Glossary of Transplant Terms

- **ABO Blood Type**: Human blood is classified into four groups: A, B, AB, and O.
- **Acute Rejection**: The body’s attempt to destroy the transplanted organ.
- **Anti-Rejection Drugs (also called immunosuppressive drugs)**: Drugs that are taken to help the transplanted organ and prevent rejection.
- **Biopsy**: A procedure used to diagnose rejection of the transplanted organ. A piece of tissue is removed from the body and examined by microscope. This procedure can be done in an outpatient setting.
- **BUN**: Blood, urea, nitrogen; a waste product normally excreted by the kidney.
- **Chronic Rejection**: Slow, continuous failure of the transplanted organ.
- **Creatinine**: A substance found in blood and urine; high blood creatinine levels indicate kidney failure.
- **Crossmatch**: A test that determines whether there is a substance in the blood of the recipient that will react against the cells of the donor.
- **Donor**: Someone from whom an organ is removed for transplantation.
- **End Stage Renal Disease**: A disease that leads to kidney failure requiring a person to go on dialysis or seek a transplant.
- **Graft**: An organ that is transplanted.
- **Hypertension**: High blood pressure.
- **Immune System**: The body’s defense against viruses, bacteria and other foreign materials. Transplant recipients take special drugs to prevent the immune system from rejecting the new kidney.
- **Kidneys**: A pair of organs that rid the body of waste materials and maintain fluid balance through the production of urine. Kidneys can be donated through living donors and deceased donors and transplanted into patients with kidney failure.
- **Living Donor**: A person who donates a kidney. They may be related (family member) or unrelated (spouse, friend, in-law, anonymous).
- **Nephrologist**: A physician that specializes in the treatment of kidney diseases and kidney insufficiency.
- **Pancreas**: An organ in the digestive and endocrine system that serves two major functions: producing pancreatic juices containing digestive enzymes and producing important hormones, including insulin.
- **Renal**: Related to the kidneys.
- **Tissue Typing**: A blood test that helps to evaluate how closely the tissue of the donor matches the tissue of the recipient.
- **UNOS**: The United Network for Organ Sharing is a private, non-profit organization. Every transplant center and organ procurement organization is a member of UNOS. UNOS maintains the national organ transplant waiting list.