

Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Surgery Newsletter



Milestone: 5,000th Kidney Transplant



[The Division of Transplantation Surgery](#) has reached the milestone of 5,000 kidney transplants in December 2016, under the strong leadership of [Sandip Kapur, MD](#), Chief of Transplantation, an internationally renowned transplant surgeon recognized for developing innovative strategies that expand opportunities for transplantation. These strategies include donor exchange, crossmatch and blood type incompatible programs, utilization of expanded criteria deceased donor kidneys, and transplantation of patients who are older and/or who have significant co-morbidities.

Our hospital has a long tradition of pioneering leadership in the field of transplant surgery. Our surgeons performed the first kidney transplant in the metropolitan area in 1963. Our multidisciplinary team is committed to advancing the science of transplantation through basic science.

[Take a closer look at our Division](#)

Weill Cornell Kidney Transplant Program Leads in Living Donation



[Living donor kidney transplantation](#) has a rich history at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. Our Transplant Program is constantly growing and changing, incorporating the latest innovative strategies that allow us to maximize transplant opportunities for all patients that come to us seeking transplantation. This also translates to advancing the care of the living kidney donor. In 2016, the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine transplant program had the highest living donor kidney transplant volume on the East Coast. These 165 living donor kidney transplants represented the largest annual number in the 54-year history of the program, as well as the second largest living donor kidney transplant volume in the U.S.

At NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine, we pride ourselves on providing our patients with the best care possible. Living donor kidney exchange is an innovative option that has been developed at our transplant center. Thanks to a chain of living-donors, and the surgical team at Weill Cornell Medicine, Evan Hubbard received a life-saving kidney transplant in 2008 when he was only five-years-old; Evan is now 14-years-old and thriving.

[Evan Hubbard's Story](#)

Vouchers for Future Kidney Transplants to Overcome 'Chronological Incompatibility' Between Living Donors and Recipients



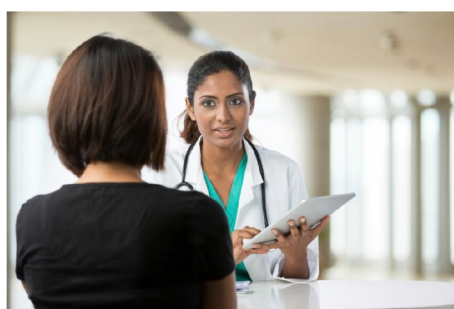
The waiting list for kidney transplantation is long and growing. The creation of ["vouchers"](#) allows for kidney transplants donors to donate their kidney many years before their intended recipient may need a kidney. Besides its use in persons of advancing age with a limited window for donation, vouchers remove a hindrance to altruistic kidney donation, namely, a hesitance to donate now in case one's family member should need a transplant in the future.

Senior author, [Dr. Sandip Kapur](#), Jeanette and Jeffrey Lasdon Director of the [Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program](#) at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine and co-authors [Dr. Joseph Del Pizzo](#), Director of the Laparoscopic Living Kidney Donor Program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine and [Marian Charlton](#), Chief Transplant Coordinator at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine describe 3 voucher cases, in which advancing age might otherwise have deprived the donors the opportunity to provide a kidney to a family member.

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine performed 2 of the 3 donations described in the paper, which triggered 22 transplants. It was concluded that the establishment of a voucher program will ultimately increase the number of living donor transplants.

[Read full article here](#)

Participating Center for the HOPE Act



The [HIV Organ Policy Equity Act \(the HOPE Act\)](#) is a law that modifies rules regarding organ donation between HIV-positive individuals. The law authorizes clinical research and the revision of rules about organ donation and transportation as a result of research. NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine's kidney transplant program is a participating research site for this important study. Participation in this research supports our [mission](#) to maximize opportunities for transplanting for all patients that come to us seeking help.

Because of the success of kidney transplantation, the indications for transplantation have continued to expand including younger and older extremes as well as for those with significant comorbidities, including infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). While once considered an absolute contraindication to transplantation because of the need for immunosuppression to prevent rejection, anecdotal and now formal experiences have proven that these patients, when carefully selected with controlled HIV, can be successfully transplanted.

[Learn more about our Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Program](#)

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