Chicago Transplant Ethics Consortium (CTEC)

Dr. Elisa J. Gordon (Research Associate Professor, Surgery) chairs the Chicago Transplant Ethics Consortium (CTEC), which is an interdisciplinary group comprised of individuals from various disciplines and institutions in North America with a common interest in advancing discourse and research on the social and ethical aspects of solid organ transplantation and donation. The consortium includes physicians, nurses, social workers, administrators, ethicists, philosophers, and social scientists, as well as recipients and living donors, from both adult and pediatric transplant programs.

CTEC members have been meeting on a voluntary basis regularly since June 2003 to review cases, deliberate ethical issues on local, national, and international levels, and publish innovative research and opinion pieces in leading transplant journals. CTEC generally takes a clinical medical ethics approach to ethical deliberations about varied topics including informed consent for living donors, transplant tourism, and the role of social support in candidate evaluation, among others.

CTEC also serves as a sounding board for new research ideas and findings as well as provides members the opportunity to present research updates to the group. Additionally, recent news items are often circulated to the listserv for online discussion. Recently, CTEC published a personal viewpoint, “Opportunities for Shared Decision Making in Kidney Transplantation” in the American Journal of Transplantation. Other CTEC publications addressed informed consent for increased risk living donors.

Dr. Gordon, with Juan Carlos Caicedo (Assistant Professor, Surgery and Director, Hispanic Transplantation Program), co-chairs the Informed Consent and Disparities Workgroup within NUTORC. The Workgroup focuses on optimizing the informed consent process, reducing disparities in transplant access and outcomes, and ultimately promoting patient-centered care among potential living donors and transplant candidates. The co-chairs consult with multidisciplinary researchers conducting intervention and descriptive research on informed consent, health disparities, communication, and education in kidney and liver donation and transplantation. Dr. Gordon received funding from NIAID/NIDDK, HRSA, and NINR/NLM to develop interactive, educational tools to optimize the informed consent process for living liver donors and kidney transplant recipients, and to develop and evaluate a culturally sensitive website tailored to Hispanics/Latinos on living kidney donation and transplantation. Since its inception, the informed consent and disparities workgroup has received 4 extramural and 2 intramural grants, published 17 peer-reviewed papers, and presented 35 papers and posters at professional meetings nationally and internationally.

CTEC Meetings are Tuesdays at 3:00pm in 676 St. Clair, 19th Fl. Room 066. For additional information or to join CTEC, please contact Dr. Elisa Gordon at: e-gordon@northwestern.edu.