

# DONATION AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER: RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR 2017

## 2016 Donation Update

139 Organ Donors

424 Lives Saved

1,710 Tissue Recoveries

CO Donor Designation: 69.32%

WY Donor Designation: 57.57%



### In the Spotlight: Dr. Katherine Fitting, MD Medical Director, Donor Alliance

Many of you enjoyed the presentations and group activities hosted by Dr. Fitting and wanted to know more about our Medical Director. Dr. Fitting is well known in the Nephrology and Organ Recovery Communities. She has been with Donor Alliance since 2000, but she also has an incredible medical practice history in Colorado. She received her MD from the University of Tennessee, Center for Health Sciences, and went on to complete her residency in Internal Medicine in Columbus, Ohio before completing her Fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Dr. Fitting functioned as the Medical Director for Renal/Pancreas Transplant Services and Section Chief of Nephrology at Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital until 2003. She is also well loved by her Community of South Park, CO where she had a private practice through 2014. Dr. Fitting continues to work as the Medical Director for Donor Alliance as well as the Medical Director for Park County Jail. In 2010 she was awarded the True Pioneer Award! Also exciting to know...since 1997 Dr. Fitting has had a great role promoting awareness of organ and tissue transplant and donation at the famous Llama Rama race during Burro Days every July in Fairplay, CO!

### Preserving Organs: How the Critical Care Nurse Can Help

Use the acronym *NURSE* to remember the different steps:

**N**ormalize patient (normalize the vital signs as best as possible)

**U**nderstand policy and process (hospital P&Ps and the donor manual/binder)

**R**efer early (refer any patients meeting the clinical triggers)

**S**upport family (maintain good communication and support of the family)

**E**nsure donor management team has the support necessary to maintain stability of patient for transplant)



### In Case You Didn't Know UNOS...

#### the UNITED NETWORK FOR ORGAN SHARING

UNOS manages the nation's organ transplant system. They bring together hundreds of transplant and organ procurement professionals and thousands of volunteers. This unique collaboration helps make life-saving organ transplants possible each day. UNOS' system serves as the model for transplant systems around the world. For more, visit [www.UNOS.org](http://www.UNOS.org)

## What is Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD)?

The surgical removal of organs after the pronouncement of circulatory death.

### How does this pathway to organ donation begin?

A Referral is made to Donor Alliance Donor Information Line (DIL) by the hospital when the family of a patient with a severe neurological injury makes the decision to end life sustaining treatment.

### The Evaluation:

The evaluation is a collaboration between the hospital care team and Donor Alliance. It consists of a clinical assessment of the potential likelihood of cardiopulmonary arrest within a 60 -90 minute predetermined timeframe after extubation.

### The Hospital RN's Role:

The RN may be present in the patient's room during the DCD evaluation. Donor Alliance monitors the vital signs. If the patient does not have an arterial line, NBP must be cycled every 1 minute.

### The Hospital RT's Role:

The RT is present for about 20 minutes and will need NIF manometer, syringe to check cuff leak and a ventilation bag ready in the event patient becomes unstable. After 10 minutes the RT will check NIF, Tidal Vol and RR, then return the vent to original settings. *The collective impressions of the RT, MD and RN regarding potential for death in the necessary timeframe are essential, as well as planned supportive medications and comfort care medications in determination of eligibility.*

**SAVE THE DATE!!** The next Donation Ambassador Training is scheduled for Tuesday March 28th, 2017 at the Donor Alliance Recovery Center

## Medical Center of the Rockies Donation Ambassador Spotlight



Laura Miracle BSN, CCRN

**1. Who are you?** I am a Colorado Native born and raised in Longmont. Since early childhood I knew I wanted to work in the medical field and my passion has never faded. I have worked at Longmont United Hospital for 17 years and the majority of my career has been in the ICU caring for open heart patients.

**2. Why do you support donation?** I developed a passion for organ and tissue donation after being involved with cases in the ICU and wanted to expand my knowledge, becoming an asset for co-workers because there are many misconceptions about donation. I enjoy talking with people about it and sharing my experiences. I am impressed with the kindness and compassion shown to families during the organ and tissue donation process by both hospital staff and the staff from donor alliance. It is so great to be a part of turning a tragic situation into something positive for someone else.

**3. Something you learned in the training to share with your hospital:** Learning how organ and tissue donation has directly changed the lives of so many people is inspiring! I can bring this back to the staff at LUH so everyone knows that what we do can really make a difference and the difficult cases that are so sad and tragic can turn into something good.

### Test Your Knowledge:

The appropriate time to make the referral call after identifying clinical triggers on a potential organ donor is:

- A. 3 hours after the patient is settled in room
- B. 24 hours
- C. 1 hour
- D. When the physician writes the order

Answer is C