

April 2023

# UI HEALTH CARE ORGAN TRANSPLANT CENTER

Welcome to the first newsletter from UI Health Care's Organ Transplant Center! We have designed this newsletter to provide you and your family with informational updates, upcoming events, answers to questions, and interesting tidbits each month.

If you have any additional questions for us or a topic that you would like explored, please reach out to us at [otcsocialworkers@healthcare.uiowa.edu](mailto:otcsocialworkers@healthcare.uiowa.edu).

## LIVING DONATION

Do you know someone who is interested in living kidney donation? The process to getting started is easy, and we have resources to help. Please reach out to us at **319-356-1136**. You can direct them to [uiowa.donorscreen.org](http://uiowa.donorscreen.org) to complete the initial screening questionnaire.

If you've received a transplant, you are not able to be a living donor for someone else!

A living donor transplant is when a healthy person donates one of their living kidneys to someone whose kidneys no longer work. A person can live a full, healthy life with just one healthy kidney. Transplants performed from living donors may have several advantages:

- Some living donor transplants are done between family members who are genetically similar. A better genetic match lessens the risk of rejection.
- A kidney from a living donor usually functions immediately and may last longer.
- Potential donors can be tested ahead of time to find who is most compatible with the recipient. The transplant can take place at a time convenient for both the donor and recipient.

## SUPPORT GROUP

Our quarterly support group will meet next on **Thursday, July 13 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.**

Instructions:

- Dial 1-312-626-6799
- Meeting ID: 964 9752 9769
- Passcode: 214221

## DONATE LIFE MONTH

National Donate Life Month is celebrated every April. This year, Donate Life America was inspired by the natural work of a pond coming to life in the spring, which nicely represents the opportunity for new life that organ donors provide.

UI Hospitals & Clinics has a strong culture of donation and asks you to take a minute to register as an organ, tissue, and eye donor. According to Donate Life America, nearly 124,000 people in the U.S. are awaiting some type of organ transplant. Organ donor registration is critical.

There are many types of organ donation. Don't let your age or health status stop you! Anyone age 15 and older can register to be a lifesaving hero at

[iowadonornetwork.org/register](http://iowadonornetwork.org/register) or [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov).