

## **Update on the Donor Organ Risk Assessment Working Group**

The Donor Organ Risk Assessment Working Group, chaired jointly by Professor John Dark and Professor Chris Watson, held its second meeting in February 2013.

The Group discussed the development of position papers on various topics and agreed the priority for each of the papers.

It was agreed to develop the following papers:

### **Donor Categorisation**

A significant body of work has been completed to manually review 900 individual organ donor data files. This work validated an automatic search programme developed by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) using manual categorisation of risk factors and diagnoses. The programme will now be used to perform lookback exercises using donor data collected over ten years to correlate risk factors/diagnoses with organ utilisation and outcomes.

### **Virological test results at the time of organ donation**

Dr Ines Ushiro-Lumb (Consultant Virologist at NHSBT) has been invited to join the Working Group to lead on this position paper. It is anticipated that this paper will be developed in collaboration with the Organ Donation and Transplantation Microbiological Safety Group, currently led by Dr Ushiro-Lumb.

### **Drug abuse in a potential organ donor**

Professor Dark and Professor Watson will jointly lead this paper. A telephone conference was held to instigate the workplan for this paper. It was determined that whilst it seemed logical to define specific illegal recreational drugs and assess the effect they may have on individual organs, there are many prescription and over the counter medications which are also known to have deleterious effects on organs. Therefore further work is under way to define the remit of this position paper.

It is anticipated that the position paper will make reference to essential screening tests and assessments required for specified medications and will aid the interpretation of this information to determine any effect on organ function.

### **Cancer in a potential organ donor**

This position paper is being led jointly by Professor Watson and Professor Neuberger. Three papers are close to completion which will be combined to develop the final position paper. It is anticipated that the final position paper will be divided into three areas:

1. Donor transmitted cancers
2. Outcomes from donors with a history of cancer
3. Outcomes of recipients with a history of cancer.

### **Anatomical Abnormalities**

This position paper is being led jointly by Professor Dark and Professor Watson.

The position paper will aim to define and provide information on organ-specific anatomical abnormalities, how to correct the abnormality and how to perform successful transplantation of the organ, drawing on the published literature.

Work is under way to seek evidence on the abnormalities seen and the corrective measures necessary for successful transplantation. This work will require the collaboration of the wider transplantation community.

### **Reporting of Position Papers to SaBTO**

It has been agreed that the position papers will follow a common template. The template is currently under development and will be agreed at the next meeting of the Working Group, scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The Working Group members agreed that this is not a single project, but a programme of work, with different strands. The Group will produce a series of position papers undertaken to different timescales, which in time will build into wide ranging guidance. In due course it is envisaged that a web-based repository of knowledge of use to the transplant community will be available.