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Message from the Chief Clinical Officer

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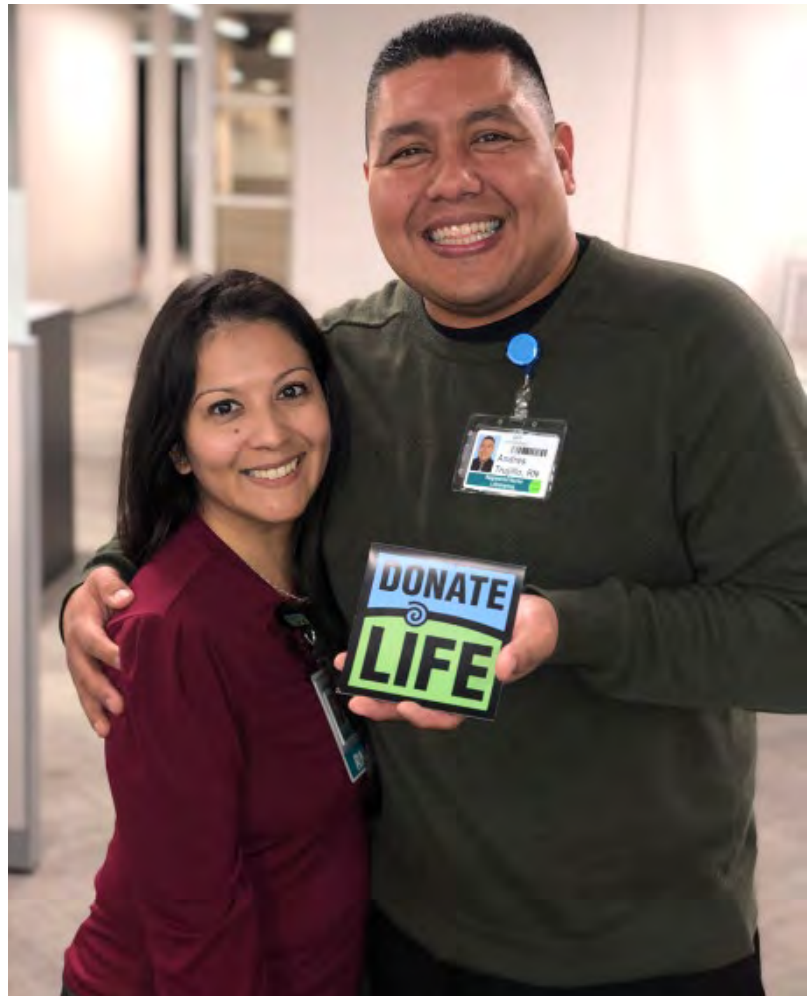


Message from the The Chief Clinical Officer

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2020 UC San Diego Nursing Journal on the topic of Transplantation. It is fascinating to learn about the variety of different transplant procedures provided and the roles that nurses perform in to provide these services at UC San Diego. We are forerunners in transplant services for the county with a long legacy of kidney, liver, heart, lung and pancreas transplants. Nurses perform roles as transplant coordinators, advanced practice nurses, extracorporeal membrane oxygenator and ventricular assist device specialists, and inpatient and ambulatory care clinical nurses.

LIFESHARING

UC San Diego supports Lifesharing, the organ procurement organization (OPO) for San Diego and Imperial Counties. Lifesharing was founded in 1973 (as the Organ and Tissue Acquisition Center) to facilitate donors for the UC San Diego kidney transplant program and burn center. Currently Lifesharing is led by Lisa Stocks. Lisa worked as a registered nurse procurement coordinator in the 1990s and returned in 2003 as Executive Director. Lifesharing is one of 58 federally designated OPOs and facilitates the donation of organs for the approximately 113,000 people on the national organ transplant waiting list, including more than 2000 waiting for a life-saving organ here in San Diego. Lifesharing is consistently ranked as one of the top organ procurement organizations in the country recording a record number of organ donors recovered and organs transplanted for the last 4 years in a row. Our organ procurement team members are edge



Corina Manzo and Andres Trujillo

runners in creating new and innovative approaches to improve the experience of the donor families, donor hospital staff and transplant teams. For instance, UC San Diego Lifesharing developed a process for use of VPN technology to share organ images with transplant centers rather than using outdated and risky facsimile transmissions. This new approach sped up the process with which a transplant center could evaluate a potential organ for their recipient. The images were of higher quality through VPN and provided receiving centers with more confidence

in the suitability and function of the organs. Recently, Lifesharing has focused on increasing use of Hepatitis C positive organs, which has decreased transplant wait times, increased numbers of transplants and survival to transplant. Due to the changes in treatment availability for Hepatitis C, hearts and lungs are now considered viable where they were once not eligible. Another unique contribution our team has made to advance the profession is to streamline the process for organ procurement organizations to list and consider use of a previously transplanted heart from a



Back row: Allison White, Brian Amaral, Charles Wainaina, me, Andres Trujillo, Haley Dragoo
 Front Row: Andrea Vazquez, Kim Metz, Lisa Stocks, Debbie Woods, Amanda Cole

recipient who has died. The interesting piece of the puzzle is that the organ must be listed as the age of the original ‘owner’ of the organ which can increase the chances that it will be considered for re-transplantation since donors are often younger than transplant recipients, thereby increasing chance of survival of an additional recipient. Using a heart in more than one recipient has only been accomplished twice in the United States in the last decade and both were facilitated by the UC San Diego Lifesharing team. Lifesharing is housed in a beautiful building in Mission Valley and decorated with art donated by two artists from San Diego. There are 13 organ procurement coordinator registered nurses led by Jeff Trageser MS RN, Clinical Director for Lifesharing.

OUR HISTORY

I originally wanted to write this preface with special information about our history

as a transplant center, giving tribute to those who started these services over time. UC San Diego is only 50 years old, and you would have thought this would have been an easy and rewarding task; however, we were unable to find the first nurses to serve with our liver, heart, kidney, pancreas and lung transplant teams. The founding surgeons have moved on, and the current teams do not have a recorded history. I did learn that Mikki Masteller, RN, was one of the two first transplant/organ coordinators for UC San Diego Lifesharing in the early 1970s.

This brings me to a new ‘quest’ and ‘ask’. Every nurse at UC San Diego serves within a special team providing unique and exemplary services to our community. It would be an honor if each of our teams could trace back their legacy to find the first nurses who served as managers, educators, advanced practice nurses, nurse specialists, and clinical nurses. When a new service starts, there

is always a nurse responsible for securing the right equipment, staff, protocols, and expectations for nursing care of the patients. Who were these nurses who set the stage for each of our existing programs? Recognizing and honoring those who came before us, while creating a record of our accomplishments along the way, will help to bolster our identity as the special UC San Diego nurses that we are. Please consider with your teams and let me know of your progress.

With Gratitude,

MARGARITA BAGGETT, MSN, RN
 CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER