



September 15, 2021

Shelley Grant, Executive Secretary
Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation
Healthcare Systems Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration
Room 08W67
5600 Fishers Ln.
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Executive Secretary Grant:

On behalf of our more than 55,000 Texas physician and medical student members, the Texas Medical Association writes to nominate the following Texas physicians, listed in alphabetical order, to serve on Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation, as [requested](#) by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the May 27, 2021, *Federal Register*.

Bernard V. Fischbach, MD, has served as the medical director of kidney/pancreas transplantation at the Baylor Scott & White Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute in Dallas since 2006. During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, his primary role was to review hospitalization and infection trends to determine the feasibility of offering organ transplantation during a national emergency. He was also instrumental in developing perioperative and post-transplant protocols to help maintain patient safety in an immunosuppressed patient population. Despite the devastating effects of COVID-19, the institute was successfully transplanted more than 250 kidneys.

Dr. Fischbach has been diligent in reviewing the relevant medical literature as it applies to COVID-19, organ transplantation, and the end-stage renal disease population. He co-authored a manuscript titled “Association of the COVID-19 Pandemic with Increased Adherence among Prevalent Hemodialysis Patients” that was recently accepted for publication in the journal *Clinical Nephrology*.

Through his experience as a program director, transplant clinician, and clinical researcher, he can offer professional insight into the realm of kidney transplantation during this ongoing pandemic.

Shelley A. Hall, MD, FACC, FHFA, FAST, was born in Massachusetts and moved to Texas for college. She completed all of her medical training at The University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas and in 1997 became the first transplant cardiologist at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, where she still practices today as the chief of transplant cardiology, mechanical circulatory support, and advanced heart failure. She grew this program into the largest in Texas and to among the top 10 in the U.S.

Dr. Hall also serves as chair of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Cardiac Committee and chair of the Thoracic and Critical Care Council for the American Society of Transplantation and is the incoming president for Texas Chapter of the American College of Cardiology after service as secretary/treasurer. Her interests include improved management and noninvasive surveillance of transplant recipients and cardiogenic shock processes. She raised five children, is married to a cardiologist, and loves the Dallas Cowboys and the Dallas Stars.

Soma S.S.K. Jyothula, MD, is the medical director of the Lung Transplant Center at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center in Houston and is part of clinical faculty as an associate professor at McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He is a member of the American College of Chest Physicians, American Thoracic Society, American Society of Transplantation, and International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation.

He has been practicing medicine since 2006 and is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care medicine. His clinical interests include lung transplantation, interstitial lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary hypertension, and interventional pulmonology. Dr. Jyothula earned his medical degree at All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India, and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. He completed his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Dr. Jyothula's practice philosophy is to provide the highest quality comprehensive and innovative care to patients with chronic lung disease. He believes in a personalized approach to managing each patient's medical needs.

Matthias Kapturczak, MD, PhD, has been the medical director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program at the Texas Transplant Institute at Methodist Healthcare in San Antonio since 2008. He attended the Karol Marcinkowski Academy of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland, and the Free University of Berlin Medical School in Berlin, Germany, where he obtained his PhD in physiology. He completed an internal medicine residency and fellowship in nephrology at the University of Florida in Gainesville and his transplant nephrology fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he also served as assistant professor of medicine and surgery at the UAB kidney transplant program.

Since arriving to San Antonio, Dr. Kapturczak has helped build and grow what is now the largest live donor kidney transplant program in the country and the largest donor exchange program in the world. He is passionate about kidney transplantation and about expanding the access to this life-saving procedure. In his daily practice, he works tirelessly on overcoming barriers to kidney transplantation to provide equal access to every person suffering from advanced kidney disease. He also feels strongly about protections of those who selflessly donate a kidney, and he has participated in the development and enforcement of donor follow-up policies while serving as a member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network/UNOS Living Donor Committee.

Giuliano Testa, MD, MBA, FACS, is a graduate of the University of Padova Medical School in Padua, Italy. He completed general surgery residencies both at the University of Padova and at the University of Chicago and then a fellowship in abdominal organ transplantation at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. In 1998, Dr. Testa moved to Germany to the University of Essen, where he significantly contributed to starting the Adult-to-Adult Living Donor Liver Transplant Program. In 2001, he was recruited as associate professor of surgery and director of the Liver Transplant Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2005, he moved to the University of Chicago as director of liver transplant and hepatobiliary surgery and became professor of surgery.

In 2008, Dr. Testa completed the fellowship in clinical ethics at the MacLean Center for Clinical Ethics of the University of Chicago and joined the faculty to become the associate director of the Surgical Ethics Program. In 2011, he obtained a master's degree in business administration at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Dr. Testa was recruited by Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas in July 2011 to lead the Living Donor Liver Program. In 2017 he was promoted to division chief and in 2019 was named chair of the Simmons Transplant Institute. Dr. Testa is actively involved in the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, where he is a member of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee. He serves on the ethics committees of both UNOS and Baylor University Medical Center. Dr. Testa is board member of the American Society of Reconstructive Transplantation and founding member of the International Society of Uterus Transplantation and the U.S. Uterus Transplant Consortium.

Dr. Testa is author or co-author of more than 170 manuscripts and several book chapters. He is a recognized authority in the field of living donor liver transplantation, living donor intestinal transplantation, and uterus transplantation.

Given these Texas physicians' extensive experience, TMA believes they are fully capable of providing advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to organ donation, procurement, allocation, and transplantation. We appreciate the opportunity to make this nomination. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Bennett, TMA vice president of medical economics, at Robert.Bennett@texmed.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Linda Villarreal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

E. Linda Villarreal, MD
President
Texas Medical Association