



Dr. Robert S. D. Higgins

Dr. Higgins Shares Expertise as Part of National Group for Organ Donation & Allocation

As issues surrounding organ donation and transplant swirl throughout the media and within the medical community, you'll find Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery Dr. Robert S. D. Higgins right in the middle of the action.

In June, Higgins began a two-year position as the Heart Transplant Representative on the Board of Directors of the United Network for Organ Sharing—or UNOS. UNOS maintains the U.S. organ donation transplant waiting list and develops organ allocation policy. Higgins was elected to the position by the group's 425 members.

"My UNOS board position is a unique opportunity to apply my experience and expertise to what I believe are issues that will shape the future of

organ donation and allocation," explains Higgins. "I'll be part of critical decision-making that will impact a nation, and that's very exciting.

"The sad truth is that there just aren't enough organs to go around," he adds. "I'm proud to play a key role in the investigation, development, and implementation of strategies that will improve that situation now and as we move forward into the 21st century."

Prior to his election to the UNOS board, Higgins was a member of its Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee.

MCV's Transplant Program Adds Two New Surgeons

The arrival of two new transplant surgeons bolsters the MCV community's historically strong, state-of-the-art transplant program.

"These are two of the very top graduating fellows in the United States, coming to us from two top-notch training programs," says Dr. Marc P. Posner, Chief of Transplantation Surgery. "These two doctors are a testament to MCV's ability to attract talented young surgeons who are committed to innovative procedures and high-quality patient care. We're thrilled to have them on our team."

Dr. Adrian Cotterell and Dr. Sherfield Dawson III bring expertise in transplantation of kidneys, the pancreas, and the liver, in addition to small intestine transplantation.

Dr. Cotterell joins MCVH&P following a fellowship in transplant surgery from the University of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. He completed medical school plus an internship and residency in general and thoracic surgery at Duke University.

Dr. Dawson, a product of the University of Illinois' Abraham Lincoln College of Medicine, completed his surgical internship and surgical residency at the King/Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, then a multi-organ fellowship at Dumont-UCLA Transplant Center.

Wanted: Your Old Cellphones

Now's your chance to empty your junk drawer for a worthy cause. Through July 31, Dr. Darren S. Witte is collecting used cellphones for Call to Protect, which provides them to women at risk who may need to call quickly for help. All cellphones are pre-programmed to dial 911—which doesn't require a calling plan.

Witte is on staff at MCV's Meadowdale Primary Care facility. You may contact him by calling 743-2241.