

2026

17TH ANNUAL LIVING DONATION CONFERENCE

Innovate, Integrate, Inspire:

Advancing Team Collaboration
in Living Donation and
Transplantation



March 18–20, 2026



**Wyndham Grand
Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek
Orlando, FL**



PURPOSE

This is a training conference on the essential aspects of clinical, psychosocial, advocacy, administrative, financial, quality, and regulatory issues related to living kidney and liver donation. The program provides mainly plenary sessions, and breakout sessions for kidney, liver, and SW/ILDA kidney and liver team sessions for the new and experienced practitioners.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The following team members:

- Independent living donor advocates for all clinical disciplines
- Living donor coordinators, Pre Transplant Coordinators, Social Workers
- Psychologists
- Physicians
- Physician leaders, administrators, and managers for programs with living donor teams
- Quality and compliance staff

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Marie Morgieovich, MSN, APN.C, CCTC,
Course Director**

*RWJ Barnabas Health, Livingston, NJ
AFDT Board of Directors*

Farrah Desrosiers, MS, LCSW, CCTSW

*New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell
Transplant Center
New York, NY*

Laura Madigan McCown, DBE, HEC-C

Maine Medical Center, Portland, ME

Suzanne McGuire, RN, BSN, CCTC

*Clinical Support KPD Consultant, Los Angeles, CA
AFDT Board of Directors*

Gwen McNatt, APRN, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN

University of Iowa Health Care, Iowa City, IA

Samantha Ramirez, DNP, FNP-BC

Keck Medicine of USC, Los Angeles, CA

Marian O'Rourke, RN, BSN

*Miami Transplant Institute,
Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL
AFDT Board of Directors*

Ellen Shukhman, MSN, RN, AMB-BC, CCTC

*Cedars Sinai Comprehensive Transplant Center
Los Angeles, CA*

Andrea Tietjen, MBA, CPA

RWJ Barnabas Health, Livingston, NJ

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

- Applications will be made to the American Board of Transplant Certification for CEPTCs and to the National Association of Social Workers.
- This activity will be submitted to the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses for approval to award contact hours. The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
- If applications are approved, participants must be present for 80% of the sessions they attend, and complete the session survey evaluations to receive educational credits.
- The American Foundation for Donation and Transplantation is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP17331.

ACCOMODATIONS

- The Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort Bonnett Creek
- Set on 62 acres of family-fun, the resort ranks as one of the best hotels near Walt Disney World® Resort. Designed to be the ideal escape, guests enjoy the tranquility of Blue Harmony Spa and the relaxation of the surrounding area of Bonnet Creek.
- Your stay includes a picturesque 10-acre lake surrounded by walking paths, five pools, two lazy rivers, miniature golf, and much more. As a Walt Disney World® Gateway Hotel, they offer scheduled shuttle transportation and advance purchase Theme Park tickets.
- Hotel reservations should be made online via our [website](#) prior to February 17, 2026, to receive the group rate of \$265 plus taxes and fees per night. These rates are available on a space-available basis for the nights of March 17-19, 2026.
- All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. This card will be charged in the event of a cancellation, no-show, or deposit when warranted. Group rates are subject to availability. Hotel cancellation policy requires guests to cancel by 4 pm local time 48 hours before arrival to avoid a penalty fee of one night's room and tax.

OBJECTIVES

- Describe steps to formulate an action plan to improve donor education, streamline donor evaluation processes, and establish long-term donor follow-up care.
- Discuss roles of machine perfusion technologies and living liver donation efforts to coexist and complement transplant efforts to improve patient outcomes.
- Identify barriers and strategies to optimize potential living donors with obesity or metabolic disease risk, utilizing the most modern comprehensive care management tools to understand when such patients can safely donate.
- Identify key socioeconomic and systemic barriers contributing to stagnant living donor rates in the U.S. and propose targeted programmatic innovations to address them.
- Identify programmatic interventions of novel administrative and quality improvement initiatives designed to optimize program efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the overall donor/recipient experience.
- Apply updated, evidence-based donor selection criteria to complex case studies and make justifiable accept/reject recommendations based on the latest medical guidelines and risk assessments.
- Identify common pre- and post-transplant psychiatric challenges in both living donors and recipients and formulate a referral and management strategy for effective psychological support.
- Apply an established ethical framework to a complex donor case study, ensuring all aspects of potential vulnerability are assessed and protected during the evaluation and informed consent process.
- Describe the nuanced balance between medical risk (e.g. long-term renal or hepatic function in the donor) and clinical benefit (e.g. improved recipient outcomes) to facilitate a transparent, evidence-based discussion during donor counseling.
- Identify outreach initiatives aimed at educating local providers and potential patients about the benefits of transplantation and living donation, thereby improving referral rates and awareness.
- Describe innovative strategies to increase living kidney and liver donation at their institution.

OBJECTIVES CONTINUED

- Identify methods to effectively manage recipient expectations regarding the living donation timeline, potential emotional challenges and surgical outcomes, ensuring a more transparent and supportive experience.
- Describe workflows that integrate responsibilities of the recipient-coordinator within the living donor team, streamlining communication and reducing administrative bottlenecks.
- Identify key concepts to operationalize innovative living donor programs such as KPD, ABOi, and Advance/Remote donation to increase patient access to transplant and living donation.
- Describe protocols for integrating PEth (phosphatidylethanol) testing into their alcohol-use assessment, allowing for evidence-based decision-making regarding donor suitability and the timeline for re-evaluation.
- Identify operational changes to streamline the evaluation process and improve the efficiency and scalability of the living donor liver program.
- Review comprehensive, multidisciplinary follow-up care pathway involving medical, surgical, and nursing teams designed to improve long-term donor adherence to follow-up visits and enhance post-donation quality of care.
- Apply a standardized psychosocial assessment template to a living donor case study, effectively utilizing specific interview techniques to identify potential psychological risks, vulnerabilities, and support systems.
- Develop collaborative communication protocol that facilitates professional team responses and conflict resolution strategies for situations where core living donor team members disagree on donor suitability or decline a candidate.
- Evaluate the evidence surrounding eplet matching in living donation and determine the practical steps required to implement eplet analysis as a decision-making tool at their transplant center.
- Discuss key initiatives and recommendations proposed by the AST Living Donor Financial Incentives Taskforce and identify programs to reduce financial barriers to donation.
- Identify successful strategies of excellence from highlighted transplant programs.

Wednesday March 18

Plenary Sessions

7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Breakfast
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Welcome/ Keynote speaker; Strategic Alignment of Recipient Programs: A Key to Expanding Living Donation <i>Meghan Schaub, MPH, CPHQ, Emory University Hospital</i>
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	What is the Role of Living Liver Donation in the Era of Machine Perfusion? <i>Mark Sturdevant, MD, USC Transplant Institute</i>
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM	11:15 AM	Are Obesity and Metabolic Disease a True Barrier to Living Donation? <i>Babak Orandi, MD, PhD, MSc, FACS, FICS, NYU Langone Health</i>
11:15 AM	12:15 PM	Where Have All the Donors Gone? <i>Peter Kennealey, MD, FACS, FICS, University of Colorado Hospital</i>
12:15 PM	1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	3:15 PM	Program Innovations from a Finance, Administrative, and Quality Perspective <i>Andrea Tietjen, MBA, CPA, RWJ Barnabas Health</i> <i>Helen Spicer, RN, Transplant Consultant</i> <i>Meghan Schaub, MPH, CPHQ, Emory University Hospital</i>
3:15 PM	3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Can We Accept this Donor? Exploring Donor Selection Criteria <i>Panel Discussion</i>
5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Welcome Reception 

Thursday, March 19

Plenary Sessions

7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Breakfast
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Management of Psychiatric Issues in Living Donors and Recipients <i>Filza Hussain, MD, FACLP, Stanford Health Care</i>
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	The Living Donor as a Vulnerable Person: Ethical Framework for a Holistic Assessment <i>Lainie Ross, MD, PhD, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry</i>
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM	11:15 AM	Transplant Outreach - Inspiring Awareness to Providers and Patients <i>Christina Psathas, MA, RWJ Baranbas Health</i>
11:15 AM	12:15 PM	Case Studies- Featuring Innovation and Excellence
12:15 PM	1:15 PM	Lunch

ILDA/Social Work Track

1:15 PM	2:15 PM	Psychosocial Assessments: Tools, Techniques, and Templates <i>Laurie Shore, LCSW, CCTCSW, NSW-C, Tampa General</i>
2:15 PM	3:15 PM	Silent Struggles, Spoken Words: Identifying and Supporting the Ambivalent Living Donor Candidate <i>Farrah Desrosiers, MS, LCSW, CCTSW, New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Transplant Center</i>
3:15 PM	4:15pm	Conflict and Collaboration: Team Responses When ILDA or Social Work Decline a Donor/Panel

Thursday, March 19 Continued

Kidney Track

1:15 PM	2:00 PM	Novel Approaches to Increase Living Kidney Donation Case Studies
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	Setting the Stage: Managing Recipient Expectations in the Living Donation Journey <i>Aliza Zubov, RN, BSN, Westchester Medical Center</i>
2:30 PM	2:45 PM	Break
2:45 PM	3:15 PM	Seamless Teamwork: Integrating Recipient Coordinator Role into the Living Donor Team <i>Ellen Shukhman, MSN, RN, AMB-BC, CCTC, Cedars Sinai Comprehensive Transplant Center</i>
3:15 PM	4:15pm	Navigating Pairs Through Complex Options: ABOi, KPD, High PRA, Advance Donation, Remote Direct Donation <i>Kari Rancourt, RN, BSN, CCTC, Hartford Hospital</i>

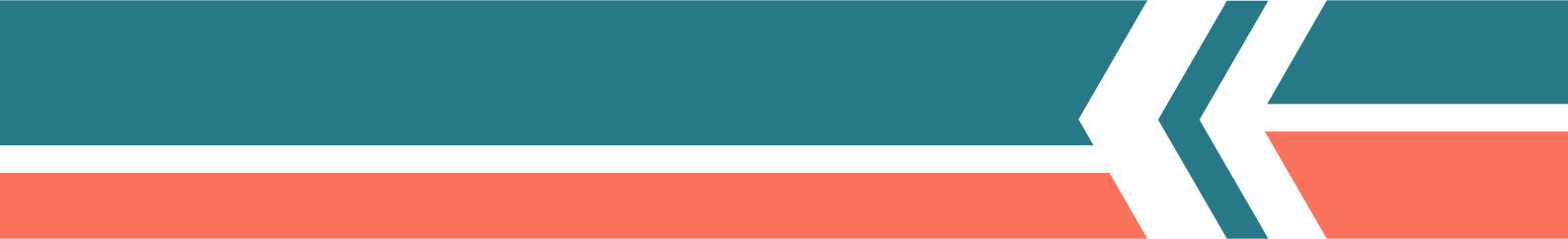
Liver Track

1:15 PM	2:00 PM	Novel Approaches to Increase Living Liver Donation <i>AnnMarie Liapakis, MD, Department of Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine</i>
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	To PEth or Not to PEth? Navigating Alcohol Use in Living Liver Donor Evaluation <i>Samantha Ramirez, DNP, FNP-BC, USC Transplant Institute</i>
2:30 PM	2:45 PM	Break
2:45 PM	3:15 PM	Building a High-Performance Living Donor Liver Program <i>Jaime Cisek, BSN, RN, CCTC, University of Colorado Hospital</i>
3:15 PM	4:15pm	Post Donation Follow Up in Living Liver Donors: Can we Improve Quality of Care? Medical, Surgical & Nursing Perspectives <i>Jaime Cisek, BSN, RN, CCTC, University of Colorado Hospital</i> <i>AnnMarie Liapakis, MD, Department of Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine</i> <i>Mark Sturdevant, MD, USC Transplant Institute</i>

Friday, March 20

Plenary Sessions

7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Breakfast
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Eplet Matching: What's All the Fuss About? Fact, Fiction, Practical Considerations for Implementation at your Center <i>Nicole Ali, MD, NYU Langone Health</i>
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	AST LD Financial Incentive Taskforce: Initiatives to Decrease Barriers and Increase Donations <i>AnnMarie Liapakis, MD, Department of Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine</i>
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	How much is Too Much: Risk v. Reward in Living Kidney Donation and Transplantation <i>Matthew Cooper, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin</i>
11:00 PM	12:00 AM	Living Proof: How One Donor is Transforming Transplant Awareness <i>Trisha Phillips</i>
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	Closing Remarks



Register Today!

- Register with a valid credit card at www.afdt.org. The registration fee for the on-site conference is \$799.
- Registration and payment are required prior to the meeting. Early registration is encouraged.
- Registrations are not refundable after February 1, 2026.

Education Credits

- Educational Credits will be distributed to paid, registered attendees who complete the evaluation survey for each session they attend. The evaluation surveys close on March 27, 2026. If you do not submit the evaluation surveys, you are not eligible to receive AACN Nursing, NASW or ABTC credits.
- Once the survey has closed, it cannot be re-opened. Earned certificates will be emailed to the email address attendees used to register with, on or before March 27, 2026.

Hotel Information

- Hotel reservations should be made online via our [website](#) prior to February 17, 2026, to receive the group rate of \$265 for single or double occupancy plus taxes and fees.

Contact for conference questions:

Madison Knight, Clinical Education Conference Planner,
804-323-9890 or knight@amfdt.org.

