



Saving and improving lives with transplantation.

American Society of Transplant Surgeons®

May 19, 2023

Carole Johnson
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Johnson:

As President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Modernization Initiative announced earlier this year. ASTS is a medical specialty society representing approximately 2,000 professionals dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery. Our mission is to advance the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy.

ASTS looks forward to working closely with HRSA in its efforts to modernize the organ procurement and transplantation system. We strongly believe that in order for the Initiative to fully achieve its objectives, it is critical that the transplant community be integrally involved and working in partnership with HRSA from the inception of the project.

It is our understanding that the current OPTN contract will expire on October 1, 2023. The Initiative will involve significant changes to the structure and scope of duties of the OPTN contractor(s) with respect to virtually all of the OPTN's core functions—functions that are critical to transplant program operations and, more importantly, to our patients' access to life-saving transplantation. In our view, the ultimate success of this important Initiative is likely to depend in great measure on the objectives and requirements set forth in the upcoming OPTN Request(s) for Proposals. ASTS would very much appreciate the opportunity to share with you our thoughts regarding critical provisions of the RFP(s) and the roll-out of the Initiative more generally.

We hope to hear from you soon regarding potential meeting dates. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our meeting request, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Besser, Associate Director, Advocacy, at emily.besser@asts.org.

Respectfully,

William C. Chapman, MD
President, American Society of Transplant Surgeons

cc: Diana Espinosa, Principal Deputy Administrator
Jordan Grossman, Deputy Administrator
Suma Nair, Associate Administrator, Health Systems Bureau
Frank Holloman, Director, Health Systems Bureau Division of Transplantation

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American Transplant Congress

June 3–7, 2023
San Diego, California