



HUP's First KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

A 40-YEAR TRACK RECORD

The breathtaking view of Philadelphia from the top floor of Biomedical Research Building II/III was, in many ways, an appropriate setting for a dinner and ceremony honoring the forty-year anniversary of the first kidney transplant at HUP. It was here that **Clyde Barker, MD**, former chair of Surgery, bravely attempted to transplant a kidney from a living donor, Joe Mehl, into his twenty-year-old brother, Howard. It was a combination of the cutting-edge medicine of the time and quite a bit of hope.

"Donating an organ is the most precious gift that one can give to another human being," said Howard, taking a moment to recall his moment in transplant history. "Because of my brother and Dr. Barker, we're able to enjoy each other's lives forty years on."

"And it's not just about saving one life. It's about creating life," Joe added. "After the transplant, Howard got married and had three sons. That's the real miracle... Howard is doing fine, our family grows, and I'm still doing fine."

It's a track record that still impresses many in the medical field. "It may take us another forty years to see how well we've progressed with kidney transplantation, but I believe we may have no patient that does as well as Howard," Barker said. "There are only ten to twelve people in the world who still have the same transplanted kidney so many years on."

Clyde Barker (L), here with Abraham Shaked, was recognized for his achievements in the field of transplant medicine.



Against All Odds

Though the science is widely taken for granted today, transplantation was extremely risky in the 1960s. Live, or heart-beating, donors were rare. Indeed, the standards for "brain death" were not defined until 1981 so many organ donations came from cadavers.

In addition, no commonly-available tissue-typing test existed. "What was used at HUP could have been called 'home-made,'" Barker said. Finally, only two immunosuppressive drugs were available, and only one of them — steroids — is still used. Yet Howard and his brother beat the odds, and Howard is the longest-surviving kidney transplant recipient with a working graft in Pennsylvania.

Of course, things have moved forward considerably since then. "Many years later, we ran another histocompatibility test to see how close

we were to the mark with Howard and Joe, since we had a number of siblings to choose from," Barker noted. "Joe was still the perfect donor of the family."

Modern immunosuppressive drugs have improved short-term results, and research is now focusing on making more potent and targeted agents as well as determining how best to taper off medications for those transplant recipients who recover well. "These drugs obviously have side effects, and some can cause kidney damage over the long term, so we'd like to get these patients off of the drugs as safely and quickly as possible," Barker said.

"One of the things we're looking at as the future of transplant medicine is being able to identify patients who would tolerate transplanted organs without any immunosuppressive therapy," explained **Abraham Shaked, MD, PhD**, chief of

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HUP TRANSPLANT "FIRSTS"

Since 1966, the Penn Transplant Center has performed over 6000 transplants in all organs.

1966

Kidney

1986

Liver
Pancreas

1987

Heart

1991

Lung

1996

Heart/Lung

2001

Islet Cells

Gospelrama

2006

A Joyous Evening

Last month, Medical Alumni Hall echoed with the joyous sounds of faith and hope — and the message “Be Encouraged” — at HUP’s 11th Annual Gospelrama. The evening, filled with song and liturgical dance, also honored the work of **Sister Ramona Cecille**, who recently received her certification as Associate Supervisor from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

Gospelrama — the inspiration of Sister Ramona and Reverend Ed Smith in 1995 — was originally known as “Singing Songs of Zion.” Initially held at the Interfaith

Chapel in the Dulles building, it immediately outgrew its humble beginnings and has been held in Medical Alumni Hall ever since.

“Besides bringing us Gospelrama, Ramona is a large part of what happens in Pastoral Care here at HUP,” explained Reverend **Ralph C. Ciampa, STS**, director of Pastoral Care, “and she has played a part in each of our missions: patient care, education, research, and community partnership. We are so proud of her, and her accomplishments, that we can hardly stand it!”

“I am humbled and grateful and thankful,” said Sister Ramona. “I am amazed how God has given strength to do all that Ralph said I did!”

The evening featured special guest Reverend Louise Williams Bishop, Pennsylvania State Representative and radio personality. “I want to congratulate all of you as we celebrate this year’s Gospelrama and recognize the wonderful work of the people here.”

Notables

Chaitanya R. Divgi, MD, has been named the new chief of Nuclear Medicine and Clinical Molecular Imaging in the Department of Radiology. In addition to excellent general nuclear medicine experience and skills, Divgi has a clinical research focus on radioimmunotherapy and is the author of more than 80 peer-reviewed articles. Divgi, who will arrive at Penn in May, is currently on staff at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Larry R. Kaiser, MD, chair of Surgery, has been named Surgeon-in-Chief for the Health System. This appointment recognizes his considerable leadership in a variety of key initiatives within UPHS. Kaiser will continue to provide this strategic and policy guidance for the Health System and its component hospitals and physician practices while retaining his position as head of Surgery.

Mitchell A. Lazar, MD, PhD, has been appointed to the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, a part of the National Institutes of Health. Lazar is chief of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism.



The Penn Inspirations, under the direction of Tamika Patton-Watkins, sang a rousing version of "You Are Worthy to Be Praised."

"Gospelrama is one of the most meaningful events on HUP's calendar," noted COO **Al Black**, "and I'm delighted to be here. It indeed lifts all of our spirits after a long week. I'm proud to have the opportunity to show my appreciation to the commitment and energy of everyone who is involved in this program."

HUP Executive Director **Garry Scheib** concurred: "This is my most favorite event of the year — I could listen to it all night long."

June Hill performs "Mary's Alabaster Jar" at the 11th Annual Gospelrama

Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to put together another successful Gospelrama. And special thanks to Morrison Food Services and Atlas Pizzeria for their generous food contributions.



Cafeteria's Grand Opening

For the past few months, part of HUP's cafeteria has been, literally, under wraps for its renovation. Come see the amazing results at the grand opening on Wednesday, March 22, starting at 10 am. This special event will include:

- Free fountain beverages and cake.
- Samples and handouts from several vendors.
- A raffle with multiple prizes, including a grand prize of a 27-inch color TV.

Renovation work on the dining area will begin immediately after the servery reopens. This project will be done in three phases, which allows sections of the eating area to remain open during the renovation. According to **Chuck Aitken**, assistant

hospital director of Support Services, the project will last approximately three months and will totally change the appearance of the dining area. "We're adding counters and booths, which will make it much more inviting, less institutional," he said.

Important:

With the reopening of the servery next Wednesday, the cafeteria's hours will change. Hot meals will now be available at the following times:

Breakfast from 6 to 10 am
Lunch from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm
Dinner from 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Central Cashier AT PENN TOWER GARAGE

To enhance patient satisfaction, a new parking initiative will be launched on Monday, March 20, at Penn Tower Garage: Central Cashiering. This new process will require garage customers to pay at either of two central cashier stations before they return to their cars and exit the garage, helping to avoid traffic back ups and wait lines at the cashier booths near the exit.

Patients, family, and visitors must take their garage parking ticket when leaving their car. When returning to their car — but before exiting the garage — they must present the ticket at a central cashier pay station where the charges will be calculated and any appropriate discounts applied. The cashier pay stations are located at the Motor Lobby of Penn Tower and at the garage's Bridge Level elevators. The Bridge Level central cashier station will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The Motor Lobby booth — open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 10 pm — will also serve as cashier for the Penn Tower Valet.

Customers who forget to pay at one of the central cashier stations prior to returning to their car can simply remain in their vehicle and contact the cashier via the intercom at the exit gate to receive further instructions. To ensure a smoother transition, a garage cashier will be at the exit until the end of April, and garage personnel will be available to help anyone needing assistance with the exit process. Please note that all second- and third-shift employees who use the Penn Tower Garage will need new pass cards, which will be reissued through the Garage Manager's office at the Penn Tower Garage.

The decision to implement Central Cashiering came after listening to patients' dissatisfaction about long lines to exit the Penn Tower Garage. Central Cashiering will help us better accommodate the parking needs of our patients, their families, and visitors.

Please help us make the transition a success for the hospital, the staff, and customers of the Penn Tower Garage.



Architect's rendering

HUP's First (continued from page 1) KIDNEY TRANSPLANT



Brothers Joe and Howard Mehl share a joke and their experience.

Transplant Surgery. "We also need to develop less-invasive diagnostic tests for determining the likelihood of organ rejection so that our patients will no longer need to have biopsies performed. And, of course, we want to conquer the diseases that can cause organ failure, such as Hepatitis C, so that transplants would not be necessary."

Transplant House

Besides celebrating the remarkable success of Howard's transplant, the evening also commemorated the dedication and excellence of Penn's transplant program. "What makes this great event truly special is the transplant program's unbelievable group of surgeons and health care professionals who utilize an interdisciplinary, team approach," said **Arthur H. Rubenstein, MBBCh**, executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and dean of the School of Medicine. "It is because of this incredible dedication and skill that Penn has the most comprehensive transplant center in the region."

As **Ali Najj, MD, PhD**, surgical director of the Kidney Transplant Program, explained, "Our transplant program is unique because of its relationship with basic scientists. Our research programs highlight the outstanding research strengths and resources at Penn, and our labs are looking at immunological tolerance, the restoration of blood flow, and immunologic rejection."

In addition to outstanding clinical care and research, the Penn Transplant Program will also launch the Transplant House initiative. According to **Larry Kaiser, MD**, chair of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief for the Health System, the House is a "courageous effort by our transplant program to provide an affordable haven for patients, and their families and friends, to find privacy and rest."

The Transplant House will be the first of its kind in Philadelphia and will offer rooms at a fraction of the cost of a hotel room. A kitchen will be available to prepare low-cost, nutritious fare. There has been an initial allocation of funds from the Penn Transplant Center and a steering committee has been appointed. Additional fundraising events in the future will help raise awareness of this much-needed patient asset.

"Donating an organ ... it's the most intimate of human exchanges," Howard concluded. "You become part of a much larger family."



HOUSING WORKSHOPS

Penn's Office of Community Housing is hosting its yearly spring workshops for future and present home owners. This year's topics include Financial Planning, Guerilla Credit Repair, Home Maintenance, Identity Theft, and Mortgages & Refinancing. For more information on where and when the workshops will be held, go online to www.upenn.edu/communityhousing, and click on 'Events & Seminars' or e-mail samara2@pobox.upenn.edu.

FICAP FORUM

The next FICAP (Firearm & Injury Center at Penn) forum will take place on Friday, March 24 at 9:30 am. **Ivan Juzang**, president of Motivational Educational Entertainment Productions, will speak on "The Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia: Using Social Marketing to Address Youth Violence." The forum will be held in 218 Houston Hall. For more information, visit www.upenn.edu/ficap.

Referral Bonus for Pharmacists

Do you have any friends or professional acquaintances who are pharmacists and would like to work for the Health System? If so, your referral could earn you a \$2,500 bonus through the Pharmacy Referral Program.

The program is seeking pharmacists to work at HUP, Penn Presbyterian, and Penn Home Care and Hospice Services. If your referred candidate successfully completes 30 days of service, you'll receive \$500. After six months of completed service, you'll receive another \$500. When your referred candidate completes 12 months of service, you'll be awarded the final \$1,500. All bonuses are paid through payroll with applicable taxes.

Additional information and referral forms are available on the Intranet at <http://uphsxnet.uphs.upenn.edu/hr/>. (Click on 'Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania'). The final day for submitting referral forms is Monday, April 3.

For questions, call **Margie Delaney** at 615-2656.

HUPdate

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