

Recovery

A PUBLICATION OF THE
ALABAMA ORGAN CENTER

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HHS RECOGNIZES HOSPITALS WITH HIGHEST ORGAN DONATION RATES



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented awards to some of the nation's largest hospitals for their success in increasing organ donation rates at their facilities.

Hospital executives, together with their partners in 58 federally-designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs), received the Department's Medal of Honor for Organ Donation for achieving and sustaining a donation rate of 75 percent or more of eligible donors. They were recognized during the Fourth National Learning Congress on Organ Donation and Transplantation held in Nashville, TN, on October 24, 2008.

For the second time in the history of the honors, six hospitals from Alabama received the Department's Medal of Honor. These hospitals are Huntsville Hospital/Huntsville Hospital East*, Flowers Hospital*, University of South Alabama Medical Center*, Children's Hospital of Alabama*, The University of Alabama Hospital, and Baptist Medical Center South.

"We are pleased and proud to see the incredible progress of our nation's hospitals in increasing donation

*Two time winners

rates," said Elizabeth M. Duke, administrator of HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which houses the federal government's organ donation activities. "In just four years, the number of hospitals that have achieved the 75 percent rate has increased – a remarkable accomplishment."

These record gains followed HRSA's launch in 2003 of the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative. The Collaborative brings together donation professionals and hospital leaders to identify and share best practices to integrate organ donation into the hospital's end-of-life continuum of care. Staff from HRSA and the OPOs help participating hospitals identify, adapt, test, and implement practices essential to an effective and family-centered donation program.



Photo courtesy of: victor bruce photography, video and design

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday, February 22nd, the Alabama Organ Center held its annual Service of Remembrance. The Service is offered in loving memory of those who generously gave organs and tissues so that the lives of others may be saved or improved.

This year's program included AOC staff; Melvin Rodgers, UAB Hospital chaplain; Linda Fikes, donor mother; Sharon Johnson-Woods, donor wife and liver-kidney recipient; and James Murray, kidney-pancreas recipient. Michael Savela provided beautiful background music on his keyboard. Randy Young, M.D., member of the UAB Lung Transplant Team [pictured right] presented the closing musical selection.

During the Service, each donor was honored by the reading of a tribute written by their family. The family was then presented with a donor medallion and wind chimes as a token of appreciation. Linda Fikes presented each family with a letter of support and encouragement as well as a CD she has produced.

Families had an opportunity to present quilt squares made in memory of their loved one. The quilt squares will be put together to create a beautiful panel. The AOC has several panels of the "Alabama Donor Family Quilt" on display in its office.

The Service of Remembrance is an opportunity to say "thank you" to the wonderful people who make transplantation possible.



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The Alabama Organ Center dedicates itself to providing a better quality of life for those people who require organ and tissue transplantation, while respecting those families who share.

DONOR SUMMARY BY HOSPITAL, 2008

Hospital	Organ Donors	Organ Donation Conversion Rate	Tissue Only Donors
Athens Limestone Hospital	0	n/a	2
Atmore Community Hospital	0	n/a	2
Baptist Medical Center East	1	100%	4
Baptist Medical Center South	7	37%	8
Birmingham Baptist M.C. Princeton	2	67%	7
Brookwood Medical Center	1	50%	7
Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital	0	n/a	1
Children's Hospital of Alabama	13	81%	3
Chilton Medical Center	0	n/a	3
Citizens BMC	0	n/a	2
Clay County Hospital	0	n/a	1
Community Hospital, Inc.	0	n/a	3
Coosa Valley Baptist Medical Center	0	n/a	3
Crenshaw Community Hospital	0	n/a	2
Crestwood Medical Center	0	n/a	4
Cullman Regional Medical Center	0	n/a	5
DCH Regional Medical Center	6	46%	18
Decatur General Hospital	1	100%	4
DeKalb BMC	0	n/a	2
East Alabama Medical Center	0	n/a	9
Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital	1	100%	7
Elmore Community Hospital	0	n/a	2
Fayette Medical Center	0	n/a	1
Flowers Hospital	4	100%	0
Gadsden Regional Medical Center	2	67%	4
Hartselle Medical Center	0	n/a	1
Helen Keller Hospital	0	n/a	2
Highlands Medical Center	0	n/a	4
Huntsville Hospital	22	81%	25
Infirmiry West	0	n/a	4
Jackson Hospital	4	50%	11
Lakeview Community Hospital	0	n/a	1
Lanier Memorial Hospital	0	n/a	1
Lawrence BMC	0	n/a	2
Marshall M.C. North	0	n/a	3
Marshall M.C. South	0	n/a	4
Medical Center Blount	0	n/a	1
Medical Center Enterprise	1	100%	1
Mizell Memorial Hospital	0	n/a	2
Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center	2	100%	5
North Baldwin Hospital	0	n/a	1
North Mississippi Medical Center Hamilton	0	n/a	1
Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center	0	n/a	9
Northwest Medical Center	0	n/a	1
Parkway Medical Center	1	100%	1
Physicians Medical Center Carraway	1	100%	5
Prattville Baptist Hospital	0	n/a	3
Providence Hospital	4	100%	6
Red Bay Hospital	0	n/a	1
Riverview Regional Medical Center	2	100%	6
Russell Medical Center	0	n/a	2
Russellville Hospital	0	n/a	2
Shelby Baptist Medical Center	1	100%	4
Shoals Hospital	0	n/a	1
South Baldwin Regional Medical Center	0	n/a	4
Southeast Alabama Medical Center	1	50%	4
Southwest Medical	0	n/a	1
Springhill Memorial Hospital	0	n/a	5
St. Clair Regional Hospital	0	n/a	4
St. Vincent's Birmingham	3	100%	3
St. Vincent's East	3	100%	16
Thomas Hospital	0	n/a	8
Trinity Medical Center	3	60%	4
Troy Regional Medical Center	1	100%	2
UAB Medical Center West	1	100%	1
University of Alabama Hospital	25	81%	13
University of South Alabama Medical Center	16	84%	3
USA Children's & Women's Hospital	2	100%	1
Vaughn Regional Medical Center	0	n/a	1
Walker Baptist Medical Center	0	n/a	6
Woodland Community Hospital	0	n/a	1
Total	131		291

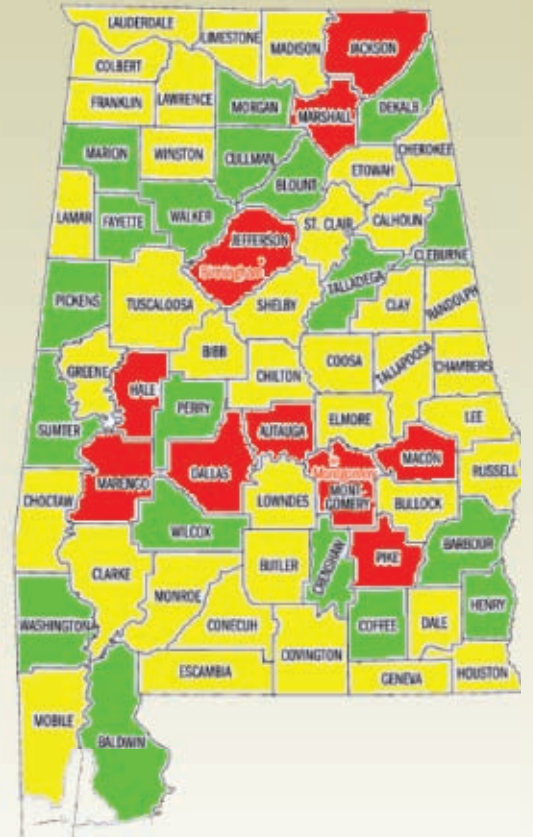
MAKING THE DECISION TO DONATE

State Donor Registration Rates by County

Green = greater than 30%

Yellow = 20-30%

Red = less than 20%



Anyone can register to become an organ and tissue donor; just be sure you get the facts first and discuss your decision with your family.

In Alabama, there are three ways to register to become a donor. When you apply for a driver's license at the DMV, you can indicate that you would like to be a donor. Upon receipt of your driver's license, "organ donor" with a red heart will be printed in the lower right corner of your license. More than 99% of the donor designations in Alabama are made through the DMV. You may also register online at www.alabamaorgancenter.org or complete the registration form available on the Legacy Organ and Tissue Donor Registry brochures.

MONTGOMERY PARADE



The Christmas parade held in Montgomery, AL celebrated more than just the season. On December 5th, 2008, the Alabama Organ Center sponsored the first ever "Donate Life" float in the capital's parade. The float depicted children gathered around a glowing fire in the light of a Christmas tree. The float's adornments were both a celebration of Christmas and a remembrance of those who gave life through organ and tissue donation.

Please visit our website www.alabamaorgancenter.org and register to become an organ and tissue donor.

25 Words or Less...

get to know the Alabama Organ Center



Brian Sims, Tissue and Research Procurement Technician

Tissue and Research Procurement Technicians oversee tissue recovery and Gift of Body donation.

"I've worked at the AOC for 7 1/2 years. I love what I do because it's very rewarding and enhances the quality of life for others in need of tissue and research. We travel the state to obtain the bone and tissue used to help Alabamians and citizens across the country live a longer, healthier life. I feel blessed to be able to help others."



Fred Helms, Procurement Coordinator

Procurement Coordinators oversee the donation process from hospital referral to organ recovery.

"I started at the AOC on April 1, 1991. Even after 18 years, I particularly enjoy working with the wonderful families who allow the miracle of donation and transplantation. The positive affect of organ and tissue donation, both for recipients and donor families, is very important to me."

ALABAMA BASKETBALL



The Alabama Organ Center was the official game sponsor of the Alabama vs. Georgia basketball game on January 31, 2009. Volunteers distributed Donate Life bracelets and Legacy Organ and Tissue Donor Registry brochures.

ORTHOPEDIC LEARNING ON MENISCUS AND OSTEOCHONDRAL GRAFT TRANSPLANTS

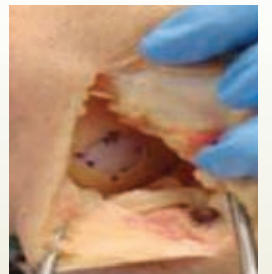
By Alan Hicks

On January 31, 2008, the Alabama Organ Center, RTI Biologics, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Department of Orthopedics supported a day of orthopedic learning focusing on new allograft options for orthopedic surgeons. Surgeons throughout the state were invited to participate in a "wet lab" to learn about meniscus and osteochondral graft transplants.

Meniscus transplants are performed to prevent the degenerative changes of cartilage and bone, to avoid or reduce the risk of arthritis, and optimally to restore the joint mechanics of the knee following a tear or resection of the meniscus. Fresh-stored osteochondral (OC) graft transplants may be indicated in cases where a patient has suffered a partial or full thickness cartilage injury to the smooth joint surface of the knee. Defects in cartilage may predispose patients to accelerated degeneration of the knee surface resulting in joint pain and arthritis since cartilage has no blood supply and has poor healing properties. A fresh-stored allograft delivers viable cartilage cells that are needed for proper healing.

This lab was the inaugural utilization of the instruction facilities at the UAB Center for Orthopedics in Birmingham. The Center intends to offer the facility for future vendor labs and demonstrations. The Alabama Organ Center, through its "Gift of Body Program," supplied specimens from deceased donors for the surgeons to train on the new techniques. These learning opportunities would not be possible without the generosity of donors and their families.

RTI Biologics is the primary tissue processing agency for all tissue recovered from donors in Alabama. Furthermore, they are the leading provider of sterile biological implants around the world. If you are interested in learning more about RTI Biologics or their implants for use in your facility or for your patients, please call 1-800-624-7238 or visit www.rtix.com.



Anatomical specimen demonstrating the transplanted tissue grafts. Photo courtesy of RTI Biologics

ALABAMA FOOTBALL



Pictured L-R: Mal Moore, University of Alabama Athletics Director; Jim Carabin, General Manager, Crimson Tide Sports Marketing; Dem Lalisan, Director AOC; Lyric Brogden, Liver Recipient; Linda Fikes, Donor Mother. Photo courtesy of Kent Gidley, University of Alabama Athletics Department.

The Alabama Organ Center (AOC) was the official game sponsor of the Alabama vs. Mississippi State football game on November 15, 2008.



D.J. Barnby, liver recipient, autographs his Havoc Player Card at the Alabama Organ Center-sponsored Huntsville Havoc hockey game on January 16, 2009. Fans are given a panel of Player Cards at the game. D.J. had an "honorary" card that included

HUNTSVILLE HAVOC

#00 D.J. BARNBY

Position: 3rd Grader
Height: 4-4 **Birthdate:** 6/24/1999
Weight: 114 **Hometown:** Huntsville

D.J. was 8 years old when he received a life-saving liver transplant. Today, D.J. is a happy, healthy, 9 year old who loves to play sports.

The generosity of a stranger saved his life. YOU have the power to save a life. Take a few minutes to register your intent to be a donor at:

www.alabamaorgancenter.org

Make the choice now to help save lives later.

his Player Stats: 3rd grader; recipient of a life-saving liver transplant; and happy, healthy 9-year-old who loves to play sports.

The game also featured Harvel Douglas, heart recipient, singing the National Anthem and Zion Johnson, heart recipient, performing the honorary puck drop.

Would you like to help organ and tissue donation awareness? Make a donation to the AOC/UAB Education Fund. Mail your tax-deductible donation to Alabama Organ Center, Suite 102, 500 22nd Street South, Birmingham, AL, 35233, or use the enclosed envelope.

DR. DIETHELM, TRANSPLANT PIONEER, HONORED

Legendary University of Alabama football coach Gene Stallings was the keynote speaker for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Transplant Dinner on October 6, 2008 at the Harbert Center in downtown Birmingham. The dinner honored UAB transplant pioneer Arnold G. Diethelm, M.D., Professor Emeritus, UAB transplant surgeon, and founder of the Alabama Organ Center.

Hosted by Devin Eckhoff, M.D., Director, Division of Transplantation Surgery at UAB and AOC Medical Director, and Robert S. Gaston, M.D., Medical Director, Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation at UAB, the dinner honored Dr. Diethelm's tireless efforts that enabled UAB's transplant program to flourish.

On May 8, 1968, Dr. Diethelm performed the first kidney transplant, and first ever transplant of any kind, in the state of Alabama. Today, UAB has one of the most technologically advanced surgical facilities in the world and the program Diethelm founded has grown enormously into one of the leading programs in the world.

UAB's renal transplant program is now the second largest and busiest in the nation, doing more than 300 procedures each year. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), UAB has performed more kidney transplants than any other kidney program in the country since 1987. UAB's liver transplant program is ranked 16th in the nation with respect to volume, has patient outcomes that are among the best in the South and has among the shortest waiting times in the South for patients to receive their liver transplant.

"Dr. Diethelm's determination, skill and leadership have been instrumental in the development of the UAB transplant programs," Eckhoff said. "Although one of the busiest transplant programs in the world, the focus of transplantation at UAB has always been on delivering the best possible care to the patients. This patient-centered approach may indeed represent his greatest contribution and is based on his insistence that the transplant programs must always do what is best for the patient."



Pictured L-R: Devin Eckhoff, M.D., Arnold G. Diethelm, M.D., and former University of Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings.

Recovery is published by the Alabama Organ Center (AOC), the designated organ procurement organization for the state of Alabama. Our purpose is to provide organs and tissue to all persons who are in need of transplantation while respecting those donor families who share. In partnership with state-wide hospitals, AOC serves as the link between those who donate and patients waiting for organ and tissue transplants.