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Solid Organ Transplant at UC San Diego

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As the Administrator for the Organ Transplant Service Line at the University of California, San Diego Medical Center, and I am especially pleased to provide an introduction for this edition of the UC San Diego Journal of Nursing. The programs that make up the UC San Diego - Center for Transplantation have provided more than forty years of service to the community. Since 1968, our teams have performed 2,500 kidney, pancreas, liver, heart and lung transplant procedures, as well as cardiac assist device placements. These numbers include all of the "First" solid organ transplants performed south of Los Angeles. The UC San Diego - Center for Transplantation currently operates programs at both Medical Center Campuses, North and City Center, using state of the art technologies, as well as upgraded physical inpatient and outpatient facilities. But more important than technologies and facilities is the knowledge that patients referred to the UC San Diego - Center for Transplantation are cared for by an interdisciplinary team of skilled transplant professionals. Our Transplant teams offer world-renowned surgeons, dedicated transplant physicians and nurses, as well as specialists in all pertinent areas of patient care, such as Infectious Diseases, Psychiatry, Pharmacy, Radiology, Social



Work, Nutrition, and Physical and Occupational therapy, to name a few. As part of our research mission as an academic institution, the UC San Diego Center for Transplantation sponsors active investigation into the biology of organ rejection, organ

preservation, and management of long term medical problems of transplant patients. There are a number of clinical trials available for patient participation.

This journal features multiple examples of the specialized contributions of our nursing transplant professionals at UC San Diego Medical Center.. Our nurses, along with the clinical transplant and procurement coordinators, play a crucial role in the coordination and delivery of all aspects of transplant patient care. We take great pride in celebrating their contributions to the ongoing development of our programs and to the wellbeing of our patients.

Alexander Aussi RN, BSN, MBA has spent 16 of his 19 years in healthcare in the field of organ transplantation. His experience includes transplant administration, new transplant program setup, marketing, managed care relations, contract management and management of multi-organ transplant Medicare Acquisition Cost Centers. He completed his BSN in 1990 at the American University of Beirut, receiving nursing board certification from the University of the State of New York, Albany, in 1994. He received his MBA, graduating with high honors, from Oklahoma City University in December 1995. After serving as operational coordinator of the Oklahoma Transplant Institute from 1993-1995 and becoming one of the founding directors of the CHRISTUS Transplant Institute at CHRISTUS Healthcare in San Antonio, Texas (1999-2006) .Alexander came to UCSD as service line administrator for Organ Transplantation in January 2006.