

Organ Donation Challenge Project Guide 2025-2026

American Society of Transplantation | Transplant Pharmacy Community of Practice
Organ Donation Workgroup in collaboration with Student National Pharmaceutical Association



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Overview of Transplant

Organ transplantation is defined as “the moving of an organ from one body to another” or from donor to recipient to replace a malfunctioning organ in the recipient [reference - giftdonor.org]. Many organs can be transplanted and the most common include heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, intestines, and liver. Tissues that can be transplanted include skin, bones, tendons, cornea, heart valves, and veins. Donors may be living or deceased and deceased donors can be pronounced by either brain or cardiac death. Living donors can be relatives, friends, co-workers or even strangers. Deceased donors pronounced by brain death may be organ donors as breathing and blood perfusion are maintained via artificial sources until the time of donation. Lastly, deceased donors pronounced by cardiac death may be organ donors if organs are procured within hours of cessation of the heartbeat or when blood perfusion occurs artificially until organs may be procured.

To be an organ donor, it is important to make your wishes known to your family members. Most states allow you to indicate your wishes when applying for or renewing your driver’s license. Some states even have a denotation on the license. Regardless of this, it is still important to let your family know your wishes as well.

If donation becomes an option for you or a family member, the donated organs will be matched to the best recipient on the transplant list. The definition of “best” varies by organ. In kidney transplantation, for example, it is generally given to the recipient who has a compatible blood type and who has been on dialysis the longest. In liver transplantation, it is generally given to the recipient who has a compatible blood type and who is the sickest or most in need of a transplant.

Remember: to the world you may be just one person, but to one person, you may be the world. Your gift of organ donation may be the difference between life and death for several people with a failing organ.

Why Donation is Important

Currently, there are over 100,000 people waiting for a life-saving organ. Every day, approximately 100 organ transplants occur BUT approximately 17 people die waiting for an organ. Living donors most commonly donate kidneys; some donate livers. Every deceased donor can save up to EIGHT lives by donating their organs [reference - organdonor.gov]

The Organ Donation Challenge

The American Society of Transplantation (AST) Transplant Pharmacy Community of Practice (TxPharm CoP) supports an annual event called “The Organ Donation Challenge”. The Challenge relies on collaboration with pharmacy schools and student chapters of pharmacy professional organizations. You are challenged to design and conduct at least one organ donation event. Events and activities typically occur during April, national Donate Life month, but events and activities may occur at any time.

We encourage you to create a transplant/organ donation interest group and work together with a local transplant pharmacist and/or a representative from your local organ procurement organization (see Appendix A). An organ procurement organization (OPO) is a local organization that is responsible for educating their service area regarding organ donation, facilitating donor registration, and coordinating the donation process for deceased organ donors. OPOs evaluate potential donors, discuss organ donation with surviving family members, and arrange for the surgical removal and transport of donated

organs. To facilitate donor registration, OPOs implement community outreach strategies to encourage people to sign up in their state donor registry. We also encourage collaboration with the Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA) - a nonprofit organization that inspires and supports student-led education and registration efforts on high school, college, and graduate student campuses. Appendix A also has a list of SODA chapters.

Sample events include canvassing your school with flyers or information relating to organ donation, adding a donor tag to your email signature, hosting an organ donation booth at a local health fair, or helping students on campus understand organ donation and register their wish to be an organ donor. It could include inviting someone from the local OPO, a transplant recipient, a living donor, and/or a family member of a deceased donor as a guest speaker. It could involve organizing a continuing education talk or symposium about organ donation. Perhaps arrange a ceremony where you plant trees, bushes or flowers or even have pharmacy students become trained advocates of your regional organ procurement organization. Your creativity is the only limit!

Please follow the AST TxPharm CoP (@ast_txpharmacop) on Instagram for additional information and updates surrounding the challenge!

Grant Support

Veloxis® Organ Donation Challenge Project Grant

Grant Description

The goal of the Organ Donation Challenge (ODC) Project Grant is to provide financial support for pharmacy student groups who are conducting projects through the AST Transplant Pharmacy Community of Practice's Organ Donation Challenge.

Application and Procedures

Pharmacy student groups and their partner AST member (transplant pharmacist or resident) are invited to submit a project proposal that is in line with the goals of the Organ Donation Challenge. The proposal may be related to any aspect of organ donation including but not limited to education or promotion.

Grant Award

Four winners will be selected. Each winner will receive a grant of \$125 to assist in the implementation of the described project proposal. The winner will be announced by **March 13, 2026** and the grant funds will be distributed immediately following. **The grant funds must not be used for activities other than the organ donation awareness challenge.**

Eligibility and Limitations

- Students must be enrolled in a U.S. accredited school of pharmacy.
- At least one member of the project team must be a member of AST. In most cases, this will be the partner transplant pharmacist or a transplant pharmacy resident.
- Each applicant group can submit only one project.

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted electronically via email by **Friday, February 27, 2026 at 23:59 EST**. The application should include the application form, completed, and signed. Applications should be submitted to idris.yakubu@vcuhealth.org.

Evaluation Process

All entries received will be assigned a number and screened for adherence to the application rules. A review panel nominated by the AST Transplant Pharmacy Community of Practice's Organ Donation Workgroup will consider all valid applications. The winning applicants will be selected by the review panel and subjected to approval by the COP's Executive Committee.

Grant Application can be found here: [2026 ODA Grant Application](#)

Awards

The Organ Donation Workgroup offers prizes in four categories:

The Best Overall Project

Awarded to the group who receives the overall highest score. The winner of this category will be featured at the 2025 World Transplant Congress and the winning school will receive an engraved plaque in recognition of their efforts. A monetary prize of \$500 is sponsored by Veloxis Pharmaceuticals is awarded to the Best Overall Project.

Best New Project

Awarded to a school who has not previously submitted a project to the Organ Donation Challenge. The new school with the best new project will be awarded a monetary prize of \$250 sponsored by Veloxis Pharmaceuticals.

Most Sustainable Project

Awarded to a school whose efforts are most likely to be continued on an annual basis. The school will provide justification on how their events are likely to be sustained. The most sustainable project will be awarded a monetary prize of \$250 sponsored by Veloxis Pharmaceuticals.

Best Resident Project

Awarded to the top scoring application with significant resident involvement. In order to apply, the resident who participated will complete the resident submission form and have their AST Champion send a letter via email to Raffaella Troiano (rtroiano@myast.org), Ally Webb (awebb@tgh.org) and Idris Yakubu (idris.yakubu@vcuhealth.org) confirming the resident's involvement. The best resident project will be awarded a \$250 monetary prize sponsored by Veloxis Pharmaceuticals.

Challenge Submission

Applicants must:

1. Have a **pharmacist liaison/collaborator** who a **current member of the AST Transplant Pharmacy CoP**
2. Complete appropriate Google Form below to summarize the challenge event/project
 - a. [Student Submission Form](#)
 - Project will be considered for The Best Overall, Best New Project, and Most Sustainable Project when utilizing this form
 - b. [Resident Submission Form](#)
 - Project will be considered for Best Resident Project when utilizing this form
 - **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:** Resident **MUST** have their **AST Champion send a letter** via email to Raffaella Troiano (rtroiano@myast.org), Ally Webb (awebb@tgh.org) and Idris Yakubu (idris.yakubu@vcuhealth.org) confirming the resident's involvement.

The submission deadline for the 2025-2026 school year is **Friday, May 29, 2026 at 11:59pm PST.** Pictures of events and activities are highly encouraged!

Challenge Evaluation

Best Overall Project and Best New Project Criteria:

1. Creativity
 - i. Individuality (0-10 points)
 - ii. Sustainability (0-2 points)
2. Impact
 - i. Size and outreach (0-10 points)
 - ii. Community effect (1-20 points)
3. Execution
 - i. Multidisciplinary Involvement (0-3 points)
 - ii. Project Coordination (1-15 points)
 - iii. Overall impression (1-10 points)

Most Sustainable Project:

1. Mention of intent to continue project on an interval basis (0-3 points)
2. Explain how this project or a part of this project can be sustained (0-4 points)
3. Significance of continuing project on a regular basis (1-4 points)
4. Community impact (0-4 points)

Best Resident Project:

1. Idea development (1-15 points)
2. Leadership (1-20 points)

All submissions are evaluated by a panel of three impartial judges selected by the AST Transplant Pharmacy CoP Organ Donation Workgroup. Judges will not be eligible for the award and will consider both qualitative and quantitative factors when scoring the projects. The winner will be announced at the American Transplant Congress.

Additional information about the Organ Donation Challenge can be found [online](#). This website can serve as a resource for ideas and it lists members of the organ donation challenge committee that are available to assist with planning, if needed. Note that some information contained on this website only has information available to AST Pharmacy CoP members. Please feel free to contact us at idris.yakubu@vcuhealth.org with any questions.

Pharmacy School Liaisons/Mentors

Found [here](#).

Project Planning Guide

This is a sample timeframe. Timeframes may be adjusted accordingly based on the scope of the project.

Time frame	Task
4 - 6 months <i>Prior to event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide what kind of event to hold and choose a date for your event. Be creative! • Determine needs (e.g. venue, collaborators, permissions) • Determine costs (e.g. rental fees, printing fees) • Build support for your event by including friends, family and professional affiliates in the planning process • Set your budget • Look into the areas where you may need support and see if you can get a sponsor or donation to provide certain items (i.e. food, giveaways, coupons) or to make a financial contribution (pharmaceutical and device companies, local OPO, Donate Life organization, school of pharmacy, local or state pharmacy society, transplant specialty pharmacies, transplant centers, health systems, local businesses, etc.) • Send proposals to individuals or corporations from whom you think you may be able to get support • Request volunteers (number needed, qualifications) through announcements, listserves, or distribution lists • Determine if specific training needed for volunteers (contact OPO!) • Advertise/promote event (i.e. – at transplant centers, health systems, dialysis clinics, physician offices, or schools) • Decide on booth/venue layout (tri-fold, tv, brochures) • Determine what materials are needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables and chairs, tri-fold, tablecloth, extension cord, tv, transplant materials/resources, give-a-ways, sign-up sheet for guests to receive more information, computers to sign up for donation, cameras and

	permission slips to use pictures, food and drinks (can be a good enticement especially with students)
3 months <i>Prior to event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure venue and other vendors Build your guest list Design invitations, flyers, etc. Training of volunteers
1 – 2 months <i>Prior to event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out invitations/ post flyers/emails/facebook or other social media/ school paper ads/ sidewalk chalk ads Contact press (i.e. – school newspaper, local news station, college radio); distribute press release Organize your staff and plan how to execute your event
1 month <i>Prior to event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send details and any final correspondence to your guests Follow up with local media Finalize staffing and schedule
1 day <i>Prior to event</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase food/water for attendees and volunteers
Day of event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update volunteers/staff on event plan and responsibilities Have schedule available for reference Take pictures and or video! Obtaining consent for photography or video is highly recommended. HAVE FUN!!!
After event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send thank you cards

Project Budget Considerations: Invitations, flyers/posters, food/drink, location/venue, decoration, entertainment, gifts/giveaways, set up supplies, miscellaneous expenses.

Past Organ Donation Challenge Projects/Submissions

UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences 2024-2025 Submission

Project Description	<p>Transplant Pharmacist Panel: On February 20, 2025, we hosted a Transplant Pharmacist Panel designed to introduce pharmacy students to the field of transplant pharmacy. Drs. Shirley Tsunoda, Jade Kozuch, Kassandra Fabbri, and, PGY-2 Solid Organ Transplant Resident, Brittany Huynh shared insights from their careers at UC San Diego Health and engaged with the 49 students in attendance by answering their questions. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to understand the critical role transplant pharmacists play within the transplant care team, explore the career paths of each panelist, gain perspective on their daily responsibilities, and hear about the challenges they face. Each pharmacist brought a unique perspective as they specialize in different areas of organ transplantation, thus making the session especially informative.</p>
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Kobey's Swap Meet:

Each quarter, our school's APhA chapter organizes a community outreach event at Kobey's Swap Meet, which draws an average of 8,000 attendees per day. On February 22, 2025, our booth focused on educating the public about organ donation. We engaged with attendees by answering questions, dispelling common myths, distributing brochures and Lifesharing merchandise, and providing detailed explanations about the donation process to those interested in learning more. This year, our committee, along with Dr. Brittany Huynh, collaborated to translate our brochures into Spanish, Vietnamese, Thai, and Farsi, making the information accessible to a broader audience. To celebrate those already registered as donors, we invited them to write their name and donor status on a pink dot and place it on our pink dot poster, symbolizing their commitment to saving lives. We also encouraged attendees to share personal reflections on what organ donation means to them by writing on post-it notes. For those not yet registered, we provided educational brochures and answered their questions to help them make informed decisions. The brochures they took home also contained a QR code to the Donate Life California Registry Sign-Up Portal for convenient access in case they make the ultimate act of kindness to become a donor later.

Lifesharing Organ Donation Lunchtime Talk:

On February 28, 2025, we invited guest speakers from Lifesharing to present an overview of the organ and tissue donation process to an audience of 42 pharmacy students. Mr. Jeffrey Troyano, former lead surgical coordinator at Lifesharing, provided an in-depth explanation of the donation and procurement process from his professional experience in the field. In addition, Dr. Karen Tipler, a donor mom, offered a powerful and personal perspective on how organ donation affected her family. By hearing from both the medical and donor viewpoints, students were able to gain a deeper understanding of the impact organ donation has on our lives and develop greater empathy for those whose lives are touched by it.

Organ Donation Symposium:

On April 21, 2025, we launched Organ Donation Awareness Week with our annual Organ Donation Symposium, an event that brings together students from UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and UC San Diego School of Medicine. This year, we had a total of 45 participants. Our panel of speakers featured heart and liver transplant recipient Lindsay Alano, who shared how organ donation gave her a second chance at life and allowed her to share her story that day; kidney transplant coordinator and donor mom Natalie Gonzalez, who spoke about how the loss of her son profoundly shaped her path as a nurse; recently retired transplant gastroenterologist Dr. Michel Mendler, who reflected on how his career and family history intersected across the U.S. and France, offering unique insights into international approaches to organ donation; and transplant pharmacist Dr. Ashley Feist, who emphasized the dynamic nature of transplant pharmacy and the importance of continuing conversations around donation. Overall, the symposium highlighted the far-reaching emotional and professional impact of organ donation, from recipients and donor families to the healthcare teams involved. Needless to say, there was not a single dry eye amongst our student attendees.

Wear Green or Blue Day Photo:

The green ribbon represents the gift of hope and the selfless act of giving life through organ and tissue donation. Every April during National Donate Life Month, Blue and Green Day is celebrated to raise awareness and inspire public engagement with the Donate Life mission. As part of Organ Donation Awareness Week on April 23, 2025, we invited 208 first-, second-, and third-year pharmacy students to wear blue or green to show their support for organ donation. The photo was then featured on the CSHP-UCSD chapter Instagram account (@cshpatucsd), which reaches 425 followers. This visible solidarity aimed to spark curiosity, prompt conversations, and raise awareness about our cause.

Matcha Fundraiser:

As part of Organ Donation Awareness Week, we organized a matcha latte fundraiser to support a donation to Lifesharing. We received 21 orders from faculty members, staff, and students for our matcha lattes, made with homemade vanilla syrup, and delivered them on April 23, 2025, along with our Wear Green or Blue Day photo campaign. Through this initiative, we raised a total of \$151, which was donated to Lifesharing in support of their mission to serve the greater community.

Organ Donation Lifesharing DMV Outreach:

To conclude Organ Donation Awareness Week, we introduced a brand-new outreach event on April 25, 2025, designed to reach a wider and more diverse audience. While we have traditionally hosted tabling events on UC San Diego's undergraduate campus, this year we shifted our efforts to the underserved community of Chula Vista, where organ donor registration rates are typically lower. In collaboration with Lifesharing, we set up an outreach booth at the Chula Vista DMV, which is an ideal location to engage with individuals as they renew their driver's licenses. Over the course of 4 hours, we connected with approximately 60 people by distributing brochures and informational materials provided by Lifesharing. We also brought our pink dot poster from Kobey's Swap Meet to continue collecting names of registered donors as a visual tribute. In recognition of National Donate Life Month, we honored existing donors and received many heartfelt stories and touching remarks shared by participants. As a token of appreciation, we handed out LifeSaver candies and Lifesharing merchandise to those who stopped by. This meaningful event was made possible through the support of the 2025 Veloxis Organ Donation Challenge Project Grant awarded to us earlier in the year.

Social Media Infographics & Organ Donation Awareness Week Recap:

During Organ Donation Awareness Week, held from April 21 to April 25, 2025, we shared daily social media infographics on the CSHP-UCSD chapter Instagram account (@cshpatucsd), which reaches 425 followers. With the help of our committee members, we also shared posts on our personal Instagram accounts, reaching 17,264 additional followers. Each interactive post highlighted key facts and debunked common myths about organ and tissue donation. To boost engagement, students who commented the correct answers to our trivia quizzes were entered into a daily drawing to win a matcha latte. At the end of the week, we posted a recap featuring photos from our various events. Moving forward, we plan to continue observing Organ Donation Awareness Week every April in a similar fashion. Many of the events we hosted this year will be repeated, as we have built strong partnerships with UC San Diego Health

	<p>professionals and Lifesharing. With continued efforts, we hope to educate more people and contribute to addressing the critical shortage of organ donors.</p> <p>Organ Donation Mobile Pharmacy Outreach: To wrap up the school year, we introduced another new event on May 9, 2025 that was brought to life through our collaboration with Dr. Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir, also known as Dr. JAM, and her Mobile Pharmacy Clinic team. Dr. JAM has been a strong advocate for addressing health disparities, working tirelessly to bridge the gap between the underserved communities in east San Diego County and accessible healthcare. She and her team host a monthly community health and wellness clinic at San Diego County Library in Spring Valley Branch, where they offer services such as blood pressure and glucose screenings, flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, and other health resources. Similar to our previous outreach events, our table featured an informational tri-fold poster and multilingual brochures on organ donation. Over the course of 2 hours, we answered questions from approximately 10 library visitors, dispelled myths about the donation process, distributed Lifesharing materials, and provided detailed explanations of the process to those interested in learning more. We also continued to add names to our pink dot poster from earlier events, further encouraging donor registration. With the help of our committee and the 2025 Veloxis Organ Donation Challenge Project Grant, we were able to design our first-ever committee t-shirts and wore them to represent our school and organization during the event, alongside our preceptor, Dr. Brittany Huynh.</p> <p>Clinical High School Presentations: All 20 members of our committee received training from Christy Heymann, Lifesharing’s High School Outreach Manager, to deliver clinical presentations to high school students. 19 members had the opportunity to observe these clinical high school presentations in action, led by Lifesharing volunteers at various high schools throughout San Diego county. So far, 4 of our members have delivered presentations during 2 class periods at Hoover High School on April 11, 2025. These sessions include true-or-false questions designed to dispel common myths, eye-opening statistics, and a comprehensive overview of the organ procurement process. Each presentation also features a transplant recipient who shares their personal journey and the life-changing impact of organ donation. To date, we have reached approximately 60 high school students, with additional presentations planned through the remainder of the school year.</p>
Total # of events	12 (11 in-person & 1 virtual). Reached ~26,184 people.
Challenges	<p>While this year was a big success, it did not come without its challenges. Launching 2 brand-new events brought some logistical hurdles, such as making sure we followed each location’s rules and procedures. For instance, during our Organ Donation Lifesharing DMV Outreach, we had to work around Lifesharing’s material policy. Later on, we found a good compromise by using their brochures and pamphlets, while still incorporating our own pink dot poster to boost engagement from participants. We also ran into issues with our committee t-shirts, as the company we ordered from asked us to revise the design to meet licensing requirements. Although we hoped to have the shirts ready for Organ Donation Awareness Week, they unfortunately did not arrive until the week after. We, however, were able to represent the t-shirts later that same</p>

	<p>week at our other new event, Organ Donation Mobile Pharmacy Outreach. Looking ahead, we will advise future Chairs to start the design process earlier and to keep those licensing guidelines in mind.</p>
Future Plans	<p>The CSHP-UCSD Organ Donation Committee will begin recruiting new members in the upcoming fall quarter. We will continue the tradition of organizing Organ Donation Awareness Week and collaborating with Lifesharing on high school education initiatives. Most of the events we held this year will be repeated in future years, thanks to the lasting relationships we have built with medical professionals from UC San Diego Health and Lifesharing. We plan to maintain our outreach at Kobey’s Swap Meet at least once per academic year. One strategy that we came up with in order to increase donor registration rates is to have our laptops at outreach sites available for participants to sign up to become donors if they wish to. Additionally, one of our new events, Organ Donation Lifesharing DMV Outreach, had a fantastic turnout, allowing us to engage with many individuals outside the school environment while enjoying conversations with our preceptor and Lifesharing staff. As the school year wraps up, we have transitioned leadership to the new Organ Donation Awareness Committee Chairs, passing along crucial information and encouraging them to make this event a more regular occurrence. We also proposed expanding our outreach by organizing tabling events at other public venues, such as farmers' markets, to engage a wider audience. Through ongoing efforts, our goal remains to educate enough people to help address the organ donor shortage.</p>

Rosevelt University College of Science, Health and Pharmacy 2024-2025 Submission

Project Description	<p>This was the 4th annual Donate Life event at Roosevelt University College of Science, Health, and Pharmacy in Schaumburg, IL, and we are thrilled to submit our project to the Organ Donation Awareness Challenge put forth by the AST Transplant Pharmacy COP. Over 35 students worked in collaboration with their faculty mentor to develop and implement a Donate Life Carnival event to raise awareness for organ donation within our college and community. This year we blended our previous Carnival-themed event with Donate Life America's "Let Life Sing" campaign to create a Rio-inspired Carnival celebration full of color, music, and life. This fusion highlighted the joy of giving life and the rhythm of renewal, capturing the essence of both Carnival and the powerful message of the hope given through organ donation. Herein we describe the activities conducted during the month of April to raise awareness for organ donation.</p> <p>RUCSHP Organ Donor Awareness T-shirts</p> <p>As a team, we designed a T-shirt specific to our college and this year’s theme to raise awareness for organ donation. Over 10 designs were created and submitted by the students for consideration for the T-Shirt design. The final design showcased vibrant Rio-style bird feathers framing the Roosevelt "R" on the front, with a bold "Recycle Your Organs" graphic on the back to promote the message of organ donation. A team of students worked together to make the T-shirts on campus to lower production costs in order to maximize the amount of money raised for charity through T-shirt sales. In total, we sold 26 T-shirts, and the students and faculty wore the shirts during the</p>
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	<p>Donate Life event. Students and faculty will continue to wear these T-shirts on campus and in the community to continue to raise awareness for the importance of organ donation.</p> <p>Gift Basket Fundraiser</p> <p>In addition to raising awareness for organ donation, our class also wanted to continue to have a fundraising component of our event and decided to hold a gift basket drawing at the Donate Life event. Our team solicited donations from the student organizations and faculty to fill 12 gift baskets. Each gift basket was valued at \$30 or more. Tickets were sold for \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. In total, between T-shirts sales and the gift basket raffle, approximately \$300 was raised, and the money was donated to the Gift of Hope Organ Procurement Organization.</p> <p>The Main Event</p> <p>On Thursday, April 24, 2025, the students at RUCSHP hosted a Donate Life Rio-inspired Carnival on campus to raise awareness of organ donation. Approximately 50 students and faculty attended the event, and those that purchased T-shirts prior to the occasion showed support by wearing the RU donor shirts to the event. The highlight of the event was our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Drew Silverman, PharmD, who shared his inspirational experiences with organ donation and transplantation, as well as his journey as a transplant pharmacist. Dr. Silverman captured the audience’s attention by discussing his challenges as a transplant recipient, his firsthand experience of being the beneficiary of organ donation and left the students with an inspirational message about the impact they can make in a patient’s life just by raising awareness. Other activities available to engage the attendees consisted of trivia games (including a trivia wheel and balloon dart trivia), “Nest Pong,” a game where students had to try and land the bird egg in a nest to win a prize, birdhouse decorating, a photo booth, popcorn bar and pizza. Most importantly, the event served as a meaningful opportunity for attendees to register as organ donors. We hosted an organ donor table featuring trivia designed to dispel common myths about organ donation, alongside two computer stations where individuals could sign up on the spot. A “donor tree” allowed students, faculty, and staff who were registered organ donors to write their names on paper birds and add them to the tree—creating a powerful visual display of community support. Additionally, we distributed handouts with a QR code linking directly to the National Donate Life Registry, making it easy for attendees to take action and register. While we were only successful in signing up 3 additional donors during the event, we identified that at least 25 of those in attendance were registered organ donors.</p>
Total # of events	1
Challenges	<p>In years past, this event was planned by the students of a Transplant Elective offered at the College, which allowed weekly check-ins on planning details. However, due to our college undergoing semester conversion during the 2024-2025 academic year, the elective was unable to be offered this year. Therefore, student volunteers for the event were members of two different cohorts of students, which made scheduling planning meetings and activities around coursework and exams challenging. We also are still</p>

	having a difficult time engaging our organ procurement organization colleagues, and we will this will make the event even more successful in the future if we are able to collaborate with them.
Future Plans	This event gets bigger and better every year! The Transplant Elective will be offered again in the 2025-2026 academic year, and it will be offered in the fall. So, there will be ample time to plan and execute this event for next year. We are also hopeful this will allow us to engage our colleagues at the Gift of Hope to see if they are interested in participating in future events. Finally, we would like to potentially explore the idea of engaging other Chicagoland area pharmacy schools into creating a bigger event across multiple schools to raise awareness. With the large number of transplant centers and pharmacy schools in our area, there is plenty of potential to expand our reach with these events.

Additional Resources

- Organ Donation
 - <http://www.organdonor.gov>
- Information on National Events
 - <https://www.organdonor.gov/professionals/observances>
- Free posters, brochures, videos
 - <http://www.donatelifeamerica.com/>
 - <http://donatelifenet.com/spread-the-word/>
- Living Organ Donation:
 - <http://transplantliving.org/living-donation/being-a-living-donor/>
- Organ Procurement Organizations
 - Local OPOs are listed next to your school name in the Pharmacy School Liaisons/Mentors [document](#) and are a tremendous resource for information, brochures, and donate life give away items
 - <https://www.organdonor.gov/get-involved/volunteer>
- Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA)
 - <https://www.sodanational.org/>

FAQs

1. Do I have to be a member of AST?
 - No, but the sponsor must be a member of the TxPharm CoP
2. When is the deadline?
 - **Friday, May 29, 2026, at 11:59pm PST**
3. How do I submit?
 - Complete appropriate submission form
 - i. [Student Submission Form](#)
 - ii. [Resident Submission Form](#)

4. What types of events should I organize?
- Tabling on campus or at a local event
 - Lunch and learn
 - Trivia night at a local restaurant
 - Fundraiser
 - Survey
 - Podcast
 - Social media posts

Past Award Recipients

2011: University of Wisconsin- Madison School of Pharmacy

2012: University of Wisconsin- Madison School of Pharmacy

2013: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

2014: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

2015:

- Best Overall- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Best New Project- St. Louis College of Pharmacy

2016:

- Best Overall- University of Wisconsin- Madison School of Pharmacy
- Best New Project- Northeastern University

2017:

- Best Overall- University of San Diego
- Best New Project- University of Buffalo
- Most Sustainable Project- Temple University
- Best Resident Project- Ann Dao/Temple University

2018:

- Best Overall- University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy
- Best New Project- Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy – East Tennessee
- Most Sustainable- Temple University
- Best Resident Project- Elisabeth Kincaide/ University of the Incarnate World

2019:

- Best Overall- University of San Diego
- Best New Project- University of the Incarnate World
- Best Resident Project- Kelsey Klein/University of the Incarnate World

2020: Postponed due to COVID-19

2021:

- Best Overall- University of California San Diego
- Best New Project- High Point University
- Most Sustainable- Temple University School of Pharmacy
- Best Resident Project- Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

2022:

- Best Overall- Temple University School of Pharmacy
- Best New Project- University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Best New Project- Roosevelt University College of Science, Health and Pharmacy
- Most Sustainable- Temple University School of Pharmacy

2023:

- Best Overall - University of Illinois Chicago
- Best New Project - Rosalind Franklin
- Most Sustainable - University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy

2024:

- Best Overall Project – University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy
- Best New Project – UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Most Sustainable Project – Roosevelt University College of Science, Health and Pharmacy

2025:

- Best Overall Project - University of California San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy
- Best New Project - Feik School of Pharmacy
- Most Sustainable Project - University of California San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy
- Most Sustainable Project - Roosevelt University College of Science, Health and Pharmacy