



Saving and improving lives with transplantation.

American Society of Transplant Surgeons®

Via email to sponsors and co-sponsors of the HOPE act.

April 18, 2019

Dear Champions of the HOPE law:

We write to share exciting news about the “HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE)” legislation you co-sponsored several years ago that was signed into law on November 21, 2013. A multidisciplinary team from Johns Hopkins Medicine performed the first living donor HIV-to-HIV kidney transplant in the United States on March 25, 2019.

Leading the team was Dorry Segev, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medicine (JHM) and a member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS). See JHM’s [release](#) on this important medical milestone. This procedure is not only a breakthrough for the medical community, but critically important for individuals living with HIV in need of an organ transplant and for people living with HIV. Research shows that persons living with HIV are living longer because of tremendous advances that scientists and surgeons have made since the earliest days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Segev said, “This goes way beyond getting people transplanted – it is huge in destigmatizing the disease – people living with a disease that was once a death sentence now have the opportunity to save a life.”

As you know, the HOPE Act was bipartisan legislation to remove the 1984 ban on donation of organs from persons with HIV. The legislation was first passed in the Senate on June 17, 2013 with the leadership of Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Tom Coburn, MD (R-OK). In the House of Representatives, Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and Andy Harris, MD (R-MD) introduced the bill. Congressman Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX) also played a pivotal role in the bill’s passage, advancing the bill through the committee process and to the House floor for final passage on November 12, 2013.

In the six years since the HOPE Act’s passage, scientists researched transplantation of HIV organs. Since the first successful kidney transplant from a deceased donor with HIV in 2016, transplant programs across the country have performed over 116 transplants from HIV-positive donors.

President

Dixon B. Kaufman, MD, PhD
University of Wisconsin

President-Elect

Lloyd E. Ratner, MD, MPH
Columbia University

Secretary

A. Osama Gaber, MD
Houston Methodist Hospital

Treasurer

William C. Chapman, MD
Washington University

Immediate Past President

Jean C. Emond, MD
Columbia University Medical Center

Past President

Timothy L. Pruett, MD
University of Minnesota

Councilors-at-Large

Peter L. Abt, MD
Wendy J. Grant, MD
Randall S. Sung, MD
Talia B. Baker, MD
Jonathan P. Fryer, MD
Alan I. Reed, MD, MBA
Michael J. Englesbe, MD
Julie K. Heimbach, MD
Debra L. Sudan, MD
Georgeine Smith, MS, MHS, PA-C

Executive Director

Kimberly A. Gifford, MBA
kim.gifford@asts.org

National Office

1401 S. Clark St.
Suite 1120
Arlington, VA 22202
703-414-7870
asts@asts.org
ASTS.org

American Transplant Congress

June 1–5, 2019
Boston, Massachusetts

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and the patients our surgeons serve, thank you for your role in advancing 2013 HOPE Act. Simply stated, you and your colleagues acknowledged and advanced science through policymaking to save lives.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Counsel, Peggy Tighe, at 202-872-6752 or Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dixon Kaufman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dixon B. Kaufman, MD, PhD
ASTS President