

The Help Is Out There

OPTN Evaluation Plan is easy to use, access

Editor's note: In the following, UNOS continues to respond to the questions you asked in the last member survey.

Q Where is the OPTN Evaluation Plan?

U You can find the OPTN Evaluation Plan on the OPTN website (see link below).

Developed by UNOS' department of evaluation and quality (DEQ) and approved by the OPTN/UNOS board of directors in November 2004, the Plan explains to OPTN/UNOS transplant centers, OPOs and histocompatibility laboratories how UNOS, as the OPTN contractor, assesses member compliance with OPTN policies and bylaws. The Plan also provides guidance on how members can remain in compliance.

As OPTN/UNOS members know, reviews of their compliance with OPTN policies and bylaws are achieved through site surveys, allocation analysis and review board processes.


The OPTN Evaluation Plan provides important assistance to members before, during and after those compliance reviews. Because OPTN policies and bylaws are constantly revised to meet changing needs, DEQ updates the Plan quarterly and always is seeking ways to make it easy and efficient for members to use.


Some of the feedback DEQ receives on the Plan emerges naturally through its everyday interactions with members, such as through calls to the Help Desk. OPTN/UNOS committee liaisons as well as UNOS staff in membership, the Organ Center and other departments also pass along feedback that they gather through their interactions with members.

Based on that feedback, which comes through those varied avenues, DEQ is at work making significant improvements in the user-friendliness and overall utility of the Evaluation Plan.

And, for added accessibility, when updates are made, links to the Evaluation Plan will be included in UNOS' newly launched consolidated e-newsletter (see Jan.-Feb. *Update*, p. 23).

Not receiving the consolidated e-newsletter? Send an e-mail to unoscommunications@unos.org.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions about the OPTN Evaluation Plan, please send an e-mail to **Cynthia L. Coleman, J.D.**, policy analyst, department of evaluation and quality, at colemacl@unos.org. 

 For a copy of the OPTN Evaluation Plan, visit optn.transplant.hrsa.gov (policy management > evaluation plan).

UNOS Foundation Restructuring Board

New members will come from business, philanthropic communities

Since its creation in 1996, the UNOS Foundation, UNOS' fund-raising arm, has secured millions of dollars in philanthropic and private support. Funds generated by the Foundation enable UNOS to "pick up" where OPTN resources "leave off," providing critical support for UNOS' capital and equipment needs as well as its education, research and technology programs.


In other words, funds generated by the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, ultimately help UNOS fulfill its mission, saving thousands of lives and making the U.S. organ transplantation system a model for the world.


Until recently, the UNOS board has provided governance for the Foundation, with its 12-member executive committee doubling as the Foundation board. Members of UNOS' executive committee, however, have their energies focused largely elsewhere—providing guidance in developing and approving transplant policies for the entire national OPTN network.

As a result, unlike other foundation boards, members of the UNOS Foundation's board aren't serving because of their interest and capability in fund-raising—but instead because, as members of UNOS' executive committee, they were asked to do double-duty and serve the Foundation as well.

With a view toward building a UNOS Foundation board whose members have their primary energies and expertise in fund-raising, the UNOS board of directors recently approved the development of a plan to restructure the Foundation's board. The goal of the restructuring is twofold: to strengthen the Foundation's fund-raising efforts and to modify the board's composition to that of a more typical charitable organization.

The restructured board will be composed of up to 15 members, four of whom can sit on UNOS' executive committee and be selected from among those who've expressed a desire and willingness to engage in the Foundation's fund-raising mission. The other 10 or so members may come from business or philanthropic communities and/or have a personal connection to organ transplantation.

Are you interested in serving on the UNOS Foundation board? Do you know someone who would be a good fit? If the answer to either of those questions is yes, please call **Vicki Sauer**, chief operating officer, UNOS Foundation, at (804) 782-4919 or send her an e-mail at sauervf@unos.org. 

 Visit unos.org (how you can help > unos foundation) for more information on the UNOS Foundation, its mission, accomplishments and how to help.