The Gift of Life
Myths and Mysteries of Organ Donation

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Everything you need/want to know about Organ Donation

But

Afraid/Hesitant/Unsure/Don’t Care to ask
Disclosures

- I serve as the Co-Chair of Organ Donor Council at Upstate Medical University
- I serve as an advisory board member of the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network
- I believe in organ donation
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- I serve as an advisory board member of the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network
- I believe in organ donation
- I am a registered Organ Donor
We will NOT be talking about Donating your BODY to SCIENCE
LIFE IS a beautiful ride

APRIL IS National Donate Life Month

SUNY DONATES life

NEW YORK DONATE LIFE 234ABC PASS IT ON BE AN ORGAN & TISSUE DONOR
Objectives

1. Learn about the process and procedures involved in organ donation
2. Discuss common myths and misconceptions about organ donation
3. Discuss frequently asked questions about organ donation
4. Learn how to be able to give the Gift of Life
Organ Donation

The process by which a person gives the Gift of Life to another person
Donor Organ Sources

Living Donor
- Related
- Unrelated (regulated)

Deceased Donor
- Brain Dead (Heart-beating)
- Non-heart-beating (Classical Death)
Dead Donor Rule

Organ donation occurs 

AFTER

death of donor

Death

- **Brain death**
  - irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem

- **Circulatory death**
  - irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions

Uniform Determination of Death Act 1981
What can be donated?
Deceased Donation

- Can save up to 8 lives
- Restore sight to 2 people
- Heal the lives of more than 75 people

Living Donation

- 83% of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.
- 12% of patients waiting are in need of a liver.
- 3-5 years is the average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor.
- Living donors can provide a kidney or a portion of their intestine, liver, lung or pancreas to a waiting patient.*

*Living donation is not included in your donor registration.
Who can Donate

- Most people can donate
- You are never too old
- Medical conditions? Don’t rule yourself out
WHY

Donate?
National Donate Life Month is celebrated every April. It features local, regional and national activities to educate and encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors, as well as to celebrate those who have saved and healed lives through the gift of donation.

Celebrate National Donate Life Blue & Green Day on April 12! The public is encouraged to wear blue and green Donate Life colors and hold events to promote donation.

The Need is Great

More than 100,000 men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants.

Every 10 minutes another person is added to the waiting list.

22 people die each day because the organs they need are not donated in time.

Did You Know?

50% of organ, eye and tissue donors are authorized by registries.

More than 36,500 organ transplants from 17,500 donors brought new life to patients and their families in 2018.

More than 84,000 corneal transplants help to restore sight each year.

More than 1.75 million tissue transplants heal lives each year.

More than 145.5 million people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.

Thank you to all donors, donor families, registered donors and champions of the Donate Life cause!
114,000 men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants.

Even the largest football stadium in the US could not fit the number of patients on the national transplant waiting list.

Every 10 minutes another person is added to the national transplant waiting list.

8,000 deaths occur every year in the U.S. because organs are not donated in time.

22 people die each day because the organ they need is not donated in time.

82% of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.

1 out of 3 deceased donors is over the age of 50.
ORGAN SCARCITY CRISIS IN NEW YORK STATE

- 9,400 individuals waiting
- 450 individuals died in 2017 while waiting
- 1 person dies every 19 hours while waiting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>STATE DONOR DESIGNATION RATE</th>
<th>STATE DONOR DESIGNATIONS</th>
<th>STATE DONOR DESIGNATION SHARE</th>
<th>NATIONAL DONATE LIFE REGISTRY REGISTRATIONS</th>
<th>EDDR (Q3-Q4 2016)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
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<td>259,376</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,190,979</strong></td>
<td><strong>56%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,264,369</strong></td>
<td><strong>34%</strong></td>
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**Total Registrations (Combined State and National Donate Life Registry): 145,455,348  Overall DDS: 58%**

**NY Registered Donor = 32%**

**Rank = 50th**

**Highest = Montana (93%)**

**National = 56%**
If Organ Donation is a good thing, why do some people object to it?
Myths about Organ Donation

- **Myth:** If I agree to donate my organs, the hospital staff won’t work as hard to save my life.

- **FACT:** When you go to the hospital for treatment, Doctors focus on saving your life – not somebody else’s.

- Sometimes, however, there is complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead after rigorous testing. Only then is donation an option.
Myths about Organ Donation

- **Myth:** Maybe I won’t really be dead when they sign my death certificate.

- **FACT:** People who have agreed to organ donation are examined more closely and given more tests (if necessary, at no charge to their families) to determine death compared to those who have not agreed to organ donation.

- The patient is declared clinically and legally dead after rigorous testing. Only then is donation an option.
Myths about Organ Donation

- **Myth:** Organ donation is against my religion

- **FACT:** All major religions support organ donation as a final act of compassion and generosity. You can find out more about your faith’s position on organ donation by asking a member of your clergy.
Myths about Organ Donation

- Myth: An open casket funeral isn’t an option for people who have donated organs or tissues.

- FACT: Organ and tissue donation does not interfere with having an open casket funeral. The donor’s body is typically clothed for burial so there are no visible signs of organ or tissue donation.
Myths about Organ Donation

- **Myth:** I am too young (< 18)…
  - I am too old
  - I’m not in the best of health. Nobody would want my organs

- **FACT:** Anybody can be an organ donor, but a person <18 years old need their parent’s consent to be able to donate. Very few medical conditions automatically disqualify you from donating organs. Only medical professionals at the time of your death can determine whether your organs are suitable or not.
### Myths about Organ Donation

In late 2017, DLA commissioned a survey which indicated that although most adults believe they can donate a kidney to a relative, a friend or a stranger, most vastly overestimate the risks involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30% of those surveyed thought the <strong>risk of death during donation surgery</strong> was 5-15% and 31% had no idea.</td>
<td><strong>FACT:</strong> the risk is .03%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31% of those surveyed believed the <strong>risk of the donor needing a replacement kidney</strong> later in life is 5-20% and 34% surveyed had no idea.</td>
<td><strong>FACT:</strong> the risk is &lt;1%.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Willingness to Donate a Kidney**
- Likely to donate to a family member **86%**; close friend **74%**; acquaintance **51%** and to a stranger **30%**
Myths about Organ Donation

- **Myth:** My family will be charged if I donate my organs

- **FACT:** The organ donor’s family is never charged for any expenses related to organ donation. You will still be charged for the cost of all your medical care to save your life.
Frequently Asked Questions about Organ Donation

- Does my social or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ?

- FACT: A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on many factors, including: blood type, body size, how sick they are, distance from donor hospital and time on the list. Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.
Frequently Asked Questions about Organ Donation

- **Why register to be an organ donor?**

  - You can save up to 8 lives and heal the lives of more than 75 people.
  - Your registration serves as a symbol of hope to patients waiting, and sharing it with your family lets them know your decision.
How do I become an Organ Donor?
https://donatelifeny.gov/register/

You Can Save the Lives of an Entire Dance Troupe.

ENROLL
WANTED: HEROES
Life made possible because someone said YES!

Five years heart transplant strong.
Drake donated his kidneys upon his death in 2012.

Mary Wu, two-time kidney recipient, has an “unbreakable bond” with her donors and their families.

Carmen Knight is happy to be alive, and to be able to spread the message about the importance of donation.

I was born with a condition called Hypoplastic Kidney Disease. After waiting for two years on the organ transplant list, I received my new kidney in the summer of 1987. I was 14.

I’ll never forget what happened to me in the spring of 2007. On what was just an ordinary Tuesday for most people, my young life was saved when I received a new heart.

My life was saved because an anonymous family donated a liver to me four years ago. I would have died if I didn’t get the new liver.

Stefanos Tsigrimanis, a 29-year-old native of Greece and a college student, saved four lives. A little more than a year later, his mother gets to meet his transplant recipients.

A photo on the Dreams from Drake website: Drake, at his 4th birthday party.
THE GREATEST PERSON NEVER KNOWN

That’s what an organ donor is to someone waiting for a transplant. An unsung hero. An anonymous angel. Organ donors are often unknown, but they are forever appreciated for seeing beyond themselves and giving the ultimate gift. Their selflessness is a lesson we can all share. Live life to the fullest, help others do the same.

Join the organ donation registry at www.PostLifeOn.org
What You Can Do to Help

JOIN IT
If YOU have not joined the Registry, enroll today at donatelife.ny.gov/register

HOST IT
Host donor registration drive. Donate Life New York State and its members are here to help!

SHARE IT
Display the link to the Registry on your social media accounts.

LINK IT
Add a link to donatelife.ny.gov/register to your website.

SEND IT
Email employees, co-workers, friends, family and ask them to enroll at donatelife.ny.gov/register
Lauren’s Law 2012

- Lauren Shields, who received a lifesaving heart transplant at the age of 9, sparked the creation of a law in her name that requires applicants to answer whether they would like to be added to the state’s donor registry.

Name: Lauren Shields
Location: Stony Point, NY
Age at Time of Transplant: 12
Transplant: Heart
Date of Transplant: March 19, 2009
Thank You for your Time!