

Is an organ transplant an option for you?

Hear recipients of pancreas, kidney and pancreatic islet cells share their personal journeys. Learn about the live kidney donor program and transplant programs in the DC Metro area from world-renowned researchers and surgeons.



Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation®

Saturday, April 9, 2016

at 8am - 12:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

GREENBELT MARRIOTT

6400 Ivy Lane • Greenbelt, Maryland

Convenient location near I-495 and the Washington, DC Metro.

Free Parking Available

Reserve by calling 1-866-293-3155
astancik@diabeteswellness.net

A LOCAL NETWORKING GROUP of the



Health professional program also available.

Find out more: www.diabeteswellness.net

Dr. Joseph Melancon, is currently the director of the George Washington Transplant Institute where he is a professor of surgery and the medical director of the Ron and Joy Paul Kidney Center. Dr. Melancon is an internationally renowned expert in paired kidney exchanges, ABO incompatible kidney transplantation, pancreas transplantation, and immunologic desensitization for organ transplants. Dr. Melancon has on four occasions set the world's record for largest paired kidney exchange.

Betty C. read a flyer sent home to parents at Langley High School in McLean, VA seeking a kidney donor for one of her children's classmates. Betty discussed the donation with her family and decided to offer to donate one of her kidneys. Betty's kidney was not used for the student, was able to donate her kidney in April 2009 to a gentleman she had never met. Later in 2009 tragedy struck her family; a fatal incident took the life of her daughter; as a result she became the donor of a heart, two kidneys, her liver and one lobe of her lung. Her family was able to survive this tragedy knowing that their daughter's donated organs were able to save the lives of many individuals.

Dr. Melena Bellin is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes and the Director of Research for Islet Autotransplantation at the University of Minnesota. She completed her medical school, pediatric residency, and endocrinology fellowship at the University of Minnesota, where she currently holds a tenure-track joint position in the Departments of Pediatrics and Surgery (Schulze Diabetes Institute). Her research focus is clinical islet transplantation for type 1 diabetes and total pancreatectomy.

Connie O. was diagnosed with diabetes at age 17 while babysitting her pediatrician's children. At that time her doctor told her she needed to take care of her diabetes so she would be healthy when a cure was found. Connie developed hypoglycemia unawareness in the 90s. When she was unable to do a long division problem in her head, she realized she was in trouble. She saw a documentary about the University of Minnesota's transplant program and applied. In 2011, she received her first of two islet cell transplants. After receiving her second transplant she was off insulin within 48 hours. She is currently off insulin but eats a low glycemic diet and exercises daily.

Dr. James Piper is a transplant surgeon and a general surgeon with more than 20 years expertise in pancreatic and hepatobiliary surgery. He currently serves as an associate professor of surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University. During medical school, he developed a special interest in transplantation and completed a fellowship in multi-organ transplant following his general surgical residency. His goal is to help all patients suffering from end-stage organ disease as well as patients with cancers and complex problems of the pancreas, liver and bile ducts.

Jeffrey D. was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was found in a coma with a blood glucose level of 2100 mg/dl. Jeff was placed on dialysis as an adult due to end-stage kidney disease; he placed his name on the transplant list at the University of Cincinnati. After many years of waiting, he moved to Northern Virginia to be near family and placed his name on the transplant list at Inova Fairfax Hospital. There he received his pancreas/kidney transplant in 2011. Jeff remains insulin-free; however, he does have complications from his longstanding diabetes.

Justin Van Denend, BS, MS, Manager of Training and Staff Development, Washington Regional Transplant Community

Tom Spizzo, Executive Director, at Spring Point Project. Spring Point Project is a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of people with Type 1 diabetes by providing a virtually unlimited supply of medical-grade, high-health pigs to serve as safe islet cell donors to people with diabetes.

Check out our website for more updates to the program. www.diabeteswellness.net