LINKING LEGACY TO PRACTICE

The DECLARATION of ISTANBUL on ORGAN TRAFFICKING and TRANSPLANT TOURISM

THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL HABERAL TRANSPLANTATION AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (IHTEF) TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE DECLARATION OF ISTANBUL

Professor Mehmet Haberal is an internationally renowned transplant surgeon who pioneered kidney and liver transplantation in Turkey. He is the Founder and President of the Turkish Transplantation Society (TOND) and Founder and first President of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT). He served as Councilor of The Transplantation Society (TTS) representing the Middle East and Africa for the term 2004-2008 and as President of the International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI) for the term 2006-2008. He is also the Founder and President of Baskent University in Ankara, Turkey, which has established 10 hospitals and 14 dialysis centers throughout the country. In the general election held on June 12, 2011, Professor Haberal was elected a Member of Parliament from the province of Zonguldak on behalf of the People’s Republican Party (CHP).

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July 20, 2013, Silivri prison outside Istanbul: Professor Mehmet Haberal (middle), Founder of IHTEF, seen holding the IHTEF brochure, with TTS President Francis L. Delmonico and Feyyaz Artukoglu (left), representing Dr. Haberal at the 5th Anniversary Meeting of the Declaration of Istanbul in Doha, Qatar and key delegate of the Foundation who will work directly with DICG.

THE FIFTH DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INNOVATION, GROWTH AND PROGRESS
GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPLANTATION - DURBAN

A workshop promoting organ donation and transplantation throughout Africa was conducted and sponsored by The Transplantation Society through the Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT) in August 2013 in Durban, South Africa.

Stakeholders representing medical professionals, professional societies and the World Health Organization (WHO) were convened to address the development of organ donation and transplantation in Africa. Representatives from ten countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia) reviewed local needs and then identified strategies for the immediate and longer-term development of donation and transplantation development in their country.

Each participating country reported on local dialysis and transplantation activity, known practices with respect to transplant tourism, local infrastructure to support transplantation (e.g. ICU beds, ICU physicians and nurses, facilities for donor management, compatibility testing and screening), financing of dialysis and transplantation, and the local legislative environment. With the exception of South Africa, there is virtually no deceased donation in Africa; and yet, the estimated burden of renal failure in Africa is staggering, potentially exceeding 300 new cases of renal failure per million adults annually due to hypertension alone. Moreover, continuing demographic, epidemiological and economic shifts will have implications for the future incidence of organ failure in the African region, and for the level of demand for high-level health care including transplantation.

We learned of countries with 6000 patients receiving dialysis in the public sector, but with transplantation activity of fewer than 200 kidney transplants in 2012. We learned of countries with waitlists exceeding 1500 patients but fewer than 20 transplants performed annually, and of patients departing Africa for India and other countries, financed by governments, because there is no local transplantation service competitive in resource availability. These observations require government/national health authority/ministerial attention and the conclusion of the workshop was to suggest that professionals must be aligned to target government to support transplantation services within the country -- achieving a WHO direction of self-sufficiency.

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Through the creation of the International Haberal Transplantation and Education Foundation, The Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) seeks to link indelibly the legacy of Professor Haberal’s contributions to the field of transplantation and his steadfast devotion to developing ethically proper practices of deceased and living organ donation around the world.

MISSION OF IHTEF FOR THE DECLARATION OF ISTANBUL:

The mission of the IHTEF is to collaborate with the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group in promoting, sustaining and monitoring the implementation of the Declaration of Istanbul worldwide. IHTEF and DCG will foster systems of living and deceased organ donation free of coercion, exploitation, commercialism or human trafficking and to help countries develop means to achieve self-sufficiency in organ donation and transplantation.

Henceforth, as the history of organ transplantation is written, the name of Professor Mehmet Haberal will be enduringly associated with the Declaration of Istanbul.