and participated in more than 40 donors after cardiac death (DCD) cases. In addition, she educated the local community about organ and tissue donation through hospital staff presentations and conferences.

Neidlinger's research has been published in several transplant related publications. She is a member of the Association of Women Surgeons and American Society of Transplant Surgeons. Neidlinger earned her BA from the University of Notre Dame and an MD from Tulane University School of Medicine. Her surgical residency was completed at the University of California, San Francisco – East Bay.

About the California Transplant Donor Network

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The California Transplant Donor Network helps 175 hospitals in 41 Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada counties offer the option of organ and tissue donation to families whose loved ones have died, coordinates deceased organ recovery and placement, and provides public education with the hope that every resident will become a donor. The California Transplant Donor Network is federally designated as the region's organ recovery organization. For information, visit www.ctdn.org or call (888) 570-9400.

#