



*“Improving Human Life by Advancing the Field of Transplantation”*

### **Living Donor Consensus Conference**

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation and the AST Live Donor Community of Practice (LDCOP), we commend ACOT for prioritizing discussion of living organ donor care. We write to affirm support of ACOT recommendation 49 to establish methods to track living donor outcomes and facilitate past living donors’ access to care. In addition, we wish to offer background on a recent consensus conference that may shed further light on opportunities to improve education, access, and care for those considering living donation.

The AST LDCOP is a group of clinicians with expertise in living donation formed in 2012. Its mission is to advocate, support and advance knowledge to improve the education and care of the live organ donor. The LDCOP initiated a consensus conference, held June 5-6, 2014, to identify best practices and knowledge gaps pertaining to live donor kidney transplantation and living kidney donation. The meeting aimed to identify:

- Approaches to improve access to donation and live donor kidney transplantation
- Optimal strategies for educating potential living donors about the currently known long-term and short-term risks and benefits of live kidney donation
- Efficiency improvements for living donor evaluation processes
- Ways to reduce and remove financial and systemic barriers to live donation

The consensus conference participants made recommendations for education of clinicians, donors and recipients, improvements in clinical practice, standards for transplant programs, public policy recommendations, and research priorities. These recommendations have been published in the American Journal of Transplantation and an executive summary is enclosed. We also have been working on an extensive dissemination plan to educate key stakeholders about the recommendations and implement change.

Moving forward, we are eager to continue dialogue with all ESRD stakeholders—including past living donors and those with ESRD—on these important issues. Again, thank you to the leadership and members of ACOT for this opportunity to provide public comment on the importance of living donation.

**Presented By:** Rebecca Hays, MSW

*On behalf of the AST Board of Directors and AST Live Donor Community of Practice*