Save the Date

The Transplant Fall Festival will be held on Saturday November 5, 2016 at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. This annual event is fun for the entire family. Rockin’ Robin DJ will be there with tunes for dancing and fun games. We will have educational tables, moonbounces, the petting zoo, and good BBQ to eat. Come join the Transplant Team and other transplant recipients and living donors for a celebration of life through transplantation.

New Surgeon Joins Methodist Transplant Team

Dr. Peter Horton joined the Methodist University Hospital transplant team in 2016 with a focus on abdominal transplant surgery including liver, pancreas and kidney transplantation. He is board-certified in general surgery. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He was the NH&MRC fellow in transplantation at the National Pancreas Transplant Unit, Sydney, Australia. Dr. Horton completed his IHPBA accredited hepato-pancreatice-biliary surgery fellowship at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and his ASTS fellowship in liver and kidney transplantation at University of Rochester Medical Center, NY. He is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, UK and was awarded a higher doctoral research degree by Cambridge for research in transplant immunology and tolerance induction in 2011.

Ask the Doctor...

“My brother is currently waiting on the liver transplant waiting list. His Model End State Liver Disease (MELD) score is pretty high and we are hoping he will get an organ offer soon. He seems to be very confused and disoriented. Sometimes he even becomes angry and aggressive. I know he does not feel well. Is this normal behavior and is there anything we can do to help?”

“Great question! I am glad that you are providing support for your brother and are involved in his care. Being a support person is not easy but it is a very important job. I know your brother appreciates your concern. Often times, patients with liver disease suffer from Hepatic Encephalopathy. This can happen when toxins, which are normally removed by the liver, accumulate in the bloodstream. We do our best to try and manage this by monitoring ammonia levels through blood work and use of medications. If you notice these symptoms, it is important that you notify the medical team so we can evaluate and treat him accordingly.”

Did You Know?

Hepatitis C now has a treatment option that has a 95-100% cure rate depending on your genotype and treatment regimen. The last few years have been very exciting in the area of Hepatitis C. There are new medications available that are easier to take, have minimal side effects, low drug interaction, and in some cases a shorter duration of treatment. If you are interested, make an appointment to see one of our Hepatologists to determine eligibility through our Center for Advanced Liver Disease center, 901-516-9183. Our dedicated team will help you get started and assist you in obtaining your medication. Please also share this exciting news with your friends and family who may have been diagnosed with Hepatitis C.

Transplant Monthly Support Group

The Living Kindly Transplant Support Group meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 3:00 p.m. in the 10 Thomas Conference room. This support group is for pre-transplant candidates and post-transplant recipients as well as their families.

If you are ever interested in sharing your story at the Support Group, or in our Life Stories booklet, please contact Susan Dodson, LAPSW at 901-516-2060.

Newsletter Feedback

Do you like our new newsletter?

Please contact Karen Hamburger at Karen.hamburger@mlh.org if you have feedback or ideas for future newsletters.
Transplant Patients Compete in the Transplant Games of America

By: Karen Hamburger, Outreach Coordinator

The 2016 Transplant Games of America were held in Cleveland, OH from July 10-16th. Approximately 6,000 people attended as either transplant recipients, living organ donors, donor families or supporters of transplantation and organ/tissue donation. I had the opportunity to attend with Team MidSouth, 35 individuals all touched by organ/tissue donation and transplantation in some way from our community. There were 10 Competitors on our team (1 double lung recipient, 2 heart recipients, 5 kidney recipients, 1 living donor and 1 tissue recipient).

In addition, two representatives from Medtronic, the Executive Director of the NKF of West TN, one donor father and several MidSouth Transplant team members were in attendance. We all came together to cheer for our recipients and provide support for the donor dad. The team brought home a combined total of 8 medals; gold, silver and bronze.

The Games proved to be emotional and inspiring. Watching our team of recipients have the opportunity to meet recipients from all over the country, share their stories and form a bond with each other through friendly competition was truly awesome. Recipients from 6 years old to 87 years old competed in events ranging from swimming, to track and field, to corn hole and ballroom dancing. Each competitor gave their all, and enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the new life they have been given through the gift of organ donation. In addition to celebrating life through transplantation, the importance of organ donation was a huge focus. The numerous memorials (donor gardens, posters, pins, etc) and recognition to the donors and donor families throughout the entire week highlighted the true heroes, the organ donors. It was an opportunity to showcase and honor that selfless decision to donate and give recipients an opportunity to thank those family members that made that decision.

We had three kidney transplant recipients compete from our Transplant Program. They trained hard and made the Institute proud.

Ms. Natalie Yates had a living donor kidney from her sister in 1995 but went on dialysis after it failed in 2011. She then received a kidney from the cadaveric waiting list in April of 2015. She attended with her two daughters who helped cheer for her as she competed in Corn Hole, Darts and Trivia. She did not win any medals at the games, but felt that this experience gave her more motivation to strive to compete at the next games. We are proud of her performance and she enjoyed interacting with other recipients.

Mr. Patrick Johnson received a kidney transplant in 2010. He trained with another Team MidSouth member and competed in Ballroom Dancing, the Rumba, and brought home a Gold Medal. It was so exciting to watch! He also trained and ran the 100 meter dash on the track at Case Western Reserve University along with heart, lung, liver and other transplant recipients. He was awesome!

Mr. Artaveous Veasey, “Tay”, is a 26 year old kidney recipient with a zest for life. He trained very hard with a personal trainer to compete in the 400 meter, 200 meter and 100 meter dash. We were super excited when he won the Bronze Medal in the 400 meter dash! He is inspired to go back to the games and compete in many different events next time – now that he knows he can do anything he sets his mind too!

Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate in the 2018 Transplant Games of America.

Submit Your T-Shirt Ideas!

The Transplant Institute is looking to create a new Transplant T-Shirt and we are fresh out of ideas. Do you have a creative and fun idea? We would love to hear it. Please send t-shirt ideas to Karen Hamburger at Karen.hamburger@mlh.org. All proceeds from the sales of the t-shirts go directly to helping transplant patients who are in need.

For more information, contact:
Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute
1265 Union Ave. • 1 Sherard • Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 516-9183

Visit www.livingkindly.org for Transplant Resources