

# ALLIANCE FOR PAIRED KIDNEY DONATION



LOUIS, NATACHA, CLAUS, DR. OBI, DR. REES, SUE REES AND THEIR SURGICAL TEAM IN FEBRUARY

MAR. 2020

## APKD NEWS-AT-A-GLANCE

- **A match six months in the making**, the APKD completed their first GKE of 2020, saving three lives in the United States and Denmark (DONOR PROFILE BELOW). Donors and recipients are all doing well and expect a full recovery.
- In their recent article *Transplanting the Untransplantable*, the AJKD recognized the advances made by paired donation to support difficult-to-match kidney patients: "The growth of kidney paired donation programs and use of incompatible transplantation as part of kidney paired donation to achieve 'more compatible' kidney transplantation has improved options for candidates with an incompatible living donor." SOURCE: AJKD.ORG



Interested in joining **Team Heart & Sole at the MCM & 10K 10.25.2020**? We welcome runners and advocate volunteers to act as ambassadors at our race booth. Email Kate at [hopecomesinpairs@gmail.com](mailto:hopecomesinpairs@gmail.com) for more information.

## DONOR PROFILE

### NATACHA KRAGESTEEN AND LOUIS PLESNER



A chance meeting at a bus stop in Copenhagen, Denmark led to the first APKD Global Kidney Exchange of 2020 between a Danish couple and two American pairs. Due to a genetic condition, Natacha has had to endure dialysis three days a week, four hours a day, and has been on the kidney transplant list for several years. Her boyfriend Louis wanted to donate, but was not a match. Waiting for a bus and seeking shelter from the rain, Louis struck up a conversation with a couple from Johns Hopkins who happened to be in town for a transplantation conference.

They introduced Louis to Susan and Mike Rees, who were also in town for the conference. Natacha and Louis were entered into the APKD network and matched with two pairs in North Carolina. In February, the couple flew to the U.S. Louis donated his kidney to someone at Wake Forest University, and a person at Duke University donated a kidney to Natacha. Louis and Natacha met Jeffrey Marshall, the recipient of his kidney via Facetime two weeks later, when Jeffrey and his wife expressed tearful gratitude for Louis' beautiful gift.

**"The only thing I ever prayed for was for Natacha to get a chance, and this was the chance that showed up a miracle."** -Louis Plesner

## GKE NEWS



CHAD ABBOTT, TRANSPLANT COORDINATOR, MICHIGAN MEDICINE.

Interested in being featured IN THE SPOTLIGHT? Email Kate: [hopecomesinpairs@gmail.com](mailto:hopecomesinpairs@gmail.com) for more information.

**MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH**  
follow #APKD



In need of coordinator help? The APKD now offers assistance with uploading your compatible and incompatible pairs into the APKD database.

Please contact Susan Rees at [susan.rees@paireddonation.org](mailto:susan.rees@paireddonation.org) for more information.

*Saving lives one pair at a time*



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