

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 third meeting in June 2013.

The group continued detailed discussion to determine the required content and purpose of the agreed position papers. The group has previously agreed to produce position papers on

Virological test results at the time of organ donation

Cancer in a potential organ donor

Drug abuse in a potential organ donor

Anatomical Abnormalities.

The group considered that it would be possible to produce the papers on interpretation of virological tests at the time of organ donation and cancer in the potential organ donor for review at the December meeting of SaBTO.

The papers are in early draft at this stage and will be reviewed at the next meeting of DORA, to be held by telecon, in October 2013.

The papers on drug abuse in the potential organ donor and anatomical abnormalities are in the early stages of preparation and are planned for submission to SaBTO in Spring 2014.

Donor Categorisation

The donor categorisation exercise has enabled the development of a programme which can perform an automatic search of organ donor databases. This can then be used to analyse outcomes of transplants from donors with specific diagnoses or causes of death such as 'hanging' within the free text.

The ability to undertake such an analysis will be further improved with the separate categorisation by donor type, ie DBD (Donation after Brain Death) or DCD (Donation after Circulatory Death) donor.

It is anticipated that when changes are made to the information currently collected on the Electronic Offering System, further development will be possible to improve the capability of the automatic search programme.

Syndromes in Transplantation

A further position paper has been suggested to provide detailed advice on the impact that specific syndromes may have on organs available for transplantation.

The working group has acknowledged that this will be a very useful paper but will be difficult to undertake, owing to the numerous different syndromes that may be considered.

This position paper is still undergoing consideration and is likely to be a longer term piece of work which may be updated over a longer timescale as information becomes available.

Chair of the Working Group

Professor John Dark's term as a SaBTO member will be completed in November 2013. Professor Dark has kindly agreed to continue to co-chair the group until November 2014.