

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
NOVEMBER 6 AT 7:30 PM EST (4:30 PM PST)**

CONTACTS: Kurtis Pivert • kpivert@asn-online.org • 202-699-0238

Bob Henkel • bhenkel@asn-online.org • 202-557-8360

ASN KIDNEY WEEK 2015 • NOVEMBER 3–8 • SAN DIEGO, CA

STUDIES ASSESS RACIAL DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH LIVING KIDNEY DONATION

Highlights

- Increasing median income levels of transplant candidates' zip codes were associated with higher rates of living donation, but African American candidates living in the wealthiest neighborhoods had only slightly higher rates than rates seen among the lowest median income areas for Caucasians.
- African American donors had higher rates of complications early after donation.
- The findings will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2015 November 3–8 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA.

San Diego, CA (November 6, 2015) — New research uncovers racial disparities in rates of living kidney donation and complications after donation. The findings will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2015 November 3–8 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA.

To understand the impact of organ transplant candidates' socioeconomic environment on living donation rates, a team led by Douglas Keith, MD (University of Virginia Medical Center) identified all candidates listed for kidney or kidney pancreas transplant in the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients database from 2000 to 2010 and linked their information to US census data on median income by zip code.

The researchers found that increasing median income levels of candidates' zip codes were associated with higher rates of living donation for all racial and ethnic groups. "This finding suggests that people living in communities with lower median income may have lower levels of disposition to philanthropic giving, but more likely suggest that either there are higher rates of co-morbidity leading to exclusion for being a donor and/or the non reimbursed costs related to donation—such as time off work for evaluation and follow-up, parking, and child or elder care—may preclude many from participating," said Keith Norris, MD, PhD, who was not involved with the study and is a clinical professor specializing in health policy and nephrology at UCLA.

Overall, living donation rates were highest among Caucasians followed by Hispanics and Asians. African Americans had by far the lowest overall living donation rates, with rates of

candidates living in the wealthiest neighborhoods only slightly higher than rates seen among the lowest quintile median income areas for Caucasians. “The finding could reflect lower levels of wealth for African Americans, which probably similar to Caucasians living in low income communities,” said Dr. Norris. ‘It could also reflect distinct health beliefs and behaviors for African Americans rooted in a historical distrust of American institutions based on years of disenfranchisement.”

Another group assessed the frequency and severity of early complications after living kidney donation. To do so, Krista Lentine, MD, PhD, FASN (Saint Louis University) and her colleagues integrated national US donor registry data from 2008 to 2012 with administrative records from a consortium of 98 academic hospitals.

The investigators found that 16.8% of donors experienced complications, most commonly gastrointestinal (4.4%), bleeding (3.0%), respiratory (2.5%), and surgical/anesthesia-related injuries (2.4%). Major complications affected 2.5% of donors. After adjusting for various factors, African Americans had a 26% increased risk of experiencing any complication and a 56% increased risk of experiencing major complications. Other significant correlates of major complications included obesity, predonation blood disorders and psychiatric conditions, and robotic nephrectomy, while greater annual hospital volume predicted lower risk.

“As policies for informed consent, medical evaluation, and follow-up of living organ donors are receiving increased attention and formalization by the organizations that guide and regulate transplantation practice, ongoing efforts to improve the understanding of outcomes after living donation are needed,” said Dr. Lentine. “Ultimately, by improving understanding of the short and long-term health outcomes among representative, diverse samples of living donors, the transplant community can strengthen the processes of consent, selection, and clinical management that are vital priorities.”

Studies: 1) “Association of Neighborhood Poverty and Living Donor Kidney Transplant Rates by Race” (Abstract FR-PO1002), and 2) “Racial Disparities in Perioperative Complications After Live Kidney Donation” (Abstract FR-OR071)

Disclosures: 1) The authors have no disclosures. 2) Krista L. Lentine is a consultant for and has an ownership interest in XynManagement, INC. Mark Schnitzler is a consultant for Optum Dicerna; has an ownership interest in XynManagement, LLC; receives research funding from Sanofi; and is a scientific advisor for Alliance for Paired Donation and Sanofi. Amit X. Garg receives research funding from Astellas, Roche, Fresenius, Ortho-Biotech, Pfizer Canada; and receives honoraria from Amgen. Jesse D. Schold is a consultant for Sanofi Corporation, Guidry and East; receives honoraria from Sanofi Inc.; and is a Data Safety Monitoring Board Member for Bristol Myers Squibb. Daniel C. Brennan is a consultant for Alexion, Astellas, Sanofi; receives research funding from Alexion, Astellas, Bristol Meyer Squibb, Genentech, Pfizer, Veloxis; receives honoraria from Alexion, Astellas, Genentech, Sanofi; and is on the speakers bureau for Alexion, Astellas, Genentech, Novartis, Sanofi. Dorry L. Segev is a consultant for and receives honoraria from Genzyme/Sanofi, Pfizer, Astellas, Novartis.

The authors of Abstract FR-OR071 acknowledge funding support was provided by NIDDK.

ASN Kidney Week 2015, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for more than 13,000 professionals to discuss the latest findings in kidney health research and engage in educational sessions related to advances in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders. Kidney Week 2015 will take place November 3–8, 2015 in San Diego, CA.

The content of this article does not reflect the views or opinions of The American Society of Nephrology (ASN). Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s). ASN does not offer medical advice. All content in ASN publications is for informational purposes only, and is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or adverse effects. This content should not be used during a medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Please consult your doctor or other qualified health care provider if you have any questions about a medical condition, or before taking any drug, changing your diet or commencing or discontinuing any course of treatment. Do not ignore or delay obtaining professional medical advice because of information accessed through ASN. Call 911 or your doctor for all medical emergencies.

Founded in 1966, and with nearly 16,000 members, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) leads the fight against kidney disease by educating health professionals, sharing new knowledge, advancing research, and advocating the highest quality care for patients.

###