



# ETHICS IN ACTION

## 17th Annual Conference of NATCO

### PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2024  
K D HOSPITAL, AHMEDABAD

Organised by  
NETWORK AND ALLIANCE OF TRANSPLANT COORDINATOR

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## Acknowledgement

It is our great pleasure to present the proceedings of the 17th Annual Conference of the Network and Alliance of Transplant Coordinators, held at KD Hospital, Ahmedabad on October 19-20, 2024. The theme of the conference, "Ethics in Action" is particularly relevant in today's context highlighting the importance of ethical practices in the critical decisions and challenges faced by transplant coordinators in their work.

We are grateful to the scientific committee for crafting a meaningful and engaging agenda, and to the speakers and chairpersons for sharing their insights and experiences during the sessions.

We also extend our thanks to the following organizations for their generous support: Sanofi, Trunome, Milaap, Manipal Hospitals, Duraent Life Sciences LLP, MOHAN Foundation, ZTCC Pune, ZTCC Nagpur, KIMS Kingsway Hospitals, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Nagpur, Bengal Organ Donation Society, and ARJO Anklay.

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Ms Pallavi Kumar  
President  
NATCO 2023 – 2025

Amit Joshi  
Vice President



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**ETHICS IN ACTION**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of NATCO**  
October 19 -20, 2024, Ahmedabad

**AGENDA**

<b>DAY 1 – OCTOBER 19, 2024 (SATURDAY)</b>			
<b>9.30 -10.30 AM</b>		<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
<b>10.30 -11.00 AM</b>		<b>INAUGURATION</b>	
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SPEAKER/PANELIST</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>
11.00 – 12.00 noon	<b>Achieving Success in Deceased Organ Donation:</b>  <b>Insights from Gujarat:</b> Empowering Medical Colleges to Launch Organ Donation Programs  <b>Insights from Tamil Nadu:</b> How TN has Pioneered Deceased Donation Program in India  <b>Insights from Manipur:</b> Public Private Partnership for organ donation & Transplantation	  Dr Rakesh Joshi   Dr Sunil Shroff   Ms Pallavi Kumar	Dr Garima Savalia  Dr Chintan Chaudhari
12. 00 – 12.20 pm	Advancements in patient care post transplants	Dr Pavan Kumar Bapatla	Dr Indrajeet Tiwary Dr Sanjay Rakibe
12.20 – 1.00 pm	<b>Sharing Achievements and Overcoming Challenges in 2023 – NGOs speak – PART 1</b> Bengal Organ Donation Society MOHAN Foundation  MFJCF Muskaan	Dr Indrajeet Tiwary Dr Muneet Kaur Sahi Bhavna Jagwani Sandeepan Arya	Dr Amit Joshi Vrinda Pusalkar Dr Nikita Patel
1.00 – 2.00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>		



2.00 – 2.45 pm	<b>Sharing Achievements and Overcoming Challenges in 2023 – NGOs speak – PART 2</b>  ORGAN India Shatayu Shine India 3 Rotary Club of Organ Donation Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan	Sunayana Singh Bhavna Chhabaria Dr. Kulwant Gaur Hemali Ajmera Gobind Gurbani	Dr Amit Joshi  Dr Bhanu Chandra  Jasmeet Anand
2.45 – 3.30 pm	Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award	Judges:  Bhavna Jagwani Arati Gokhale Dr Vrishali Patil	
3.30 – 5.00 pm	Free Paper / Poster Presentations	Judges:  Dr Rajesh Chandwani Dr Jamal Rizvi Dr Vrishali Patil	
5.00 – 6.00 pm	Film Screening: God Vulture and Human	Dir: Rishiraj Agarwal	
<b>6.00 pm - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NATCO</b>			

<b>DAY 2 – OCTOBER 20, 2024 (SUNDAY)</b>			
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SPEAKER/PANELIST</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>
9.00 -9.30 am	<b>Recent Trends in Donations to Government Hospitals: What Made the Difference?</b>  AIIMS Raipur  AIIMS Bhubaneswar  JNIMS Imphal  GMC Nagpur	Vishok N  Deepak Narayan  Monica Laishram  Veena Wathore	Dr Anil Purohit  Lijamol Joseph  Arati Gokhale





9.30 – 10.00 am	<b>The Declaration of Istanbul &amp; global guidelines in the Indian context</b>	Dr Sanjay Nagral	Dr Sunil Shroff Dr Sandeep Attawar
10.00 -11.00	<b>From Legality to Autonomy: Amplifying Living Donor Voices</b>  Opening Remarks - Jaya Jairam The Real Voices - Sudha Bhamidipati Gendered experiences of women living donors – Dr Nishtha Mishra	Panel Discussion Nikhil Vyas Dr Pradeep Salgia Dr Dhanya S. Dr Ravi Mohanka Dr Nishtha Mishra	
11.00 – 11.15	<b>TEA</b>		
11.15 – 12.00	<b>SWAMY NARAYAN ORATION – Dr Janak Palta McGilligan</b>		
12.00 -1.00	<b>Improving documentation skills: Enhancing protective measures for transplant coordinators</b>  Opening Remarks – Dr Hemal Kanvinde	Panel Discussion Prashant Ajmera Trilly Mathew Dr Sanjay Dixit Dr Bharat Shah	
<b>1.00 pm - 2.00 pm LUNCH</b>			
2.00 – 3.00 pm	<b>Utilizing Government Schemes for Transplants: On-the-Ground Realities</b>  Opening Remarks –Rimy Khurana	Panel Discussion Dr Mehul Panchal Dr Umesh Godhani Dr Sudha Chandrashekar Siva Kumar M	
3.00 – 3.45	Setting up crowdfunding for poor patients – A workshop	Aarthi Ganesh	Sukhvinder Lal
<b>3.45 - VALEDICTORY FUNCTION</b>  Followed by High Tea			



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The **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Network and Alliance of Transplant Coordinators (NATCO)** was held on October 19-20, 2024, at the KD Hospital Auditorium in Ahmedabad. This year's theme, "Ethics in Action," highlighted the critical need for ethical considerations in the realm of organ donation and transplantation. The conference brought together a diverse group of professionals, including healthcare practitioners, NGO representatives, policy makers, and advocates, fostering dialogue on best practices and strategies to overcome the challenges.

### **1. Inauguration ceremony**

Dr. Hemal Kanvinde welcomed the delegates and the speakers and invited the special guests to light the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the Conference.

Ms. Pallavi Kumar gave a brief talk on the achievements of NATCO and on the theme of this year's conference.

At the inauguration ceremony the Special Guests were:

- Dr. Rakesh Joshi, Medical Superintendent, Civil Hospital and Prof and Head Department of Pediatric Surgery BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad
- Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation
- Dr. Garima Savalia, Chief Medical Administrator, KD Hospital, Ahmedabad

Dr. Joshi encouraged the transplant coordinators to continue their work to help patients with end-stage organ failure. He explained how for every deceased donation, he is present in the hospital to support the staff and be available for decisions.

Dr. Shroff asked the coordinators to get themselves protected against fraud through the legal department of the hospital. He also said that MOHAN Foundation can offer a fellowship to select transplant coordinators to get firsthand experience about organ donation in different countries.

Dr. Garima Savalia spoke of the work of KD Hospital in making transplants available for all patients. She enumerated the transplants done in the hospital and the follow-up of all the patients and living donors.

The proceedings of the 16th National Conference conducted at Kolkata were released during the inauguration.



## Day 1 - Proceedings

### **2. Achieving Success in Deceased Organ Donation**

**Chairpersons:** Dr. Garima Savalia, & Dr. Chintan Chaudhary

#### **Insights from Gujarat: Empowering Medical Colleges to Launch Organ Donation Programs**

**Speaker:** Dr. Rakesh Joshi, Medical Superintendent, Civil Hospital Ahmedabad

Dr. Joshi started the session by providing insights on organ donation at the B J Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad. He spoke on the complete support of the government to increase organ donation in the state. Brain deaths are declared regularly. With the support of NGOs, the transplant center has been able to get a good number of donations. The civil hospital has an SOP in place so that all the hospital staff know of their role and their responsibility in deceased donation. The hospital has a room called the Amar Kaksh—in the memory of deceased donors, and the prayer to the body is done outside the ICU to generate interest. Dr. Joshi himself is present at the prayer ceremony, giving it a dignity and honour. Dr. Joshi said that these changes have supported the organ donation team, and the media has contributed vastly with positive news about donation.

#### **Insights from Tamil Nadu: How Tamil Nadu Pioneered Deceased Donation Program in India**

**Speaker:** Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation

Dr. Shroff started his session with praising the commendable work done by the state of Gujarat in the field of deceased organ donation. He addressed the audience by highlighting the achievements of Tamil Nadu and stressing what the state has done differently to achieve the milestone in the field of organ donation. With the necessary declaration of brain death, Tamil Nadu's government has made notable progress in promoting deceased organ donation. As stressed by MOHAN Foundation's founder and managing trustee, Dr. Sunil Shroff, this has closed the organ demand and supply gap. Till 2008, MOHAN Foundation worked with just six to eight hospitals, but this figure increased to thirty after government intervention.

Tamil Nadu was on the right track, but disaster struck the state in 2007 even as awareness of organ donation grew. Huge kidney racket slammed the state and the city post tsunami, causing a major setback to the program. On one hand, people were homeless; on the other, they wanted to make ends meet by selling their organs. Dr. Shroff said that it was during this period that the government decided to get involved. "It made a great difference to have the correct people at the right moment. Several awareness and sensitizing campaigns on deceased organ donations were carried out under the cooperation of several stakeholders, including the government, NGOs, the health department, and private hospitals," recalled Dr. Shroff.

Strengthened laws punishing any malpractice have resulted in centralized, digital, open waiting lists for the state today. Moreover, non-transplant centers in Tamil Nadu follow guidelines to



ensure optimal organ use, establishing credibility and confidence in the process. Dr. Shroff notes that the amendment of the THOA 1994 law in 2011 gave the law more power.

In summary, the following key elements contributed significantly to Tamil Nadu's success: Ensuring that no organs go to waste; simplified and open procedures; effective brain death declaration and organ allocation; solid laws and rules penalizing malpractices and guaranteeing responsibility.

### **Insights from Manipur: Public Private Partnership for organ donation & Transplantation**

**Speaker:** Ms. Pallavi Kumar, Executive Director, MOHAN Foundation

With financial support from the SBI Foundation, MOHAN Foundation began its efforts in the Northeast in 2018 to promote organ donation in the state of Manipur. This was a bold move in a state that remains relatively unknown, has numerous requirements, and lacks adequate infrastructure due to its unique geographical landscape and limited resources.

Ms. Pallavi Kumar stated, "We began transplanting at the Jawahar Lal Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS Institute), a state-run government hospital, so helping the less fortunate." Collaborating closely with the JNIMS kidney transplant team, the MF crew helped to launch the living kidney transplant program in May 2022. The program in Manipur is a perfect example of a partnership that works in tandem. Indeed, the alliance unites government departments, commercial sector companies, and non-profit groups to address this significant social concern and achieve the shared goal of initiating donations and transplantations. She talked about state political unrest and how the team preserved.

The Foundation works tirelessly to facilitate deceased organ donation. The Foundation has conducted multiple meetings, training courses and ongoing awareness campaigns to facilitate this. August 02, 2023, marks the first deceased organ donation not only in Manipur but across the whole Northeast. Two courageous women, the deceased's mother and wife, stepped forward to donate their loved one's organs following a young death.

Ms. Pallavi went on to discuss how the first deceased organ donation was a revelation. The eye donation was unable to take place due to the absence of eye banks in the state. Understanding the need for corneal donations and transplants, the MOHAN Foundation in collaboration with the National Program assisted the National Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) Health Mission Manipur in founding the "Manipur State Eye Bank" on November 29, 2023, at the State Ophthalmic Cell. Expertise and training support was sought from L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, (LVPEI). Manipur once again made history on February 12, 2024, when it performed its first corneal donation at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS).

All things considered, Manipur's teamwork demonstrates the potential of cooperation among various sectors, highlighting the unique strengths each industry brings to the table in building a stronger community by addressing challenges in the medical and other spheres. Successful partnerships like this can serve as a model for other hospitals and regions of Northeast.



### **Discussion and comments**

The first scientific session focused on showcasing the success stories of organ donation and transplantation, featuring three states and three stories, all united by the theme of perseverance. Small steps can serve as the beginning of a journey, and a partnership between NGOs, and the private and public sectors is the most effective way to ensure the success of organ donation programs.

Source: Ms. Poonam Sharma

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### **3. Advancements in Patient Care Post Transplant**

**Chairpersons:** Dr Indrajeet Tiwary, Dr Sanjay Rakibe and Dr Sripal Kuvadia

**Speaker:** Dr Pavan Kumar Bapatla, Chief Scientist, AcronLife, Chennai

Dr Pavan explained the concept of cell-free DNA and its applications in modern medicine. One use of this new technology is in the early detection of organ rejection, which can prevent transplant failure and improve patient outcomes. The traditional testing for rejection is a biopsy, which is invasive and painful. He said that monitoring the transplanted kidney through blood tests is one of the easiest ways to provide crucial information about any rejection or injury to the allograft early on. Regular testing helps detect the presence of antibodies or other markers that indicate if the body is rejecting the transplanted graft. The Trunome test assay based on donor-derived cfDNA is crucial in ensuring long-term healthy survival of the transplanted graft.

Dr Pavan explained that the assay is a non-invasive method, with blood drawn from the post-transplant patient. The collected blood is then analyzed to measure the amount of donor DNA from the transplanted kidney in the patient's blood. This measurement can help to assess all types of organ rejection more precisely than standard assessment tools that are currently available. There was a discussion on the earliest that the donor-derived cfDNA can be detected, advantages and disadvantages of this assay, and costs of the tests and frequency.

Source: Dr. Hemal Kanvinde

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#### **4. Sharing Achievements and Overcoming Challenges in 2023: NGOs Speak - Part 1.**

**Chairpersons:** Dr. Amit Joshi, Ms. Vrinda Pusalkar & Dr. Nikita Patel

Day 1's third session, "Sharing Achievements and Overcoming Challenges in 2023: NGOs Speak," focused on the contributions of NGOs. The two parts of this session showcased the experiences and insights of various NGOs actively involved in organ donation initiatives.

##### **Speakers:**

**Dr. Indrajeet Tiwary** (Bengal Organ Donation Society)

Dr. Tiwary elaborated on the society's initiatives to promote organ donation in West Bengal. He presented data demonstrating a significant increase in donor registrations due to community outreach programs and partnerships with local healthcare facilities. His talk emphasized the role of grassroots education in shifting public perceptions about organ donation.

**Dr. Muneet Kaur Sahi** (MOHAN Foundation)

Dr. Sahi discussed the foundation's commitment to ethical organ donation practices and its success in establishing a framework for donor family support. She highlighted the importance of training healthcare professionals to handle sensitive conversations about organ donation, thereby improving consent rates. She highlighted the years' achievements and novel ways to create awareness.

**Ms. Bhavna Jagwani** (MF Jaipur Citizen Forum)

Ms. Jagwani presented the outcomes of her forum's campaigns aimed at increasing organ donation awareness in Jaipur. By employing social media and local events, the forum successfully mobilized community members to engage in discussions about organ donation, leading to a measurable increase in registrations.

**Mr. Sandeepan Arya** (Muskaan Prathamik Trust, Indore)

Mr. Arya shared Muskaan's innovative strategies for engaging youth in organ donation discussions. He described programs implemented in schools and colleges that focused on educating students about the importance of organ donation and inspiring them to advocate within their families and communities.





## **5. Sharing Achievements and Overcoming Challenges in 2023: NGOs Speak - Part 2.**

**Chairpersons:** Dr. Amit Joshi, Dr. Bhanu Chandra & Ms. Jasmeet Anand

### **Speakers:**

**Ms. Aprajita Verma** (ORGAN India)

Ms. Verma provided a comprehensive overview of ORGAN India's initiatives focused on policy advocacy and public education. She shared success stories of partnerships with government bodies to enhance the infrastructure for organ donation in various states.

**Ms. Bhavna Chhabaria** (Shatayu)

Ms. Chhabaria detailed Shatayu's multifaceted approach to promoting organ donation, which includes collaboration with local healthcare providers and leveraging social media campaigns to reach broader audiences. She highlighted the need for continuous community engagement to foster trust and transparency.

**Dr. Kulwant Gaur** (Shine India)

Dr. Gaur highlighted Shine India's commitment to improving organ donation rates through innovative outreach programs. He presented case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of community health fairs and educational workshops in raising awareness and dispelling myths about body donation and organ donation.

**Ms. Hemali Ajmera** (Rotary Club of Organ Donation)

Ms. Ajmera discussed the Rotary Club's efforts to promote organ donation through local chapters. She shared insights into the club's collaborative projects with hospitals and other NGOs, which have significantly contributed to increasing donor registrations. She also spoke of the club's initiative to support transplant costs for needy patients.

**Mr. Gobind Gurbani** (Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan)

Mr. Gurbani focused on the vital role of eye donations and shared the society's achievements in raising awareness about corneal donations. He stressed the importance of community education in addressing cultural misconceptions about eye donation. He spoke of his efforts to raise this issue in the United Nations.

### **Comment:**

The sessions provided valuable insights into innovative strategies used by NGOs for increasing awareness and enhancing ethical practices. It served as a significant reminder of the collective responsibility to advocate for ethical practices in organ donation. By continuing to collaborate and innovate, stakeholders can work together to save lives and enhance the quality of care for patients in need of transplants.

Source: Th. Udayini Khuman

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## **6. Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award**

**Judges: Ms. Bhavna Jagwani, Ms. Arati Gokhale, Dr. Vrishali Patil**

Transplant Coordinators play a vital role in the entire process of organ donation. Every deceased donor organ transplant is, in fact, a manifestation of human faith and their passionate work. To keep this human resource motivated and to strengthen the Deceased Organ Donation Program, NATCO presents the 'Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award' every year during the conference. In 2010, the MOHAN Foundation instituted the award in honour of the late Swamy Narayan, the young 20-year-old son of its country director, Ms. Lalitha Raghuram, whose organs saved the lives of numerous recipients following his parents' courageous decision.

### **Nominations**

There were total of 10 nominations for the award.

Each candidate spoke of their achievements and highlights of their career. The judges asked a few questions.

### **Conclusion**

The Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Award is the sole recognition given in this field to transplant coordinators who demonstrate exceptional dedication. This encourages and motivates additional future endeavours.

<b>Name of the Nominees</b>	<b>Hospital Name</b>
Dr. Amit Joshi	Bombay Hospital, Indore
Mr. Vishok Naduprokkil	AIIMS Hospital, Raipur
Mr. A. Johnson	Kauvery Hospital, Chennai
Ms. Ratchanya Devi	Billorth Hospital, Chennai
Ms. Laishram Monica Devi	Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur
Dr. Nikhil Vyas	KD Hospital, Ahmedabad
Mr. Jitu Bagani	Muskan Group, Indore
Mr. M. Sivakumar	Rela Institute, Chennai
Mr. Raghavan Ranjitkumar	Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru
Mukesh G.	Vellamal Hospital, Madurai

Source: Ms. Laishram Monica Devi

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## **7. Free paper/poster presentation**

**Judges: Dr Rajesh Chandwani, Dr Jamal Rizvi, Dr Vrishali Patil**

### **Overview**

The session showcased the work of transplant coordinators through free paper/abstracts presentation.

A total of 18 participants showcased their work in their respective fields. The scientific committee gave each participant the option to choose their preferred mode of presentation. The scientific committee received the papers in advance for nomination. The guidelines and important instructions were highlighted to prevent participants from misunderstanding them. The abstracts were evaluated using a discipline of content, presentation, timing, and discussion, along with a scoring system.

### **Podium & Poster presentation:**

Twelve participants from various parts of the country represented their respective states and institutes during the podium presentation. Each participant received a total of 7 mins, divided into 5 mins for ppt slides and 2 mins for Q&A with the judges. The esteemed judges evaluated and assessed the session comprehensively, selecting the highest scorer for the Best Paper Award (Podium category). Six participants presented their work in the form of poster presentations. The judges evaluated the posters displayed in the entry hallway and granted the authors four minutes to elucidate their work.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Title</b>
Mr. Sivakumar M	Podium	Court Decisions in Organ Donation and Transplantation - An Analysis.
Ms. Laishram Monica Devi	Podium	Feasibility cum assessment study of selected hospitals in north-eastern India for starting Deceased Organ Donation & Transplantation Program.
Ms. Thoidingjam Udayini Khuman	Podium	Challenges and Outcomes in Post Kidney Transplant Recipients: A Single-centre Analysis.
Ms. Simran Anand	Podium	Enhancing Organizational Reporting: The Strategic Role of Excel in Data Transformation.
Dr. Anirudh Mene	Podium	Evolution of Skin Bank at JLNHRC, Bhilai.
Radhika Joshi	Podium	Role of Mediators in Facilitating Organ Donation and Transplantation in India: The Case of the Organ Transplant Coordinators.
Parul Bishnoi	Podium	The Impact of Counseling in a Double Transplant Journey.



Dr. Damini Singh	Podium	Societal Perceptions and Recognition of Organ Donation: A Review on Donor Families' Experiences.
Dr. Bhanu Prakash	Podium	Enhancing Organ Donation Awareness and Renal Transplantations at Government Hospitals - By Extensive Approach.
Pritam Kumar Trivedi and Dr. Amol Bhawane	Podium	Vision to Victory: AIIMS Nagpur Achieves Milestones in Deceased Organ Donations.
Veena Wathore; Jaya Jairam & Bhagyashree Nighot	Podium	Barriers and Enablers in Organ donation: A Study on Family Consent and Institutional Infrastructure at a Large Public Tertiary Care Hospital in Maharashtra.
Dr. Bhanu Chandra Srivari	Podium	Cadaveric Skin Donation - Emerging Trends in Telangana.
Saranya S	Poster	Attitude towards Brain Stem Death Certification and Declaration among ICU Doctors.
Veena Wathore and Bhagyashree Nighot	Poster	Impact of Counseling for Corneal Donation at Govt. Medical College, Trauma Centre, Nagpur.
Mr. Gururajan Mohan; Dr. Sreejith Parameswaran and Mrs. Monica Devi Kamalanathan	Poster	Good Document Practices in Organ Transplant.
Dr. Anushree Nair and Ms. Bhavna Jagwani	Poster	Donor Family Rehabilitation - A Call for Compassionate Support and Recognition.
Dr. Amit Joshi	Poster	Financial and Support services for Transplants - a NATCO & MF initiative.
Dr. Hemal Kanvinde; Ganesh C and Arshiya Fathima	Poster	Drive and Insights from a Chosen Group of Organ Donation Ambassadors to Enhance the Way Educational Training is Delivered.

Source: Laishram Monica Devi

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### **8. God, Vulture, and Human – A documentary**

The day ended with a screening of a medium-length documentary: **God, Vulture, and Human**. Directed and produced by Rishiraj Agarwal. Dr. Rajesh Chandwani conceptualized and co-produced the project.

Mr. Rishiraj presented his 2023 graduation project, a medium-length documentary, from the M. Des. Film & Video program at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Dr. Chandwani stressed the importance of widely viewing this film to underscore the crucial role transplant coordinators play in saving lives.

He explained that 'God Vulture and Human' explores the subject of organ donation through the lens of transplant coordinators, highlighting their critical role in the process of donation, retrieval, and transplantation. Through the lives of four transplant coordinators, the film attempts to humanize them and delves into the intensity of life and death. While the donor families sometimes perceive them as vultures, metaphorically scavenging the remains of the dead, the organ recipients often view them as lifesavers, almost godlike. The film is an effort to humanize them; hence the title.

The film was shot during the second wave of COVID-19 in India. Rishiraj worked as a one-person crew, using a Sony Handycam to minimize his presence in hospitals and counselling sessions. In this manner he was able to capture the most honest moments possible.

The film features transplant coordinators of Hyderabad—Sudha, Bhanu Chandra, Bhanu Prakash, and Dileena—in both their workspaces and personal lives, offering insights into their ambitions and challenges while following two brain-dead cases.

Both the delegates and the students of Allied Health Sciences of KD enjoyed the film.

Source: Dr Hemal Kanvinde

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## DAY 2 - Proceedings

### **1. Recent Trends in Donations to Government Hospitals: What Made the Difference?**

AIIMS Raipur, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, JNIMS Imphal, GMC Nagpur

**Chairpersons:** Dr. Anil Purohit, Ms. Lijamol Joseph and Ms. Arati Gokhale

**Speaker: Vishok N**

Organ Transplant Coordinator and Asst Nursing Superintendent, AIIMS Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Mr Vishok highlighted the education of the healthcare professionals through workshops and seminars, public celebrations of Organ Donation Day and short videos and posters in AIIMS, Hospital, Raipur. He stated that the hospital is currently collecting cornea for transplants and has performed four in-house deceased donations in addition to living donor kidney transplants.

**Speaker: Deepak Narayanan**

Transplant Coordinator, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Deepak highlighted that while some states have implemented their own organ donation schemes, the Odisha Government introduced the "Sooraj Award," which raised questions about its legality. This issue was discussed during the question-and-answer session, where most participants agreed that the award lacks legal recognition. Despite this, government hospitals play a crucial role in organ donation and transplantation across states. These hospitals assist underprivileged patients in accessing transplants and ensuring post-operative care.

The involvement of government hospitals in organ donation has significantly impacted the states, leading to an increase in both donations and transplants. However, numerous challenges persist, the most notable being the lack of public awareness about organ donation. To address this, hospitals actively conduct public and social media awareness programs. Additionally, government schemes like Ayushman Bharat and MVSSY have been instrumental in attracting more people to government hospitals, thereby boosting the organ donation ecosystem.

**Speaker: Monica Laishram**

Transplant Coordinator, JNIMS Imphal, Manipur

Ms. Laishram Monica Devi provides an explanation of the origins of the introduction of living donor transplantation at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal-Manipur, and shares examples of cases from the MOHAN Foundation. Additionally, the Manipur State Eye Bank's involvement in the team has facilitated cornea donations in the region. This involvement has also encouraged private hospitals and other public hospitals to participate in the transplant program in the region.



**Speaker: Veena Wathore**

Project Officer, GMC Nagpur, Maharashtra

Ms. Veena Wathore outlines the efforts to restart the Deceased Organ & Tissue Donation program at the Government Medical College & Hospital in Nagpur, Maharashtra, in collaboration with the MOHAN Foundation. Her presentation highlights the increase in donation rates through interventions such as grief counselling, donor maintenance, and the provision of medical equipment and lab facilities.

By arranging regular meetings with key stakeholders, including the district collector, deans, and other relevant parties, Ms. Wathore emphasized the importance of community participation in promoting deceased organ donations. These coordinated efforts significantly contributed to boosting the rates of deceased organ donation and transplantation at public hospitals in the region.

Source: Vishok N

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## **2. The Declaration of Istanbul and the Global Guidelines in Indian Context**

**Chairpersons:** Dr. Sunil Shroff and Dr. Sandeep Attawar

**Speaker:** Dr. Sanjay Nagral, Senior Consultant & Director, Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai

Dr. Nagral kick-started the session by extending his thanks to NATCO, which has an important role to play in the trajectory of the transplant program. Although organ donation and transplantation can unite society, limited access causes differences even in this area. Fair and safe methods depend much on ethics.

He discussed the various ethical aspects of organ donation and transplantation, specifically highlighting the exploitation of underprivileged and vulnerable individuals, a practice that raises serious issues as it fuels human trafficking and organ trade. The 'Declaration of Istanbul,' which aims to combat commercialism, trade, and trafficking in transplantation, has recently undergone new amendments. The idea behind all this is to promote public trust in the process of donation. Medical tourism, sometimes known as international transplant "tourism," has begged questions regarding the flow of trafficked organs from the impoverished in lower- and middle-income nations to the wealthy. He noted that in recent years, the trend has shifted, leading to an increase in human trafficking alongside organ trafficking, where wealthy individuals lure and transport donors to other countries for transplantation.

Local realities influence the execution and acceptance of universal ideas, such as the public or government sector's focus on primary health, the private sector's dominance in tertiary health, including transplants, and the disparities caused by society, hierarchy, and labor relations. He emphasized the crucial yet often overburdened role of coordinators in the transplantation program. They are held accountable for ensuring ethical practices and managing system limitations. He concluded his lecture by emphasizing the urgent need to implement professional procedures, policies, and procedural uniformity simultaneously.

Due to time constraints, a brief session of question-and-answers followed. Human rights in organ transplants dominated most of the questions.

Source: Ms. Poonam Sharma  
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### **3. From Legality to Autonomy: Amplifying Living Donor Voices: Panel Discussion**

#### **Opening Remarks: Ms, Jaya Jairam,**

Project Director, MOHAN Foundation, Mumbai

Ms. Jairam set the tone for the session by emphasizing the need to understand the nuances of living donor experiences, especially in the context of autonomy and informed consent. She highlighted the importance of moving beyond mere legality to embrace the complexities of individual choice and societal expectations surrounding living donation.

#### **Personal Testimony: Ms. Sudha Bhamidipati,**

Co-Founder, Worxogo

The session featured a heartfelt testimony from Ms. Sudha Bhamidipati, the wife of a transplant recipient. Ms. Bhamidipati shared her personal journey, illustrating the emotional and psychological dimensions of being a living donor's family member. Her story highlighted the profound love and commitment that drives individuals to make such sacrifices while also shedding light on the challenges they face, including societal pressure and emotional turmoil. Ms. Bhamidipati's powerful narrative served as a reminder of the human aspects behind the statistics and legal frameworks governing organ donation.

#### **Keynote address: Gendered Experiences of Women Living Donors.**

##### **Dr. Nishtha Mishra,**

Transplant Coordinator, Muljibhai Patel Urological Hospital, Nadiad.

Dr. Mishra explored the unique challenges faced by women in the context of living organ donation, including societal expectations, familial obligations, and the emotional weight of the decision to donate. She presented data indicating that while women often take on the role of caregivers, their own needs and concerns are frequently marginalized in discussions about organ donation. Dr. Mishra's insights highlighted the need for a gender-sensitive approach to organ donation policies and practices.

#### **Panel Discussion**

Ms. Jaya Jairam moderated a dynamic panel discussion following the keynote. The panel comprised esteemed experts and advocates who shared their insights on amplifying living donor voices:

##### **Panelist: Mr. Nikhil Vyas,**

Deputy General Manager, KD Institute of Allied Health Sciences, Ahmedabad.

Mr. Vyas discussed the importance of incorporating donor perspectives in policy making. He emphasized that legal frameworks must reflect the realities of living donors' experiences to ensure their rights and autonomy are protected.



**Panelist: Dr. Pradeep Salgia,**

Sr. Nephrologist & Transplant physician, HOD Nephrology, Jupiter Hospital, Indore.

Dr. Salgia provided a clinical perspective on the implications of living donation. He shared insights on how medical professionals can better support living donors by offering comprehensive pre- and post-operative care, thereby ensuring that donors feel valued and informed throughout the process.

**Panelist: Dr. Dhanya S,**

Assistant Professor of Law & Head (G-HELP), Gujarat National Law University.

Dr. Dhanya addressed the psychological implications of living donation. She underscored the importance of mental health support for donors and their families and advocated for integrated care models that include psychological counselling as part of the donation process.

**Panelist: Dr. Ravi Mohanka,**

Director – Liver Transplant and HPB Program, Sir H.N. Reliance Hospital, Mumbai.

Dr. Mohanka spoke about the societal perceptions surrounding living donation. He highlighted the need for public education campaigns that challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about living donors, fostering a more supportive environment for individuals considering donation.

Returning to the panel, Dr. Mishra reiterated the importance of understanding the gendered dimensions of living donation. She advocated for policies that not only protect the rights of donors but also empower them to make informed choices without societal pressure. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, allowing attendees to pose questions to the panelists and share their own experiences.

The discussions reinforced the importance of amplifying the voices of living donors and ensuring that their rights and autonomy are at the forefront of organ donation conversations. The session wound up with a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding living donation and the imperative to advocate for the rights and needs of donors, particularly considering gendered experiences.

Comment: This was a pivotal component of the conference, addressing the often-overlooked experiences and perspectives of living organ donors. This session aimed to elevate the voices of living donors, focusing on their rights, experiences, and the ethical implications of living organ donation.

Source: Th. Udayini Khuman

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#### **4 Swamy Narayan Oration: Sustainability in Action**

**Speaker: Dr. Janak Palta McGilligan**

Dr. Janak Palta McGilligan, is a Padma Shri awardee (one of India's highest civilian awards). Her significant contributions to the field of environmental conservation and her efforts in promoting sustainable practices earned her this recognition. Known for her deep commitment to environmental issues, Dr. McGilligan shared her personal journey alongside her insights into sustainability, captivating the audience with both her story and her vision for a sustainable future.

Dr. Janak McGilligan began her oration by sharing her personal story, detailing her early experiences that ignited her passion for the environment. She spoke about formative moments in her life that shaped her understanding of sustainability, including her travels and encounters with various cultures that highlighted the balance between tradition and modernity.

Drawing from her own background, Dr. Janak McGilligan illustrated how cultural values influence sustainable practices. She emphasized the importance of respecting local traditions and integrating them into contemporary sustainability efforts, showcasing examples from her own community work.

She candidly discussed the challenges she faced in her advocacy work, including resistance from different sectors. Yet, she balanced these narratives with stories of triumph, emphasizing the resilience and creativity she witnessed in communities striving for sustainable change.

A significant aspect of her message focused on the role of education. Dr. Janak McGilligan shared her experiences in educational initiatives aimed at empowering young people to become advocates for sustainability, reinforcing the idea that informed individuals are crucial to driving change.

The session concluded with a lively Q&A segment where attendees resonated with Dr. Janak McGilligan's personal anecdotes. She not only highlighted critical sustainability issues but also inspired attendees through her personal narrative. Her blend of storytelling and advocacy emphasized the interconnectedness of individual experiences and collective efforts in fostering a sustainable future. The session reinforced the idea that sustainability is a journey for everyone, calling on everyone to play an active role in making a difference.

Source: Th. Udayini Khuman

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## **5. Improving Documentation Skills: Enhancing Protective Measures for Transplant Coordinators**

**Panelists:** Dr. Sanjay Dixit, Dr. Bharat Shah, Ms. Trilly Rachel Mathew, Mr. Prashant Ajmera

**Moderator:** Dr. Hemal Kanvinde

The session opened with an overview by Dr. Hemal Kanvinde, who highlighted the importance of proper documentation in living donor transplants. She outlined the affidavits, supporting documentation, and legal paperwork required for approval. Dr. Kanvinde emphasized challenges such as potential instances of fake paperwork and complications in cases involving step-relationships, elderly donors lacking marriage certificates, or consent issues with estranged spouses or close family members.

### **Key Discussions:**

**Dr. Sanjay Dixit** Dean, MGM Medical College, Indore, explained the Authorization Committee system in Madhya Pradesh, which ensures a balance between facilitating life-saving organ donations and preventing illegal practices. He shared that the committee seeks clarifications from families or hospitals when inconsistencies are identified.

**Mr. Prashant Ajmera** Founder, Indian immigration lawyer & Author, proposed a chronological system for gathering documents to expedite the process for patients. He suggested creating a comprehensive protocol book that includes solutions for complex cases to guide transplant coordinators.

**Ms. Trilly Rachel Mathew** Lead Officer, Organ Transplant, Manipal Hospital, emphasized the need to interview patients and family members separately and scrutinize submitted documents closely. This approach, she said, helps identify inconsistencies and potential red flags.

**Dr. Bharat Shah** Director, Gleneagles Hospital, Mumbai, highlighted the critical role of nephrologists in assessing the authenticity of donors. He recommended involving hospital legal teams to further reduce fraudulent living donation cases.

The session concluded with a lively discussion on improving documentation protocols and the protective measures needed to ensure ethical and lawful organ donations.

Source: Dr. Hemal Kanvinde

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## **7. Utilizing Government Schemes for Transplants: On-the-Ground Realities**

**Panelists:** Dr Mehul Panchal, Dr Umesh Godhani, Dr Sudha Chandrashekar, Siva Kumar

**Moderator:** Dr. Rimy Khurana, Health Care Consultant

The session started with an opening presentation by Dr. Rimy Khurana, providing an overview of current Central Government schemes funding transplants, along with examples from State Government schemes and other funding sources such as NGOs and crowdfunding platforms working in this arena.

Thereafter, each of the four panelists, leading experts from the public and private healthcare sectors, shared perspectives based on their on-ground experience regarding the utilization of these schemes by patients and beneficiaries in their respective States or organizations (public or private). They discussed best practices, gaps they encountered in funding organ transplants, and recommendations for enhancing patient, physician, and hospital experiences with government insurance schemes to ensure sufficient, sustainable financial support for organ transplant treatments.

Dr. Umesh Godhani Consultant Nephrologist and Transplant physician, Devasya Kidney Hospitals, SAL Hospital & Shalby Hospital, Ahmedabad, shared his experience of helping patients obtain financial support for transplants through State and Central government schemes. He explained that his experience with government schemes has been quite positive, as his team has never encountered delays in securing finances when proper documentation was provided. He also highlighted that their hospital successfully secures funding from one or more government schemes to cover kidney transplant costs, including pre- and post-transplant follow-ups.

Dr. Sudha Chandrasekhar Advisor- Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centre, shared her experience working with both the State Government of Karnataka and the Central Government as an Ex-Executive Director for PM-JAY. She addressed queries from participants and panelists, explaining the rigorous process involved in designing Health Benefit Packages and developing treatment guidelines under PM-JAY and at the State level. She noted that Karnataka was among the first States to introduce transplant packages in the Aarogyasri scheme. Additionally, she highlighted some of the best practices implemented by the Government of Karnataka to ensure adequate financial support for transplant patients and follow-up care.

Mr. Siva Kumar, Multi Organ Transplant Coordination Unit & Medical Social Worker, Dr Rela Institute and Medical Centre, discussed challenges he encountered in his role as a Senior Transplant Coordinator while striving to provide care for transplant patients. He shared how his knowledge of various government funding options helps him guide patients at his hospital in obtaining financial assistance for transplant treatment. He also noted that patient awareness about available schemes in Tamil Nadu is relatively high, enabling them to access financial aid effectively.



Dr. Mehul Panchal Director Medical Services, Kiran Multi Super Specialty Hospital & Research Centre, Gujarat highlighted the challenges and opportunities he observes for private hospitals in implementing government insurance schemes for financing transplant patient care. He pointed out that the primary challenge he faces is the limited number of transplant packages and portability issues associated with the PM-JAY scheme. He emphasized the need for greater participation of private hospitals in designing benefit packages that account for their operational costs while providing treatment.

Source: Dr. Rimy Khurana

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## **8. Setting up crowd funding for poor patients- A workshop**

**Speaker:** Ms. Aarthi Ganesh

Ms. Aarthi began her presentation by emphasizing the two primary goals of crowdsourcing: bridging the financial gap and enhancing access to medical treatments. She highlighted that in medical emergencies, personal savings, loans, medical loans, and insurance work together, with crowdsourcing serving as just one part of the larger financial solution.

She showcased the transformative impact of crowdfunding platforms like Milaap, presenting impressive statistics that left the audience in awe. Over INR 2,300 crore has been raised through more than 880,000 fundraisers, supporting over 98 lakh donations.

Ms. Aarthi shared an inspiring story of a 14-year-old boy who, after a tragic accident at a railway station, received a hand transplant and a prosthetic leg funded through crowdsourcing. She explained how modern crowdfunding models leverage technology to make fundraising transparent, efficient, and engaging.

The Milaap crowdfunding process involves a detailed evaluation of several critical components. These include the timeline, which outlines clear milestones supported by relevant images, and the identification of contributors, or those funding the campaign. It also specifies why funds are needed, detailing the purpose of the campaign, as well as who will benefit, identifying the intended recipients. Lastly, the amount required is clearly stated, with specific funding goals established to guide the campaign.

To ensure transparency and accountability, Milaap verifies the patient's identity and medical condition, building trust among donors.

Ms. Aarthi's presentation highlighted the profound potential of crowdsourcing to change lives while demonstrating how simple it is to start an online fundraiser.

During the session, some questions were asked. When asked how Milaap sustains itself, the answer was that it comes from the generous tips added during each donation. Regarding the question of whether it is necessary to include disturbing images in social media campaigns, it was explained that while Milaap refrains from doing so, sensitive content is sometimes included but hidden until the user approves it. Lastly, when asked if they can generate 100% of the amount during a crowdfunding campaign for any cause, the answer was yes—any amount collected is transferred to the recipient, as no amount is too small to make a difference.

Source: Ms. Poonam Sharma  
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## **9. Valedictory Function:**

Dr. Hemal Kanvinde concluded the conference with the valedictory function. Mrs. Pallavi Kumar highlighted the key aspects of the conference and encouraged the members of the Alliance to contribute their best efforts towards its goals. Dr. Janak Palta McGilligan was invited to honour the awardees of the 17th Annual Conference.

The Swamy Narayanan Best Transplant Award was conferred upon:

- Ms. Monica Laishram Devi, JNIMS, Imphal, Manipur
- Mr. Mukesh K, Vellamal Hospital, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

The Best Poster Award was presented to:

- “Attitude towards brain stem death certification and declaration among ICU doctors” by Ms. Saranya S, KNOS, Trivandrum, Kerala

The Best Paper Awards were presented to:

- “Challenges and outcomes in post-kidney transplant recipients: A single-centre analysis” by Ms. Thoidingjam Udayini Kuman
- “Enhancing Organ Donation Awareness and Renal Transplantation at Government Hospitals: An Extensive Approach” by Dr. Bhanu Prakash, MOHAN Foundation, Hyderabad

Dr. Janak Palta McGilligan praised the spirit of the transplant coordinators and wished them continued success. Dr. Anil Agnihotri also commended the strength of the group and encouraged them to gain more experience in documenting their work. Mr. Sandeepan Arya provided feedback, noting that the conference was very inclusive and suggested holding smaller group meetings in the future.

Dr. Hemal expressed her gratitude to the sponsors, the management of KD Hospital, the executive committee of NATCO, the speakers, and the delegates for their support and active involvement in the conference.





## List of Faculty

Name	Affiliation
Dr Amit Joshi	Vice President, NATCO, Indore
Dr Anil Purohit	Deputy Commissioner & Founder Jodhpur School of Public Health, Jodhpur
Dr Bhanu Chandra	Executive Committee Member South, NATCO, Hyderabad
Dr Bharat Shah	Director, Gleneagles Hospital, Mumbai
Dr Chintan Chaudhari	Consultant, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar
Dr Dhanya S.	Asst. Professor, Head - Gujarat National Law University, Centre for Healthcare, Ethics, Legal Advocacy & Policy Research (G-HELP)
Dr Garima Savalia	Chief Medical Administrator KD Hospital, Ahmedabad
Dr Hemal Kanvinde	Quality Assurance Officer, MOHAN Foundation
Dr Indrajeet Tiwary	Chairman Bengal Organ Donation Society, Kolkata
Dr Jamal Rizvi	Professor of Urology IKDRC-ITS, Ahmedabad
Dr Janak Palta McGilligan	Founder Director, Jimmy McGilligan Centre for Sustainability Development, Indore
Dr Kulwant Gaur	Founder, Shine India Foundation
Dr Mehul Panchal	Director – Medical Services, Kiran Multi Super Specialty Hospital & Research Center, Surat
Dr Muneet Kaur Sahi	Programme Manager, MOHAN Foundation, Delhi NCR
Dr Nikita Patel	Deputy General Manager Academics, KD Institute of Allied Health Sciences, Ahmedabad



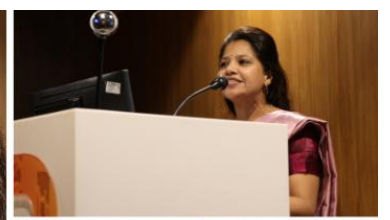
Dr Nishtha Mishra	Researcher and Ex-Transplant Coordinator, Muljibhai Patel Urological Hospital, Nadiad
Dr Pavan Kumar Bapatla	Senior Scientist, Acrannolife Genomics, Chennai
Dr Rajesh Chandwani	Faculty, Human Resource Management, IIM Ahmedabad
Dr Rakesh Joshi	Medical Superintendent Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad
Dr Sandeep Attawar	Program Director & Chair Institute of Heart & Lung Transplantation, KIMS Hospital
Dr Sanjay Dixit	Dean, MGM Medical College, Indore
Dr Sanjay Nagral	Senior Consultant & Director, Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai
Dr Sanjay Rakibe	Transplant Head-Rishikesh Hospital, Nashik & Senior TC - Vikhe Patil Medical College, Pravara
Dr Sudha Chandrashekar	Advisor Health System Transformation Platform, Delhi NCR
Dr Sunil Shroff	Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation, Chennai
Dr Umesh Godhani	Consultant Nephrologist Devasya Kidney Hospitals, SAL Hospital & Shalby Hospital, Ahmedabad
Dr Vrishali Patil	Joint Secretary, ZTCC Pune, HOD Transplant D Y Patil Medical College & Hospital, Pune
Dr Rimy Khurana	Healthcare Consultant, Delhi NCR
Aarthi Ganesh	Head of Sales, Milaap, Chennai
Arati Gokhale	Chief Transplant Coordinator ZTCC, Pune
Bhavna Chhabaria	CEO Shatayu, Ahmedabad
Bhavna Jagwani	Convenor, MF Citizen Forum, Jaipur
Deepak Narayan	Senior Nursing Officer & Transplant Coordinator AIIMS, Bhubaneswar



Gobind Gurbani	MFJCF Member, Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan Member, Jaipur
Hemali Ajmera	Co-Founder, One India One Law
Jasmeet Anand	Treasurer, NATCO, Delhi NCR
Jaya Jairam	Project Director, MOHAN Foundation, Mumbai
Laishram Monica Devi	EC Member, NATCO, Program Officer – Manipur, MOHAN Foundation, Imphal
Lijamol Joseph	Senior Donor Family Coordinator, Ministry of Health and Prevention, UAE
Nikhil Vyas	Deputy General Manager, KD Hospital, Ahmedabad
Pallavi Kumar	President, NATCO, & Executive Director, MOHAN Foundation, Delhi NCR
Prashant Ajmera	Indian Immigration Lawyer & Founder, Ajmera Law Group, Ahmedabad
Sandeepan Arya	Head- Organ and Body Donation Wing, Muskan Group Parmarthik Trust, Indore
Siva Kumar M	Head- Transplant Coordination Unit, Dr Rela Institute & Medical Centre, Chennai
Sudha Bhamidipati	Co-founder, Worxogo, Mumbai
Trilly Mathew	Lead Officer - Organ Transplant, Manipal Hospitals, Delhi NCR
Veena Wathore	EC Member, NATCO & Project Manager, MOHAN Foundation Nagpur
Vishok N	EC Member – NATCO & Assistant Nursing Superintendent and Transplant Coordinator, AIIMS, Raipur
Vrinda Pusalkar	Secretary, NATCO, Pune









# NETWORK AND ALLIANCE OF TRANSPLANT COORDINATORS (NATCO)

Network & Alliance of Transplant Coordinators is a registered society with the vision to improve professional careers of Transplant Coordinators and promote ethical organ donation and transplantation in India



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