



# Network News



April is National  
Donate Life Month

DonateLife.net

April is National Donate Life Month and this year; the theme is leave a legacy! This month, you will see trees used as a symbol of support and connection. This month and every month, we celebrate donors, recipients, and families that build this forest of hope and life. Follow along this month for education surrounding organ, tissue, and eye donation as well as the impact of the gift of life.



@StarzIT



@StarzINetwork

## **2026 Annual Meeting**

Registration for the Annual Meeting is now closed. We look forward to seeing so many of you in San Francisco later this month!

You can find additional meeting information and the agenda on our [website](#). If you have any questions regarding the meeting, accommodations, or travel support, please reach out to [C.J.](#) or [Lauren](#).

## **Upcoming Network Presentations**

As a reminder, if you are planning to submit any manuscripts, abstracts, or presentations based on Starzl Network work or using the Starzl Network logo in any way, please be sure to submit a draft of this submission to the Data Use and Publications Committee (DUPC) prior to use.

The DUPC is lead by Jim Squires and Rene Romero and includes a team of individuals from all backgrounds, including Patient & Family Voice representatives. Please allow the DUPC team a minimum of one week to review the materials that are planning on being submitted. If you have any questions regarding the process or if you would like to get involved with the DUPC, please contact [Jim](#).

**If you have a topic you would like the Network to discuss on an upcoming Monday call, please reach out to [Lauren](#)!**

## **Starzl Network Conference Calls**

As we gear up for the Annual Meeting, our call schedule has some adjustments! Please see the list of calls listed below:

- April 13 - Annual Meeting Preparation, C.J. Confair & Lauren Bodi
- April 21 & 22 - Starzl Network Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- April 27 - Cancelled

If you are unable to join the Network calls, all session recordings and slides are available on Basecamp. If you have any trouble accessing the [Basecamp site](#), please reach out to [Lauren](#).

## **Starzl Network Advocacy Working Group**

The Starzl Network Advocacy Working group met with congressional staff last month to present the work of the Advocacy Working Group. This presentation included information regarding the Starzl Network, a draft of an amendment to the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA), and the importance of pediatric prioritization to eliminate deaths on the waitlist. Maria Bell, Sang-Mo Kang, and George Mazariegos met with 3 congressional leaders staff including representatives from Oregon, Virginia, and Iowa.

The team reported that the visit was a success and is helping open doors for future conversations. One quote from a staff member that was impactful was as follows, “In the past six years that we have been working on transplant legislation, no group has ever called out the unique needs of children until today.”

Thank you to the team and to all who has been involved in this important work!

## **Organ Allocation Op-Ed**

**THE HILL**

Check out this op-ed written by Advocacy Working Group co-lead, Maria Bell.

BY MARIA F. BELL, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 03/21/26 8:00 AM ET



We are so fortunate to help amplify the message that Maria and all our patients and families voice. You can read Maria's op-ed [here](#).

If you or a team member want to get involved in the Advocacy Working Group, please reach out to [Sang-Mo](#) or [Maria](#).

