



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Colleagues,

Welcome to the very first issue of our society's biannual newsletter, MyTransplant. We are excited to kick things off by highlighting the key events and milestones from the past six months.

In this issue, you will get an inside look at the amazing achievements and gatherings of our community. We hope you enjoy reminiscing about these moments as much as we did putting it all together. We would love to hear your feedback and ideas for future issues.

A big congratulations to the editorial team for the exceptional efforts in creating the first issue of MyTransplant. Your dedication, creativity, and teamwork have made this initiative a reality. Here's to many more informative, inspiring issues ahead!

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Let's keep pushing the boundaries and making a difference together!

Best,

Dr Mohamad Zaimi Abdul Wahab
President
Malaysian Society of Transplantation



MST'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY: *Revitalizing Online Presence*

On 22 July 2024, MST proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary. This milestone event brought together members, partners, and stakeholders to honor three decades of advancements and dedication in the field of transplantation.

As part of the celebration, MST also relaunched its official Facebook and X page. Members were encouraged to follow us on this platform to stay connected for the latest updates, news, and events in transplantation.

Join our online community and be part of the conversation!



We Don't Want to Miss You!

Keep us updated with your valid email address and telephone number at malaysiatransplantation@gmail.com so you stay in the loop.

Cheers!

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr Koong Jun Kit

Section Editor:
Dr Premela Naidu Sitaram

Managing Editor:
Mr (Dr) Vijayan Manogran

Design & Layout:
Azham

Editorial Insights

Hey Everyone!

Welcome to the first issue of MyTransplant - the biannual newsletter of the Malaysian Society of Transplantation (MST)!

We are super excited to share the latest news, updates, and stories from our world of organ transplantation. This newsletter is all about keeping our awesome community informed and engaged, highlighting the fantastic work being done by MST and our members.

In this inaugural issue, we have packed it with activities and events from the past six months, so you can catch up on everything that has been happening.

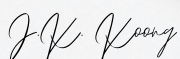
We're all about spreading awareness, helping our pros get even better, and keeping things ethical. Through MyTransplant, we hope to inspire, inform, and connect with you, creating a lively community passionate about saving lives.

Big thanks to our awesome editorial team for all their hard work in bringing this newsletter to life. Your creativity and dedication are truly appreciated, and we can't wait to see what future issues have in store.

Readers, we would love to hear from you! If you have any stories or articles you would like to share, feel free to contribute to our newsletter. Let's make MyTransplant a true reflection of our vibrant community.

Thanks for being part of the MST family. Stay connected, share your stories, and join us in our mission to make a difference. Here's to a bright future filled with hope, life, and continued success in transplantation.

Happy reading!



Dr Koong Jun Kit, Editor-in-Chief

In the next issue you can expect:

Expert Spotlight

News & Updates

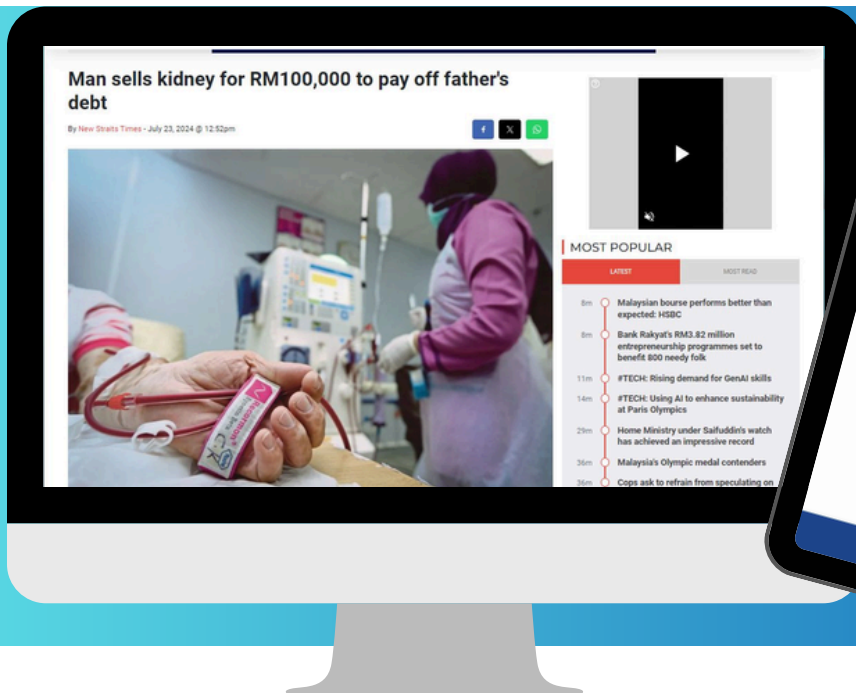
Past Events &
Activity Highlights

Research and
Advancements

Member
Contributions

Announcements

What's In the News?



MST STRONGLY CONDEMNS UNLAWFUL KIDNEY SALE: UPHOLDING ETHICAL STANDARDS IN TRANSPLANTATION

On July 23, 2024, a disturbing news report emerged regarding a man who sold his kidney for RM200,000. In response, MST acted swiftly to address this grave issue. We issued a firm statement condemning the illegal act and lodged a police report at Dang Wangi Police Station.

Our statement underscored that the sale of organs is a direct violation of the Declaration of Istanbul, which Malaysia has committed to upholding. This declaration explicitly condemns the commercialization of organ transplants and underscores the importance of ethical practices in transplantation.

Allowing the sale of organs not only undermines these international standards but also poses significant dangers to society. It exploits vulnerable populations, perpetuates inequality, and can lead to severe health complications for both donors and recipients. By condoning such practices, we risk creating a market where human lives are commodified, leading to increased human trafficking and unethical medical practices.

Additionally, it came to light that a Facebook page was dedicated to facilitating this illegal trade. Following the news report, the page was subsequently deleted.

In an interview with the national TV station RTM1, our president addressed the serious risks associated with illegal organ trade. He reiterated MST's commitment to ethical transplantation practices and called for stringent measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

We also urged the Ministry of Health to investigate these claims thoroughly to address and prevent any unethical practices within the healthcare system, maintaining public trust and ensuring the safety and well-being of all Malaysians.

Our swift actions highlight MST's dedication to maintaining ethical standards and protecting the integrity of organ transplantation in Malaysia. We remain committed to promoting safe, ethical practices within our healthcare system.



THE 27TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF TRANSPLANTATION (ASMMST) 2024

The 27th ASMMST 2024, chaired by Dr. Ho Kim Wah, was held at two different venues and became an amazing event that brought together the transplant community.

PRE-CONGRESS

The event kicked off on May 9, 2024, at SunMed Convention Centre, Sunway Medical Centre, Sunway City, with two workshops: Haematology - "Post HSCT Complications: A Focus On GVHD, Infection, Organ Injury"; and Donation & Procurement - "Selection of Deceased Donor: What To Look For and Optimize?"

MAIN CONGRESS

The main congress took place on May 10 and 11, 2024, at Le Meridien Putrajaya, with the theme "Turning the Tide." The event was officiated by Datuk Dr. Nor Fariza binti Ngah, Deputy Director-General of Health (Research and Technical Support), and saw a fantastic turnout of 362 attendees.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS

There were six scientific tracks lined up: Hemato, Kidney, Liver, Heart/Lung, Cornea, and Donation & Procurement, with a diverse group of 59 speakers, including 7 international experts from Australia, China, and Singapore. A tailored session covering economics, leadership, ethics, a country case study, and effective communication, was a hit and well-received by the participants.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

MST awarded outstanding achievements and contributions for two categories:

BEST TEAM 2023

ORGAN & TISSUE PROCUREMENT

First Place

Hospital Melaka

Second Place

Hospital Queen Elizabeth

Third Place

Hospital Sungai Buloh

BEST FREE PAPER AWARD

First Prize

"Donor-Derived Cell-Free DNA Among Allograft Biopsy At University Malaya Medical Centre"
Assoc. Prof. Dr Maisarah Jalalonmuhali

Second Prize

"Predictive Value of Kidney Donor Profile Index with Allografts' Function and Survivals in Malaysia"

Dr Tee Meng Kang

Third Prize

"Outcomes of ABO Incompatible Kidney Transplantation in a Single Centre in Malaysia."
Dr Tan Wen Hao

APPRECIATION TO INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Big thank you to all sponsors - Astellas, Novartis, Roche, GSK, AxxessBio, Camber Laboratories,, Lazcorp, and Duopharma - for supporting and contributing to the success of the 27th ASMMST 2024.





BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF MST

The Biennial General Meeting (BGM) of the Malaysian Society of Transplantation (MST) was held on May 10, 2024 at Le Meridien Putrajaya, in conjunction with the 27th ASMMST. The meeting saw enthusiastic participation from members.

During the meeting, the two-year term of the current council concluded, and an election for new council members then followed. The voting process was conducted, and after the votes were tallied, the new lineup of council members was proudly announced.

This transition brings fresh energy and ideas to MST as we continue our mission to advance the field of transplantation and improve patient outcomes.

The successful BGM highlighted our commitment to democratic processes and member involvement, ensuring that MST remains a vibrant and forward-looking organization.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL 2024-2026

PRESIDENT

Dr Mohamad Zaimi Abdul Wahab

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr Haniza Omar

HONORARY SECRETARY

Assoc.Prof.Dr Maisarah Jalalonmuhal

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr (Dr) Vijayan Manogran @ Manoharan

HONORARY TREASURER

Dr Chandramalar T Santhirathelagan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr Ho Kim Wah

Dr Premela Naidu Sitaram

Dr Hasdy Haron

Dr Leong Swee Wei

Dr Muhammad Iqbal Abdul Hafidz

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

(subsequent appointment)

Dr Koong Jun Kit

Dr Ailin Mazuita Mazlan

Ms (Dr) Suryasmi Duski

Dr Koh Hui Beng



MONTHLY WALK FOR TRANSPLANT AWARENESS

Wira Transplant Malaysia, together with MST and Rotary Club Melawati, had successfully organized a series of Monthly Walk for Transplant on every last Sunday morning of the month at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur. The walks aimed to raise awareness about organ transplant, the critical importance of organ donation and to encourage more people to pledge as donors. The events gradually attracted a diverse group of supporters, including transplant recipients, medical professionals, and members of the general public.

Highlight of the program was a much-awaited walk joined by the Health Minister, YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkiyly Ahmad on 27th October 2024.

Building on the success at Tasik Titiwangsa, the walks were also held in other locations in Kota Kinabalu (first Sunday), Penang (second Sunday) and Seremban (third Sunday).



VARSITY P.U.L.S.E

MST, supported by the Department of Higher Education (JPT) and the National Transplant Resource Center (NTRC), organized the Varsity P.U.L.S.E (Pledge for Urgent Life-Saving Efforts) program. This university-level campaign aimed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation as a life-saving effort by engaging youth, particularly university students, through educational campaigns and events. By fostering a deeper understanding of organ donation, the program sought to increase the number of registered donors, thereby saving more lives.

The program kicked off in August 2024, involving public and private universities nationwide, and concluded in November 2024.





ADVANCED COURSE IN ORGAN DONATION & TRANSPLANTATION MEDICINE

MST, supported by the National Transplant Resource Centre (NTRC), and Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) had successfully organized the 2024 edition of Advanced Course in Organ Donation & Transplantation Medicine.

The program consists of a self-paced learning phase, followed by a three-day training workshop. The workshop took place at Mercure Selayang & Faculty of Medicine, UiTM Selayang Campus.

OBJECTIVE

The program's objectives were to enhance expertise and skills, emphasize ethical and legal mastery, and cultivate effective interdisciplinary teamwork among participants.

ATTENDANCE

The educational program was attended by 69 healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds across the country.

SELF-PACED LEARNING / ONLINE MODULES

Participants engaged in self-paced learning/ online modules from September 30 to October 16, 2024. They were required to watch seven pre-recorded lecture videos on their respective release dates and complete the post-tests that followed each video.

THREE-DAY WORKSHOP

From October 18 to 20, 2024, the course culminated in a three-day workshop focusing on practical and interactive sessions. The entire course not only provided comprehensive knowledge but also emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork and effective communication among healthcare professionals.

APPRECIATION

MST extends its gratitude to all participants, instructors, and the sponsor - Astellas Pharma Malaysia - for their support in making this program a resounding success. The course reinforced the commitment to ethical transplantation practices and the continuous improvement of organ donation and transplantation processes in Malaysia.



ORGANS FOR LOVE 2024 - CHARITY BUBBLE RUN

On October 20, 2024, the Charity Bubble Run, organized by the Universiti Malaya Medical Society and supported by the Malaysian Society of Transplantation (MST) and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), was held at UM Arena, University Malaya. The event drew participants from all walks of life who united to support organ donation.

The event not only raised funds but also created awareness about the importance of organ donation. Tickets were priced at RM70 per person and profits from the event were donated to transplant patients at PPUM, providing much-needed support to those awaiting or recovering from organ transplants.

The event featured a fun and vibrant atmosphere, with participants enjoying the unique experience of running through a bubble-infused course. The support and enthusiasm from the participants highlighted the community's dedication to promoting organ donation and saving lives.



TRANSPLANT ETHICS FORUM: INSIGHTS FROM THE IRANIAN MODEL FOR ORGAN DONATION & TRANSPLANTATION

On November 22, 2024, the Transplant Ethics Forum was held at the National Transplant Resource Center (NTRC). Organized by Clinical Ethics Malaysia in collaboration with MST and NTRC, the event brought together 50 invited healthcare professionals to discuss the ethical challenges in organ donation and transplantation.

The forum focused on sharing experiences of ethical challenges in various settings and exploring the role of ethics in addressing these issues. A notable presentation was given by Dr. Ehsan Shamsi Gooshki, Associate Professor at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, who shared insights on the



unique Iranian model of organ donation and transplantation. MST President, Dr Mohamad Zaimi joined as a panelist, contributing valuable perspectives to the discussion.

Overall, the event provided advanced insights for healthcare professionals, emphasizing the importance of ethics in organ donation and transplantation practices.



STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON IMPROVING TRANSPLANTATION IN MALAYSIA



On November 30, 2024, a crucial meeting aimed at improving transplantation services in Malaysia was held at Hotel Le Meridien, KL Sentral. The meeting that was initiated by MST gathered key stakeholders across sectors to discuss, plan, and advance collaborative efforts to enhance transplantation services in the country.

The meeting commenced with opening remarks and presentation of the current state of transplantation in Malaysia by MST President, Dr Mohamad Zaimi Abdul Wahab. This was followed by lengthy discussions and experience sharing on the challenges and opportunity for growth, and successful models and best practices.

A brainstorming session was held in small groups focusing on key areas for improvement: Public Awareness and Education, Policy and Funding, Medical and Technical Resources, and Patient and Family Support. Each group prepared proposals and ideas within these areas, then presented their recommendations.

The meeting was a significant step towards addressing the challenges and enhancing transplantation services in the country. The collaborative efforts and insights shared during the meeting provided a strong foundation for creating actionable solutions that address both immediate and long-term goals.



DCD PROTOCOLS DEVELOPMENT MEETING

On December 7, 2024, a meeting was held at Aloft Hotel Kuala Lumpur to discuss the development of protocols for Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD). This meeting brought together experts from various healthcare sectors who play a pivotal role in this initiative.

Currently, deceased organ transplantation in Malaysia is conducted only through brain death, as there has yet to be a protocol in place for DCD. The primary objective of this meeting was to formulate a DCD protocol that aligns with current practice standards, ensuring the process is safe and effective. Ultimately, the aim is to expand organ transplantation to include DCD, thereby increasing the organ donation rate and reducing the waiting list for patients awaiting transplants, particularly kidney and liver.

The meeting centered on several key areas, with discussions and presentations by different groups:

- Group 1: DCD donor selection criteria
- Group 2: WLST decision and EOL management
- Group 3: ICU donor coordination
- Group 4: Operating room coordination
- Group 5: Organ retrieval and preservation

This collaborative effort will pave the way for more comprehensive and ethically sound DCD protocols, enhancing organ donation practices in Malaysia and saving more lives.

What Say You?



Dr. Koong Jun Kit is one cool General & Hepatobiliary Surgeon based at Thomson Hospital, Kota Damansara. With over 20 years of experience, he is an expert in liver, pancreas, and gallbladder surgeries. He's also passionate about organ donation and liver transplantation, making him a true rockstar in his field.



INCREASING TRANSPLANTS: PRIORITIES AND INSIGHTS

by: JK Koong

Organ transplantation is a life-saving procedure, but its success hinges on two key pillars: public awareness and transplant coordinators. As the saying goes, "No Organs, No Transplant."

The recently concluded Advanced Course in Organ Donation and Transplantation Medicine 2024, organized by MST-NTRC-UiTM, brought these priorities into focus. This year, 70 participants from all over Malaysia came together for the three-day event, marking it as the second significant course after the ODISSeA in 2020. The program is set to become an annual flagship event, fostering the development of expertise and teamwork in this vital field.

TRANSPLANT COORDINATORS: THE UNSUNG HEROES

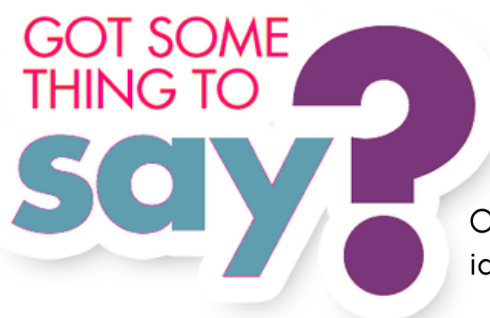
Transplant coordinators were celebrated during the course as the backbone of organ donation and transplantation efforts. Their teamwork, creativity, and enthusiasm stood out, showing how critical their role is in driving the transplantation process. It was equally encouraging to see a new cohort of enthusiastic trainers stepping into this space, ensuring the sustainability and growth of this specialty.

THE GOLDEN QUESTION: IS THERE A FUTURE FOR THIS FIELD?

The reality for the unsung heroes—doctors and paramedics—working in this field is that recognition and reward are closely tied to the number of organ donors increasing. As organ donation numbers grow, it becomes impossible for stakeholders and policymakers to ignore the importance of this specialty.

For these dedicated professionals, a brighter future lies in boosting donor numbers through sustained public awareness campaigns and strengthening the capacity of transplant coordinators. Together, these efforts can transform lives, enhance recognition for the field, and build a robust foundation for organ donation and transplantation in Malaysia.

Let's work together for a better tomorrow in transplantation.



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!
Contribute to "What Say You?". Send your ideas to malaysiatransplantation@gmail.com

**COMING
SOON**



28th
asmmsst

2025

22 - 24 May

M World Hotel, Petaling Jaya



compassion to cure: the transplant journey

call for abstract

deadline for submission **10 APRIL 2025**

SECRETARIAT | E: mst.congress@gmail.com | T: +6018-3230952

MyTransplant My_Transplant asmmsst.com.my