

I T N S

GOLDEN TRIANGLE Chapter Newsletter



Editor: Christine Shay

Fall 2004

Outgoing President's Message by Christine Shay, RN, BSN, CCTC

Ok...Let's wrap up the year. We have talked in past newsletters about taking a "piece of the pie" in order to take advantage of potential opportunities and optimize aspects of our personal as well as our professional lives. We have related to each other in regards to falling into a "rut" in our jobs, but working hard and persistent so as not to lose sight of the "big picture". And you have been challenged by your outgoing board of directors to become more involved with Golden Triangle Chapter activities. Let's look at our progress....

- We have not only kept true to our quarterly dinner meetings and journal clubs, but have maintained variety in topics and locations and have had a consistent increase in attendance.
- The membership of the Golden Triangle Chapter has grown to 122 active members with widened diversity among healthcare professionals
- We have not only been able to offer continuing education credits for various chapter involvement for nurses, but now have this opportunity for social workers as well.
- We have been privileged to sponsor events both financially and personally.
 1. The Transplant Olympics was supported both financially and personally.
 2. Our ITNS exhibit was staffed at local educational dinners.
 3. A UNOS booth was staffed by our members at a conference offered by The Association of Death Education and Counseling.
 4. GTC participated actively in donor awareness week.
- The quarterly newsletter is back and growing exponentially with each edition.
- The GTC was well represented at the annual ITNS conference this year in Vancouver.

Actions speak louder than words. The chapter growth exhibited this past year was clearly phenomenal. These accomplishments were the product of the participation and hard work of our membership and board of directors. I don't think we take the time to pat ourselves or each other on the back often enough, but this would definitely be one of those times!!! Congratulations to all of you and thank you for a great year!!!

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Incoming President's Message

by

Mimi Funovits, RN, BS, CCTC

Before reflecting on The Golden Triangle Chapter of ITNS, I would like to take a moment to thank each one of you for giving me the opportunity to represent our chapter during the 2004-2005 term. As President, I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Think back to when you were about 15 or 16 years old. You need to choose a career that will affect the person you will ultimately become. What a daunting experience! As a child of about 16, I needed to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up. The guidance counselor at school was anxious for me to make a decision so that she could help me choose a college. Maybe I had read too many *Cherry Ames* nursing books, or played pretend nurse too many times. Perhaps, because my sister had already chosen to become a teacher, I thought nursing was the only profession left for me to pursue. (We didn't have too many choices back in the dark ages.) In any case, I chose the field of nursing. Mind you... just until I could decide what I really wanted to be when I grew up. Looking back now, after 32 years of nursing, I realize just how narrow-minded I was!

Over the years I have often joked that I am still looking for that perfect career for when I grow up. Although long hours of shift work, missed lunch and bathroom breaks, risk of needle sticks and bedpan duty are not my idea of a perfect job, there is always a flipside to every story.

My job is not really a job but a career and a profession for which I am ultimately grateful that I entered. I am particularly proud to say that I am a transplant professional. The work we do is truly unique and few people have the privilege to do what we do. Sure, at times it can be both emotionally and physically draining; however, we should all feel proud and honored that we have the opportunity to help others such as we do.

I am also extremely honored to be a member of the International Transplant Nurses Society. In my opinion, ITNS is, by far, the very best professional transplant nursing organization *in the world!* Yes, I admit that I am a little biased having been involved with this organization since its inception in 1991. But I must admit that I haven't come across another that offers its members the unique opportunity to come together across the world to learn, to share ideas, and to ultimately help our transplant recipients, their families, and donor families.

Yes, we are changing lives one by one. Our shared vision as nurses is to enhance the quality of lives of others. We are accomplishing that goal having made the decision to become a nurse and to enter the field of transplant nursing. Perhaps you are wondering, as your president, what my vision and goals are for the coming year? I would have to be crazy not to say... "Increase our membership"! You bet! I would love to see more transplant professionals become involved in our chapter. After all, we must maintain our status as one of the largest ITNS chapters in the world.

How about... "Provide even more outstanding educational opportunities for our members". Absolutely! We are, and continue to be, one of the most active ITNS chapters, keeping you, *our member*, informed of the latest in transplant innovations.

Or perhaps... "To continue to provide philanthropic endeavors to you as well as other transplant organizations". Without question! Our educational grants to you, and grants to other transplant organizations, help to fulfill the goals that you have set for yourselves.

We cannot, however, accomplish these goals and others without a shared vision and passion for what we do. My message to you today is to remain passionate about what we do. Stay committed to our chosen profession and field of nursing. Celebrate our uniqueness and decide to become involved and connected to your colleagues. Without keeping these goals in mind, our chapter cannot move forward nor consider even greater accomplishments for the coming years. I will be discussing specifics of what I would like to accomplish in coming newsletters; however, today I am asking for your support, commitment and passion for your ITNS chapter. Get involved! Together, we can accomplish greatness.

A personal note... Although many of us work for the UPMC Health System, some of our members do not. In August of this year, those of us at UPMC lost a wonderful friend of transplant nursing to Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. Dr. John Fung, MD, PhD has always been supportive of ITNS and in particular, the Golden Triangle Chapter. Although the GTC was the first officially chartered chapter of ITNS, we failed to maintain the enthusiasm and commitment necessary to maintain an active status during the early to mid nineties. With the gentle urging of Dr. Fung, our chapter was reorganized and essentially reborn in 1998. He has shown us unfailing support and friendship throughout the years; and for that, we will always be deeply grateful. We wish Dr. Fung and his family great success in their new adventure.

From every ending, comes a new beginning...

TEAM PITTSBURGH FASHION SHOW



This year was the first year for the Team Pittsburgh Annual Fashion Show. The Fashion Show and luncheon was hosted by Kaufmann's Department Store, Downtown Pittsburgh on April 19th. It consisted of professional models and our very own models from Team Pittsburgh: Jared Burk, liver transplant recipient; Renee Moeller, double-lung transplant recipient; and Nikki Redlinger, living-related kidney transplant recipient. The UPMC Transplant physicians/surgeons, Dr. Ron Shapiro, Dr. **Cindy Smetanka** and Dr. Ahktar Khan, also joined us in presenting the 2004 spring fashion line.

The Fashion Show was held to raise money for Team Pittsburgh's venture to this year's U.S. Transplant Games in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Although this event brought in proceeds for the team (from over 200 guests), it was also a great way to raise organ donation awareness.

What better way to support a great cause than having lunch with friends and family and enjoying fashion and shopping!!!

ITNS members return from the Transplant Games!



TEAM PITTSBURGH



"The National Kidney Foundation organizes the [U.S. Transplant Games](#) to demonstrate to the public that transplantation works and to illustrate the tremendous need for more organ donors. Transplant athletes compete as if they've never been sick a day in their lives. In fact, many have been very sick and would have died without an organ donor," says John Davis, CEO of the National Kidney Foundation.

This year was extremely memorable, as it was the Celebration of 50 Years of Transplantation. Dr. Murray, who performed the first kidney transplant between twin brothers, was in attendance.

Judi Vensak and Shelley Zomak were very proud to accompany as managers of the local transplant team to the 2004 U.S. Transplant Games in Minneapolis, MN this past August. Team Pittsburgh is composed of heart, liver, lung, kidney and pancreas transplant recipients. As a group the Team meets every month the year prior to the Games and every few months in the off-years. Fundraising for this event is continuous by means of Cook Book, Sarris Candy Bar and Gift-of-Life Bear sales. Also, special events help to support the team in their endeavors such as a Fashion Show at Kaufmann's, Golf Outings, Card Party's and Month long raffles. Sponsorships for the Team are a valuable part the fundraising as well.

All the members of Team Pittsburgh are winners when it comes to their determination to prove themselves. Many friendships were made and others renewed. The Team brought home 12 Gold, 12 Silver and 12 Bronze medals. See if you know any of the medal winners:

Team Pittsburgh Medals

Toni Ott	Golf – Net, 60 & over	Bronze
Trine Braidy	100 Meter IM; 18-29	Silver
Matthew Repasky	100 Meter IM; 30-39	Bronze
Terry Starrett	400 Meter Freestyle; 50-59	Silver
Terry Starrett	100 Meter Breaststroke; 50-59	Gold
Trine Braidy	100 Meter Freestyle; 18-29	Bronze
Trine Braidy	100 Meter Backstroke; 18-29	Gold
Matthew Repasky	100 Meter Backstroke; 30-39	Silver
Matthew Repasky	100 Meter Butterfly; 30-39	Gold
Ronald Gainsford	50 Meter Breaststroke; 60+	Gold
Samantha Scholl	25 Meter Freestyle; 11-14	Silver
Ronald Gainsford	50 Meter Freestyle; 60 & over	Gold
Trine Braidy	50 Meter Backstroke; 18-29	Disputed
Mark Shaw	50 Meter Backstroke; 30-39	Gold
Ronald Gainsford	50 Meter Backstroke; 60+	Gold
Matthew Repasky	50 Meter Butterfly; 30-39	Bronze
Ronald Gainsford	50 Meter Butterfly; 60+	Silver
Nicole Redlinger	Table Tennis; 18-29	Gold
Jane Barrett	Table Tennis; 50-59	Bronze
Linda Stocke	Table Tennis; 60 & over	Silver
Tony Alprete	3 on 3 Recreational Basketball	Bronze
Brad Davern		
Stanley Holbrook		
Carl Patrizi		
Nathan Repasky		
Mark Shaw		
Nicole Redlinger	Bowling; 18-29	Gold
Christy Williams	Bowling; 18-29	Silver
Al Jones	Bowling; 30-39	Gold
Tina Rothermal	Team Bowling	Bronze
Kari Wisniewski		
Al Jones	Team Bowling	Bronze
Brad Davern		
Jane Barrett	Tennis; 50 – 59	Gold
Jane Barrett	Doubles Tennis	Silver
Mark Shaw		
Tracy Minnear	1500 Meter Racewalk; 40 – 49	Bronze
Terry Starrett	100 Meter Dash; 50 – 59	Silver
Esther Suss	800 Meter Run	Silver
Ervin Roszner	100 Meter Dash	Silver
Ervin Roszner	200 Meter Dash	Bronze
Jared Burk	5K Road Race; 6-10	Bronze
Tracy Minnear	5K Road Race; 40-49	Bronze
Bill Myers	Racketball; 50 – 59	Silver
Bill Myers	Doubles Racketball	Gold
Carl Patrizi		

HEPATOLOGY AND LIVER TRANSPLANT UPDATE

APRIL 13, 2004

This program was sponsored by the University School of Medicine and the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Dr. Kapil Chopra served as course director. The current status of acute liver failure (ALF) in the USA, including findings of an NIH funded multi center ALF study group, was presented by Dr. Obaid Shakil. ALF appears to be an ongoing problem of developed countries for which expert ICU care and transplant center involvement can be critical factors for successful management. Dr. Shaw-Stiffel gave an update on living donor liver transplantation (LDLT). The shortage of cadaveric organs and the shortcomings of the MELD system have spearheaded the need for LDLT. The administrative and clinical aspects of an office based practice caring for patients with hepatitis B and C were outlined by Rose Kaucic, RN BSN MHPE and Renee Krevosh, RN BSN. The management of viral hepatitis (B and C) in patients co-infected with HIV or with end stage renal disease requires special consideration, as was discussed by Drs. Brian Berk and Kapil Chopra. This informative course was well attended by nurses involved in the care of these special patient populations.

REGIONAL UPDATE IN LIVER DISEASES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

Regional Update in Liver Diseases was held on Thursday evening September 30, 2004 at the LeMont Restaurant atop of Mt. Washington. This is one in a series of ongoing updates in liver disease. The course director and moderator for the evening was Dr. Thomas Shaw-Stiffel, Associate Professor of Medicine of the UPMC Center for Liver Diseases. Guest speakers for the evening included Nicholas Crispe PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Rochester who provided an update on liver immunology. Dr. Gary Levy, Professor of Medicine from the University of Toronto who presented advances in transplant immunosuppression as well as a practical approach to transplant immunosuppression. Dr. Shaw-Stiffel highlighted challenging cases with chronic hepatitis C pre and post liver transplantation. Susan Zickmund PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Communication from VA Medical Center then discussed proactive doctor patient communication strategies in the hepatitis C population. The evening concluded with a panel discussion and questions. The evening was sponsored by Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Ortho Biotech.

CELEBRATE LIFE 2004

OCTOBER 9, 2004

On Saturday, October 9, 2004 Cardiothoracic Transplant and UPMC hosted the 3rd annual reunion for the heart and lung transplant recipients. A luncheon was held at the Cellomix Building on Technology Drive; which provided either an educational segment on Research in Lung Transplantation by Diana Zaldonis, RN or McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine laboratory tours. They were able to visit Dr. Wagner's Tissue Engineering and Biomaterial laboratory where they learned of tissue engineering projects including the cardiac patch research project to repair damaged heart tissue. From there they went to Dr. Badylak's laboratory where they learned of Tissue Engineered Scaffolds for wound healing research projects utilizing Extracellular Matrix (ECM) in a variety of tissue repair applications. A final stop at Dr. Gerlach's laboratory where they learned of the Liver Bioreactor research project for patients needing a liver transplant as a "bridge to transplantation." An evening reception at the Pennsylvanian provided an opportunity for the patients, the transplant team and representatives from UPMC to mingle with family and friends. The transplant quilts were on display as well.

ITNS GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER

Journal Club

July 2004

TOPIC: Marginal Donors in Liver Transplantation

ARTICLES:

1. The Utility of Marginal Donors in Liver Transplantation - Busuttill R and Tanaka K
2. Can the Use of Marginal Liver Donors Change Recipient Survival Rate? – Rocha MB, et al.
3. Marginal Donors in Liver Transplantation – Tisone G, et al.
4. Recent Advances in Liver Transplantation – Wiesner R, et al.

PRESENTERS: Liver Transplant Candidate Nurse Coordinators; Beth Kallenborn, Chris Shay and Marsha Zak

SPONSOR: Ly Hong, RPh of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals

This program was well attended by nurse clinicians, coordinators, social workers, research nurses and support staff from throughout the medical center. The topic generated an animated and educational discussion.

The first article presented by Marsha Zak, RN was published by the transplant group at UCLA. Criteria for marginal donors vary from center to center and include such donor characteristics as age, prolonged cold ischemic time (CIT), hypotension and inotropic support, gender, non-heart beating, degree of steatosis, presence of malignancies or viral hepatitis. More centers are transplanting organs once considered unacceptable. Several methods to minimize ischemia/reperfusion injury are being investigated.

Beth Kallenborn, RN outlined the next article published by a transplant group in Campinas, Brazil who sought to compare the survival rate of 191 patients receiving organs over a ten year period of time at their center from ideal versus marginal donors. Their data showed that the use of donors classified as marginal is safe and can increase the number of transplants without significantly affecting survival rates. The next article reviewed by Beth was published by a transplant group in Rome Italy. They performed 251 liver transplants over a 10 year period and stated that 50.6% of these recipients received marginal donors. They felt their results supported the use of marginal donors but acknowledged the difficulty in thoroughly analyzing all of the variables.

Chris Shay, RN discussed the fourth article which was published by the gastroenterology and transplant groups of Mayo Clinic and examined recent advances in liver transplantation. Older donors (>50 yrs) or those with mild-moderate fatty infiltration can be used with good results if CIT is minimized. Also, hepatitis B or C positive organs are being used in recipients who have hepatitis B or C, respectively. In more recent years, organs from marginal donors have been used with increasing success.

GTC NEWS

Welcome to the following **new members** of the Golden Triangle Chapter, ITNS:

Abigail Pennypacker, GN, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Melanie Salim, GN, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Mary Amantea, Clinical Transplant Coordinator, Starzl Transplant Institute
Ilse Karto, GN, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Sherri Baker, GN, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Terry Byers, Transplant Credit Analyst, UPMC
Mary Zeker, Research Associate, Starzl Transplant Institute
Karen Porterfield, Social Worker, Starzl Transplant Institute

Congratulations to the winner of the membership drive. Chris Shay won the car CD player with installation by sponsoring 5 new members to GTC, ITNS

Congratulations to Beth Saunders, RN who has accepted a staff nurse position on 3E, a cardiology unit in Presbyterian Hospital, UPMC.

Congratulations to Ann Lee, CRNP. She has accepted a position at the UPMC IRB.

Congratulations to Dolly Martin, who had a poster presentation accepted at the International Congress of the Transplantation Society conference in Vienna Austria on September 5-10, 2004 entitled "Does Isolated Intestinal Transplantation Reverse TPN Induced Hepatic Injury?"

Congratulations to June Stamos. She passed her CCTC exam and is now a Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinator.

New Board of Directors

President: Mimi Funovits
President-Elect: Shelley Zomak
President-Emeritus: Chris Shay
Treasurer: Carolyn Hartner
Secretary: Beth Kallenborn
Membership Chairperson: Kathy Henderson
Dinner Meeting Chairpersons: Angela Barber & Mark Paynter
Journal Club Chairperson: Lois Keyes
Newsletter Editor: Chris Shay
Website Director: Shelley Zomak

We would like to introduce two new members of the board to you....Beth Kallenborn & Lois Keyes.

Beth Kallenborn graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing in 1983 as a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honors Society. She worked in a variety of settings since then, most of which have been in the field of transplantation. She has been CCRN certified as a liver transplant ICU staff nurse. She was Primary Nurse Care Coordinator on a non-ICU floor and then made the move to outpatient coordinator in 2000 initially caring for post-op liver transplant patients. She now has a position as out patient coordinator caring for the pre-op liver transplant patient population. She has presented at the ITNS Conference in London, England in September, 2001 and became a Certified Clinical Transplant coordinator in 2002. She has also been a member of the Golden Triangle Chapter, ITNS for years as well as a NATCO member. She has been married to her husband, Bob, for 19 years and has two sons, Andrew, age 18 who is in plumbing school and Troy, age 12, who is attending 7th grade in the West Mifflin School District.

Lois Keyes graduated from Villa Maria College in 1977 and began her nursing career working as staff nurse at Montefiore Hospital's Neurosurgery ward and later transitioned over to the Neurosurgical ICU from 1977-1979. IN 1979, she accepted a position at the VA Medical Center as a staff nurse on the neurosurgical unit and since that time has held staff nurse positions of several medical/surgical units. In 1989, she began working on the liver transplant unit as a staff nurse. From 1993 to the present, she has been a liver transplant coordinator for the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center. She is very interested in expanding and broadening her experience in the field of organ transplantation and strongly feels this can be best accomplished through continued review of current medical literature. She has been a member of the Golden Triangle Chapter, ITNS for years and is excited about her new position on the board of directors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"A Very Special Educational Offering"

Date: November 11, 2004
Location: Poli's Restaurant, 2607 Murray Avenue, Squirrel Hill
Sponsor: Daniel Foust, Roche Pharmaceuticals
Speaker: Sandy Couples, DNSC, RN, Co-Editor of "Transplantation Nursing Secrets", Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC
Topic: "An Overview of Transplantation Nursing Secrets"; "Secrets of an Editor"

Please see our website at <http://itns-gtc.org> for additional information & to RSVP by November 5.

January Dinner Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2005
Location: Wyndham Hotel
Sponsor: John Wotas, Angem Pharmaceuticals
Speaker: Ngoc Thai, MD
Topic: To be announced

December Journal Club

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2004
Host: Judy Vensak
Topic: Aerosolized CYA in Lung Transplantation
Sponsor: Shering
Location: Montefiore Hospital, Classroom B @ 1pm

Details regarding these events may be accessed on the GTC voicemail at 412-648-1139 or on our website at <http://itns-gtc.org>



The Golden Triangle Chapter of ITNS

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

We would like to offer you a great opportunity to help your ITNS Chapter and earn continuing educational credits. We are in need of volunteers to serve on two Golden Triangle Chapter committees

Chapter Membership & Recruitment Committee and The Chapter Website Committee

Chapter Membership Committee

- Assist the Chapter Membership Director in recruitment and retention of chapter members
- Create and maintain Golden Triangle Chapter ITNS Bulletin Boards in various locations
- Assist in coordination of annual membership drive
- Assist in coordination of annual membership renewal

Chapter Website Committee

- Assist the Chapter Website Director in the ongoing development and maintenance of GTC website
- Assist in acquisition and delivery of new content to Web master
- Assist in updating Website content on a consistent basis

Please contact the following individuals if you are interested in serving on one of these committees:

Chapter Membership: Kathy Henderson 412-647-5732 (katnmax@aol.com <<mailto:katnmax@aol.com>>)

Chapter Website: Shelley Zomak 412-648-9874 (zomakra@upmc <<mailto:zomakra@upmc>>)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you Dan Foust and Roche Pharmaceuticals for sponsoring the Dinner Meeting on April 28, 2004 at the Hot Metal Grill.

Thank you Mark Wasko and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for sponsoring our Dinner Meeting on June 23, 2004 at Alexander's Pasta Express.

Thank you Jan Seng and Fujisawa for sponsoring the Dinner Meeting on September 8, 2004 at the Fox Chapel Yacht Club.

Thank you Ly Hong and Pfizer for sponsoring our July Journal Club.

Thank you to Linda Boig who has graciously inherited and done a wonderful job on centerpiece production for our dinner meetings.

It's time to renew your local membership with GTC. All renewals are due in October. If you haven't had the opportunity, dues can be paid at the dinner on November 11 or you can mail a check made out to GTC ITNS to 110 Atwood Street, Box 138, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. You can also call us at 412-648-1139 or contact us on our new website at <http://itns-gtc.org>.



**Team Pittsburgh is pleased to announce that
"Cooking Again . . ."
was such a big success that we are proceeding with
"Still Cookin".**

**With 661 recipes in the first cookbook, our goal for
Volume 2 is 1000 recipes.**

**In order to accomplish this, we need your help! Search for more of your
favorite recipes – asks friends, family and co-workers to help be a part of
this as well. Type, clearly print or photocopy your recipe on an 8.5" x 11"
piece of paper.**

Make sure to put your name and title on it. For example:

**Jane Smith
ITNS Member or
Transplant Coordinator**

**Recipes can be mailed to:
Shelley Zomak
9 Hillcrest Drive
Cecil, PA 15321**

E-mail to: Zomak@peoplepc.com

**We still have a limited supply of the "Cooking Again" cook books. Price is
\$13.00 each.**

**Christmas is coming! Do you need a gift for a teacher, mailperson,
Secret Santa, etc.**

An Update from the ITNS Dinner Co-Chairperson,

Angela Barber

It was a fun filled year of educational dinner meetings with wonderful speakers!

Our January 21, 2004 meeting was held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Oakland with Dr. Robert Kormos, Director of Thoracic Transplantation from UPMC, speaking on New Options for End-Stage CHF. Our sponsor was Marilyn Bartucci from Fujisawa.

Our Spring dinner meeting was held on April 28, 2004 at The Hot Metal Grille on the Southside. Terry Byers, Transplant Credit Analyst, spoke to us about Financial Considerations in Transplantation. Our sponsor was Dan Foust from Roche Pharmaceuticals. This was a new dinner meeting location for us and very much enjoyed and appreciated!

The summer meeting was held on June 23, 2004 at Alexander's Pasta Express in Bloomfield. Dr. Ron Shapiro, Medical Director of Kidney Transplantation at UPMC, spoke to us regarding Tolerogenic Immunosuppression. Our sponsor was Mark Wasko from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

The fall meeting was held September 8, 2004 at the Fox Chapel Yacht Club with Dr. Bijan Eghtesad as our speaker from the Liver Transplant Program at UPMC. He spoke to us about Non-Heart beating donors across the transplant continuum. It was a wonderful night even though it rained buckets! Our new board of directors was introduced. Mimi Funovits, our incoming president, gave us a wonderful welcoming speech.

Our next dinner meeting will be held in January, 2005 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Topic and speaker to be announced!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE. . . .



On my way out of the hospital I stopped by the office to pay my bill.

My room was \$575 a day, my medication was \$325 a day, my test totaled \$2,800 and the doctor cost \$1,800.

I said, "They must think I'm crazy!"

The clerk responded, "I guess not sir, there's no charge on here for psychological evaluation."

* * * * *

"I'm so worried," the nervous patient said as the nurse plumped up his pillows. "Last week, I read about a man who was in the hospital because of heart trouble and he died of malaria."

"Relax" the nurse said, smiling. "This is a first-rate hospital. When we treat someone for heart trouble, he dies of heart trouble."

**Living Liver Donor
Outreach Program
by
Linda Boig, RN, BSN, CCTC
Living Liver Donor Coordinator**

The Living Liver Donor team, consisting of Dr. Thomas Shaw-Stiffel, Tracie Sabatine, RN, BSN, and myself, has been educating the tri-state area gastroenterologists regarding LDLT. The team educates the GI referral physicians on issues pertaining to organ shortages, referral guidelines, and the living donor process.

LDLT is such a new transplant option; the information provided has been very well received. Literature has been provided for distribution in each gastroenterologist's local offices. They express their gratitude to have a direct connection for resource information and for direct inquiries from the general public.

We plan to continue to arrange outreach events in the future. Our goal is to maintain ongoing communications with the physicians in our established referral base as well as reach out to those not familiar with us. For information on the LDLT program, please feel free to contact Linda Boig, RN, BSN, CCTC at 412-647-5065 or Tracie Sabatine, RN, BSN at 412-647-5066.

LIVER TRANSPLANT FOR MAPLE SYRUP DISEASE

By: Lynn Seward, RN

Maple Syrup Disease (MSD) is an extremely rare and volatile metabolic disorder with an incidence of 1:185,000 live births. However, there is a “founder” effect in the Amish and Mennonite communities increasing the incidence to 1:200 live births in that population. MSD is an autosomal recessive disorder that develops due to an absent or decreased function of the alpha-ketoacid dehydrogenase enzyme. Without this enzyme the branch-chained amino acids (BCAA) are unable to be broken down. The BCAA, specifically leucine, isoleucine, and valine accumulate in the blood causing a toxic effect that interferes with brain function. If this “crisis” situation is not corrected, it will lead to acute metabolic decompensation and neurological deterioration that can progress to death.

MSD acquires its name from the sweet smell of maple syrup evident in body fluids such as urine and ear wax. Diagnosis is usually made shortly after birth of the infant, either by newborn screening available in some states or by clinical presentation. The infant becomes lethargic, irritable and will lose its “suck reflex”. By the time the diagnosis is considered the child may be approaching clinical coma. If diagnosis is confirmed or suspected, treatment should be initiated immediately to reverse the catabolic state and restore metabolic homeostasis. Crisis situations not only occur at birth but can present at any age due to the simplest of viral illnesses. Each episode can be associated with severe brain swelling that can lead to irreversible brain injury.

Even if “crisis” situations can be avoided throughout the course of the child’s life, moderate and prolonged amino acid imbalances are common and can result in chronic under development of the brain. The medical management of this disease is extremely complicated, and requires experienced physicians, expensive pharmaceutical and dietary regimens, and strict monitoring of the amino acid panels. Parents are instructed on dietary management, provided recipes of BCAA free formulas and severe protein restricted diets avoiding common foods such as eggs, dairy products and meat.

Due to severe metabolic instability of this patient population, it was decided that we would offer liver transplantation as an option, only if a “safe” protocol could be put into place. It has been nearly a year since our multi-disciplinary team here at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh met to devise such a protocol. Our surgical team (Mazariegos, Sindhi and Soltys), GI physician (Squires), Metabolic physicians (Vockley and Finegold), transplant pharmacist (McGhee), Dietician (Kowalski), Transplant Coordinator (Seward) worked in collaboration with Dr. Holmer Morton and Dr. Kevein Strau, physicians from the Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, PA. The Clinic for Special Children provides care to the largest cohort of MSD patients. Every potential issue was investigated meticulously enabling a safe practice protocol to be put into place.

There have been 11 patients reported to have received orthotopic liver transplants for this indication, one with devastating results. However, CHP is the first transplant center to develop the nation’s first comprehensive liver transplant protocol for MSD patients. MSD is recognized as a metabolic condition with UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) and allows us to submit an exception to increase the PELD score substantially. Since May 30, 2004, five children have been transplanted safely here at CHP. All children at this time are at home and doing well. They are “metabolically cured” and enjoying their new life, new foods and freedom from their tight metabolic management.

Acknowledgements

The Golden Triangle Chapter of ITNS would like to thank the following local businesses for their generous support of our Educational Fund. Their donation of raffle items is greatly appreciated!!

Qdoba Mexican Grill
Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts
WQED Pittsburgh Magazine
Alex's Flowers
Carnegie Science Center
dejavu Lounge
Pittsburgh Symphony
Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Embassy Suites Hotel
Pittsburgh Public Theater
The Andy Warhol Museum
Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life
Pittsburgh Opera
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Loews Cineplex Entertainment
Entertainment Publications
Walnut Grill
National Aviary
Gateway Clipper Fleet
Improv, America's Original Comedy Showcase & Restaurant
Dingbats & Abate, Food Services Management Associates
Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

ITNS Membership Application

Name: _____

Recruited by: _____

Degree/Certifications: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: Home Work

Home address:

Street: _____

Work address:

Hospital/Company: _____

City: _____

Position: _____

State/Province: _____

Dept/Div: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Bldg/Room: _____

Phone Number: _____

Street: _____

Membership Dues: *Payment in U.S. Funds Only*

Active \$50 (All RNs. All Active members are entitled to vote, hold office and serve on committees.)

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Associate \$30 (Any health professional involved in transplantation. Associate members are not entitled to vote, hold office or serve on committees.)

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Check Money Order
 VISA MasterCard

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

_____ Exp. _____ Cardholder Signature: _____

I am currently a member of the following local ITNS Chapter: _____

Please send me information on the closest local ITNS Chapter: USA Canada Europe Starting a Chapter

Demographic Information

1. How many years have you been a nurse?

< 2 2-3 4-5 6-10 11-19 20+

Head/Assistant Head Nurse Nursing Admin

Supervisor Transplant Coordinator

In Service/Staff Development Instructor

Clinical Nurse Specialist/Clinician

Nurse Practitioner Other: _____

2. How many years in Transplantation?

< 2 2-3 4-5 6-10 11-15

16-20 > 20

7. Which organ/tissue recipients do you care for?

Liver Renal Heart Lung

Bone Marrow Pancreas Islet Cell

Small Bowel Other: _____

3. Work setting?

University Affiliated Military

Government Community/Private

Academic Registry

Organ Procurement Other: _____

8. Highest level of Nursing education?

Student LVN/LPN RN ADN RN BSN

RN Diploma Masters Degree Doctorate

4. Number of beds in your institution?

< 150 150-299 300-449

450-599 > 600

9. Do you care for pediatric recipients? Yes No

5. Area of employment?

Transplant Unit Clinical Research ICU

Outpatient Pediatrics Other: _____

FAX 412-343-3959 or apply at www.itns.org



6. Your position?

Staff Nurse Charge/Team Leader

- 15-

Take a look at our new website: <http://itns-gtc.org>

MISSION STATEMENT

The ITNS is committed to the promotion of excellence in transplant clinical nursing through the provision of educational and professional growth opportunities, interdisciplinary networking and collaborative activities, and transplant nursing research.

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FOCUSING ON YOUR SKILLS

The development of distinct nursing skills is a vital part of the growth and continuing success in transplantation. Nurses have honed these skills in transplant centers and clinical research labs throughout the world. Now, nurses skilled in transplantation have an opportunity to share their expertise with their peers worldwide, attain information on state of the art transplant technology, gain recognition and assist in establishing certification for the transplant nursing specialty. The **International Transplant Nurses Society** is meeting this challenge.

By joining ITNS, you will be at the forefront of professional development for transplant nurses. You will have the opportunity to:

Demonstrate

- Your clinical excellence and commitment to transplant nursing
- Your interest in state of the art transplant technologies
- Your leadership skills as an officer, director or committee chair

Influence

- Organ donation awareness
- National decisions regarding healthcare that may affect transplant recipients
- Current nursing practices that may affect transplant recipient outcomes

Network

- With transplant nurses throughout the world
- With other decision makers in organ transplantation

Improve

- The standards for this nursing specialty
- Your knowledge through educational opportunities

Participate

- In the development of certification programs
- In the planning of educational programs
- In chapter development

MEMBER BENEFITS

As a member of ITNS, your benefits will include: discounts on outstanding educational programming that will return your membership investment with interest and increased skills; an informative newsletter that addresses transplant issues and provides information about events and programs; opportunities for national leadership as an officer, director, or committee chair; and participation in special interest groups keyed to your transplant specialty.

Active RN \$50 Annual dues OR \$135 for 3 years

Active Membership is open to any individual licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the United States and Canada or any individual licensed or registered to practice professional nursing outside of the United States. Active members are entitled to vote, hold office and serve on committees. **Registered nurses must select this membership category.**

Associate Non-RN \$30 Annual dues OR \$85 for 3 years

Associate Membership is open to any health professional involved in transplantation, LVN or LPN, Pharmacist, Social Worker, or full-time student enrolled in an accredited professional nursing program. Associate members receive all membership benefits, but are not entitled to vote, hold office or serve on committees.

International Transplant Nurses Society

1739 E. Carson Street, Box #351
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1700 USA

Phone: (412) 343-ITNS

Fax: (412) 343-3959

Email: itns@msn.com

Website: <http://www.itns.org>

**INTERNATIONAL TRANSPLANT NURSES SOCIETY
GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: _____

POSITION/TITLE: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

AREA OF EMPLOYMENT:

____ STAFF RN, TRANSPLANT UNIT

____ PEDIATRIC

____ STAFF RN, ICU

____ ADULT

____ TRANSPLANT COORDINATOR

____ OTHER _____

TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS YOU CARE FOR:

LIVER RENAL HEART LUNG
 PANCREAS INTESTINE BONE MARROW

THE MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER IS \$10.00 ANUALLY AND WILL BE DUE IN OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR.

YOU MUST ALSO BE A MEMBER OF ITNS, THE INTERNATIONAL ORGINAZATION.

CHECKS FOR CHAPTER DUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER, ITNS" AND SENT TO:

GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER, ITNS
110 ATWOOD STREET
BOX 138
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

INTERNATIONAL DUES ARE \$50.00 FOR ITNS ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP (ALL RNs). (ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE, HOLD OFFICE AND SERVE ON COMMITTEES.)

INTERNATIONAL DUES ARE \$30.00 FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (ANY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INVOLVED IN TRANSPLANTATION; ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO VOTE, HOLD OFFICE OR SERVE ON COMMITTEES.)

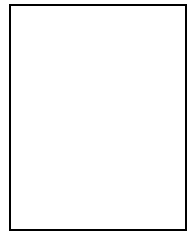
INTERNATIONAL DUES CAN BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP OR THEY CAN BE MAILED TO THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.ITNS.ORG.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHAPTER OR MEMBERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 412-648-1139

REFERRED TO GTC BY: _____

NOTES

The Golden Triangle Chapter
International Transplant Nurses Society
110 Atwood Street; Box 138
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED