Preface

2007 SRTR Report on the State of Transplantation

It’s hard to believe that another 12 months have already passed since last year’s Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Report on the State of Transplantation. Each year, new issues come to the forefront of transplantation, novel trends are identified and a more complete picture of our maturing field is evinced. The SRTR and its many collaborating experts from around the country have once again reviewed the latest data submitted to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. These authors have produced another high-quality set of peer-reviewed articles that constitute this special issue of the journal. The data underlying these papers can be found in the tables of the OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, published each year by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Additional analyses have also been performed to illuminate important new areas, as part of our ongoing effort to identify emerging data trends in the field of transplantation. The issue you are now reading is the sixth annual SRTR Report on the State of Transplantation and represents the product of those efforts.

This year, we brought together 51 nationally and internationally recognized experts to critically review and explain trends in solid organ transplantation in the United States over the past 10 years. We have continued our tradition of offering special focus articles on topics of particularly timely interest. This year there are three such articles. The first looks at what is known about transplant candidates who travel abroad to receive an organ transplant, a practice known as ‘transplant tourism’. This article makes it clear that we have incomplete data on this subject, an area that is drawing increasing worldwide attention. The second article provides a comprehensive explication of the concept and methods recently developed by the SRTR for measuring kidney transplant benefit, using a metric known as ‘life years from transplant’. The third special focus article explains in detail how transplant center performance is evaluated by the SRTR, and describes how the many components of those evaluations are published on the SRTR’s public website for use by the entire transplant community. The SRTR team will continue to offer cutting-edge special focus articles like these each year.

The SRTR Report on the State of Transplantation is a perennial effort that brings together a very talented and dedicated group of people. As the guest editor, I am very privileged to work with each of them. Dr. Philip Halloran, Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Transplantation, continues to help and challenge us to maintain our focus on the most important trends and the most exciting new developments. Pamela Publicover at the AJT editorial office kept us on track once again through the entire peer-review process. We have excellent and important relationships with Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, especially with Alison Labbate, Ginny Pittman, Rich Simeone, Matt Scanlon, Elizabeth Kaplan and Cathy Krendel, each of whom has continued to facilitate the production and distribution of the report.

Our colleagues at the Division of Transplantation at HRSA are always extremely important partners in this effort. In particular, we are grateful to James Burdick, Chris McLaughlin, Gregory Fant, Richard Durbin, Monica Lin, Virginia McBride, Jade Perdue, Laura St. Martin, Richard Laeng and Elizabeth Ortiz-Rios for their active participation, advice and encouragement.

Our 51 authors, representing every area of clinical transplantation, completed their tasks professionally, responsibly and on time. I am indebted to each of the authors for making and fulfilling their commitment to the SRTR Report on the State of Transplantation this year. Each of our lead authors was particularly outstanding.

This report simply wouldn’t happen without the expertise, hard work and passion of my colleagues at the University of Michigan and the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health. I thank the principals of the SRTR project, Drs. Robert A. Wolfe (Principal Investigator), Friedrich K. Port, Alan B. Leichtman, Akinlolu O. Ojo, Susan Murray, Douglas E. Schaubel, Jack D. Kalbfleisch, John C. Magee, Randall S. Sung, D. Bradley Dyke and Panduranga S. Rao. Nearly all of the SRTR’s analysts, programmers and administrative staff from the University of Michigan and Arbor Research contributed to this report, including Valarie B. Ashby, Laura L. Christensen, David M. Dickinson, Lesley J. Freiman, James Galloway, Mary K. Guidinger, Jessica L. Kreiner, Sangeetha M. Krishnan, Gregory N. Levine, Keith P. McCullough, Jeffrey Moore, Tiffani A. Pace, Katherine E. Pearson, Carolyn K. Randolph, Ann M. Rodgers, Erik C. Roys, Tempie H. Shearon, Diane E. Steffick, Randall L. Webb, James C. Welch and Alyce M. Whipp.

A few people especially stand out. Katherine Pearson was the administrative project lead for the SRTR team. With
her calm and thorough attention, she always had her finger on the pulse of this project. Shiqian Li and Andrew D. Barnes responded to requests for special analyses and prepared the hundreds of reference tables that form the basis for these articles, supplying drafts to authors and incorporating their feedback. Miles P. Finley, the senior editor behind the project, has taught us much about the craft of effective scientific writing, especially by correcting our mistakes. He was ably assisted by Jennifer L. McCready-Maynes, Caroline A. Shevrin and Shauna A. Leighton, who managed drafts and revisions of the articles from the editorial perspective, coordinated the peer-review process among coauthors, expertly edited text and graphics, and ensured that a uniform stylistic approach was applied to each article. Their remarkable skills and attention to detail contributed greatly to each article.

This report represents the fruits of much hard work and dedication by every person who participated in its creation. We hope that you will find it useful and refer to it often throughout the year.

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