



PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT

Experience of ethical issues among professionals working in donation and transplantation – an international survey

Who is conducting this project?

This project is being conducted by a working group of the Transplantation Society (TTS) Ethics Committee, led by Dr **Beatriz Domínguez-Gil**. The researcher responsible for the project is Dr Dominique Martin from the University of Melbourne, who is co-chair of the Ethics Committee. Information about the entire research team can be found at the end of this statement under "Where can I get further information?"

The project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Melbourne.

What is the purpose of the project?

The project aims to identify the areas of practice in which TTS members and other professionals working in donation and transplantation have experienced ethical concerns or dilemmas. We hope to determine which ethical issues might be commonly experienced by professionals working in particular areas or in particular countries or regions. We will also identify the ethical issues that participants feel are most important for the Society to address, for example through development of educational resources or ethical guidelines.

The results of this study will help to determine the kinds of ethical issues that professionals working in donation and transplantation may experience. The findings will be used by TTS Ethics Committee to prioritise work on specific issues in order to assist TTS members and other transplant professionals in their management of ethical dilemmas in practice.

Why am I being asked to participate?

You have received an email inviting you to participate because you are a member of TTS, or you may have received information about the survey via a professional network or from a TTS member.

This is the first international study to investigate donation and transplantation professionals' practical experience of ethical concerns or dilemmas. Your participation will help TTS to better support its members, as well as other professionals working in the field of transplantation. Your contribution to the study will be highly valued.

Who should complete the survey?

All TTS members, regardless of their professional expertise or experience, are eligible to participate in this study. All members are encouraged to participate, including those who do not work in clinical roles. **If you are not a TTS member, but you are a professional working in the field of donation or transplantation, you are also eligible to participate.**

Even if you have never experienced an ethical concern or dilemma in your own practice, your participation would be appreciated.

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What am I being asked to do?

You are being asked to complete an online survey at Survey Monkey by following the links contained in your email invitation or on this webpage. This survey contains questions about your experience of ethical concerns or dilemmas in particular areas of practice, such as deceased donation, research, or interactions with colleagues. The time needed to complete the survey varies. If you have had little experience of ethical concerns or dilemmas, the survey may take only 5 minutes. If you have had extensive experience, the survey may take up to 15 minutes. If you wish to provide details about ethical issues you have experienced, the survey may take an additional few minutes.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

We will protect your confidentiality to the fullest extent possible. Please note that **legal limitations may apply** if you disclose some illegal activities. If you disclose illegal activities, please take care not to provide any identifying information such as the hospital at which you work.

The survey is anonymous, and you will be asked only to identify the country in which you practice. Unless you provide identifying details in the open text response sections, the researchers will not know who you are. The final report may include quotes from participants, but we will remove any references that could allow people to guess your identity.

You can refuse to answer any question or reply to questions as briefly or as fully as you choose.

Any information received from you and all survey data will be accessible to the researchers only, and will be password protected. The data will be kept securely in the School of Population and Global Health for five years from the date of publication, before being destroyed.

How will I receive feedback?

After completing the survey, you will be given the opportunity to indicate whether you wish to receive a summary report of the project findings, once the study has finished. The findings will also be reported on The Transplantation Society website and in journal articles.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your participation or non-participation will have no impact on your membership or association with The Transplantation Society. Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so.

Where can I get further information?

Please contact the researchers if you have any questions or if you would like more information about the project. **You can reach the entire research team at <ttsethicscommittee@gmail.com>**. Some additional contact telephone numbers and email addresses are shown below.

Members of the Research Team

Name	Role in the Research
Dr Beatriz Domínguez-Gil <i>Chair of The Transplantation Society Ethics Committee (TTS-EC)</i> Organización Nacional de Trasplantes	Chair of the research working group e: bdominguez@msssi.es
Dr Dominique Martin <i>Co-chair of TTS-EC</i> University of Melbourne, Australia	Responsible researcher e: domini.martin@gmail.com
Professor Katrina Bramstedt <i>Member of TTS-EC</i> Bond University, Australia	Researcher
Professor Riadh Fadhil <i>Member of TTS-EC</i> Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar	Researcher
Dr Rudolf Garcia-Gallont <i>Member of TTS-EC</i> Hospital San Juan de Dios, Guatemala	Researcher
Professor Jacob Lavee <i>Member of TTS-EC</i> Tel Aviv University, Israel	Researcher
Professor Richard Trompeter <i>IPTA liaison to TTS-EC</i> Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom	Researcher
Dr Kristof Van Assche <i>Member of TTS-EC</i> University of Antwerp, Belgium	Researcher

If you have concerns about the conduct of the project which you do not wish to discuss with the research team please contact the **Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, The University of Melbourne, telephone +61 3 8344 2073**. Please cite ethics application number 1545848.2