



Lifelines

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Transplant Recipients International Organization, Inc.

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TRIO Holds 2008 Symposium in St. Louis, MO, September 25-27, 2008

TRIO joined with the International Transplant Nurses Society (ITNS) on September 25-27, 2008, at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, for an exciting Symposium filled with educational workshops, stimulating panel debates and discussion, along with exceptionally informative speaker sessions. Transplant recipients joined more than 400 transplant nurses from 17 countries around the world to share experiences, personal time and educational adventures.

The TRIO program allowed time for each speaker to present information and then open the floor for a question and answer session. Many participants expressed their appreciation for the amount of time allowed for the Q&A sessions and were pleased with the informative responses of the session leaders.

Thursday's program opened with a TRIO session of welcome and introduction, followed by a presentation by Richard Darling, DDS, discussing the ethical issues in bio-medical research funding and America's organ donor crisis. Dr. Darling is the President and CEO of the Fair Foundation.

Linda Cheatham, CPA, (President of TRIO National Capital Area Chapter) and TRIO's liaison to the Washington, DC, Transplant Roundtable, then presented a detailed discussion of what Congress is doing about transplantation, reviewing all legislative bills currently in the House and Senate. Ms. Cheatham also shared information about recently passed and currently proposed legislation and its effect on transplantation, present and future.

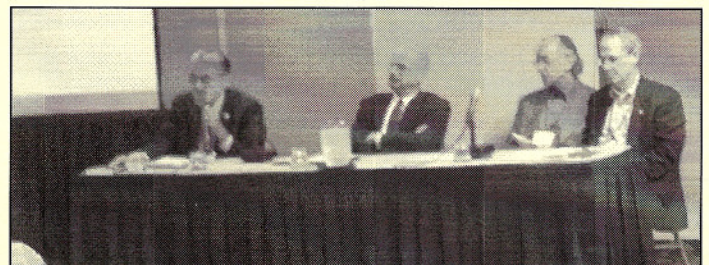
At the ITNS/TRIO luncheon on Thursday, Susan Morgan, PhD, Associate Professor of Communications at Purdue University, presented an informative and entertaining video of many of today's popular television programs and the program's MIS-interpretation of transplant facts. Dr. Morgan also shared methods through which she and her colleagues counter the inac-

curacies of television portrayals. She then offered methods for the attendees to participate in correcting erroneous presentations on TV.

On Thursday afternoon, Stacy Bower, RN, a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with the UCLA Health System led an informative discussion about depression in post transplant patients.

Thursday sessions ended with an emotionally filled informal donor family session led by Tom and Joanne Kasprzak, donor parents. Tom and Joanne were joined by Kerry Keenan, the recipient of a heart donated after the Kasprzak's daughter died of a massive stroke. The beautiful, emotional sharing and openness of Tom, Joanne and Kerry was deeply meaningful to all who attended the session.

TRIO's Friday morning session was filled with a very spirited debate on the pro's and con's of financial incentives to increase organ donation. Gabriel Danovitch, MD, UCLA Transplantation Program; Richard Darling, DDS; Thomas Falsey of Bayer Healthcare; and Thomas Peters, MD, Transplant Services at Shands Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, expressed strong opinions on each perspective of the issue. The audience excitedly participated in the discussion. Attendees were expressive and verbal, contributing to a very exciting session, sharing and discussion.



"The Pro's and Con's of Financial Incentives to Increase Organ Donation" panel participants (left to right): Richard Darling, DDS; Thomas G. Peters, MD; Gabriel Danovitch, MD; Thomas Falsey, Bayer Healthcare.

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