



The Role of Science in the Development of International Standards of Organ Donation and Transplantation



The Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) is convening a Workshop promoting The Role of Science in the Development of International Standards of Organ Donation and Transplantation in June 2021.

This event is co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Organ failure, particularly kidney and liver failure, are conditions caused primarily by noncommunicable diseases (NCD) that are increasing exponentially throughout the world. These global challenges are of a great concern to the PAS and the WHO that are striving to promote universal health care and improve the quality of life.

Following the direction of Pope Francis to combat organ trafficking as a form of human trafficking and a crime against humanity, the PAS has been actively seeking to alleviate the suffering experienced by those with inequitable access to organs needed for successful transplantation. The key objective of this Workshop is therefore, to address the responsibility of authorities in developing sustainable national transplant systems in light of the growing demand for organs.

The WHO's mission is to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. WHO therefore, supports this initiative which contributes in the establishment and global diffusion of organ transplantation as a lifesaving treatment.

The Workshop will be conducted virtually and will address 4 topics over a 2 day period:

Day 1, Monday | 21 June

Session 1: Evaluation of the burden of disease that results in organ failure and necessitating organ transplantation for treatment;

Session 2: A compelling case for prioritizing organ transplantation in the treatment of organ failure.

Day 2, Tuesday | 22 June

Session 3: Technical considerations for developing and optimizing organ transplantation as a healthcare treatment option for patients with organ failure;

Session 4: Strengthening the regulatory capacity for oversight of practice.

The cause of organ failure is not being examined scientifically to implement preventive measures and utilize the most cost-effective measures of treatment. This Workshop is expected to provide knowledge and guidance to policy makers and health authorities in developing sustainable transplant services with the overall objective of achieving a national self-sufficiency in treatment of end stage organ disease and facilitating patient's access to optimal transplantation care.

A panel of renowned experts will be comprehensively addressing the role of science in designing a national system and the provision of data as part of a robust oversight consistent with WHO Guiding Principles and international standards.