ALLIANCE FOR PAIRED KIDNEY DONATION

Get your APKD gear here! Email hopecomesinpairs@gmail.com for info.

JUNE-JULY 2020  APKD NEWS—AT-A—GLANCE

- APKD FULL SPEED AHEAD After a long two months of virtually no living kidney donation, we are thrilled to be back in the business of saving lives, one pair at a time. The first post-Covid kidney was transplanted on June 16 from Vanderbilt, TN to Oschner, LA. There were 11 transplants in seven states completed in the month of June! Kudos to our transplant centers for being so proactive! Covid has really hit the airline industry, and made commercial air transport difficult. The APKD stepped up and met the challenge to get kidneys to their destination with four charted flights.

- APKD KIDNEY MATCH 2.7 Our new software update is now in use worldwide! We are excited about the improvements and advancements, and what this means for kidney patients: better interface and streamlined data entry, plus the ability to create longer chains.

DONOR PROFILE  KRISTEN LOWRANCE

Kristen donated her kidney (on behalf of her father, Gene) to Matthew Lentz a little over a year ago. Although Kristen and Matthew met over Facetime days after the surgery on Easter Sunday, they had not been able to meet face-to-face until May 29, 2020. Matt and his wife Sandra (who donated her kidney on behalf of Matt) were travelling through Nashville, where Kristen lives, and stopped in for a very special visit. “It’s like they’re family now,” says Kristen. “It’s a very rewarding feeling. It was not only a gift for my dad and Matt, it was a gift for me. This is why we are here. This is my purpose.”

“It was like I’ve known him forever.”

CENTER STAGE  DR. OBI EKWENNA TRANSPLANT SURGEON, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Dr. Obi Ekwenna, Assistant Professor of Urology and Transplantation at the University of Toledo, Ohio, is one of APKD’s superstar surgeons. Dr. Obi, as he is known, has an unceasing passion for his work, calling it “fascinating and incredible” to be able to so dramatically improve the lives of kidney patients with the “beautiful gift” of a donated kidney. Being an on-call transplant surgeon is extremely demanding work, but also very rewarding. “It is of course tiring, but when I wake up, I want to do it all over again,” he says. “The APKD helps us match our incompatible donors. The Paired Exchange Program helps us find that needle-in-the-haystack match for these difficult pairs. To be a part of that is amazing beyond words,” says Dr. Obi. “It creates an opportunity from an impossible situation. It’s almost an overwhelming joy when we’re able to facilitate that type of transplant.”

“To be a part of paired exchange is amazing.”

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 for more information.

Celebrating 10 YEARS

The APDK made the first match using our KidneyMatch software in 2010.

Dr. Mike Rees, patient Teresa, Dr. Obi Ekwenna, and Tanya, Teresa’s daughter. This pair from Mexico was part of the APKD’s seventh Global Kidney Exchange. Dr. Obi removed Tanya’s kidney for donation.