

From: FAIR Foundation [mailto:fair@dc.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 07, 2008 10:38 AM
To: Mark Muckenfuss (mmuckenfuss@PE.com) Riverside, CA Press Enterprise Reporter
Cc: 'Bryan Stewart'
Subject: Inland-area transplant centers defend priorities, say sickest patients get organs first

RE: Your story, "[Inland-area transplant centers defend priorities, say sickest patients get organs first](#)"

Dear Mark,

I invite you to visit our national template letter co-signed by many eminent physicians and organ-donor advocates in support of trial projects of new OD policies to reverse America's organ-donor crisis. You may view it [here](#).

I am respectfully requesting that you discuss with your fellow reporters the regular use of the adjective "crisis" in any story relating to organ donation. Until reporters and those within UNOS and the OPO's start using this word regularly along with the fact that almost 100,000 dying patients are waiting—a number that continually rises—and one of those patients does die, on average, every [82 minutes](#), the status quo will not change.

You quoted my friend at OneLegacy, Bryan Stewart, as saying "The system works." The rest of the sentence was omitted, "but the truth is that our country's organ-donor policies of "altruism" and organ-donor Collaboratives are failing miserably in meeting the demand for organs."

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: [Past National Public Citizen of the Year \(NASW\)](#)
 President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#), a national organization with thousands of members and supporters whose goal is to reverse inequities in NIH research funding and to institute [new organ-donor policies](#) to reverse America's organ-donor crisis
 Founder: [The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group](#)
 Author: [Coma Life](#), an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3 liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)
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Disease	2007 NIH Research \$	Deaths Per Disease	\$ Per Patient Death	\$ Per Patient
HIV/AIDS	2.9 Billion	14,016	\$ 206,906	\$ 3,052
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,639	\$ 29
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817	\$ 13,365	\$ 39
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	721,696	\$ 8,828	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
COPD**	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
All Cancers	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
West Nile Virus	56 Million	121	\$ 462,809	\$ 15,564

** COPD = Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Statistics derived from the CDC & NIH facts. See: <http://www.fairfoundation.org/factslinks.htm>
[Fourteen million](#) Americans have impaired vision. [702 million is spent on "eye disease" research](#), which is only \$50 per patient.

Join the FAIR Foundation today: <http://fairfoundation.org/join.htm> (free)
[NIH Orphan Drug Allocation of \\$1.2 Billion](#) for 6000 diseases equals only \$200,000, on average, for research on each disease