

# OSC Launches *Patient Safety News*

*Focus is on types of safety events, how to report them and more*

It's not really déjà vu all over again, as Yogi Berra said, but you might think it is.

In October, the OPTN/UNOS operations and safety committee's (OSC's) **effective screening work group** (ESWG) launched an e-newsletter, *Zooming Past the No's*. *Zooming Past* apprises transplant professionals of the tools available for screening organ offers and helps keep the community informed about the work group's efforts. A follow-up to that first newsletter is planned for this summer.

Then, in April, the OSC launched the *Patient Safety News* e-newsletter.

Both newsletters are designed for transplant professionals, published electronically, archived on the UNOS communication archive and available 24/7—but those similarities, however important, tell only part of the story.

*Zooming Past the No's* focuses on screening organ offers most effectively. *Patient Safety News* focuses on, as its name implies, patient safety—by making transplant professionals aware of

- the types of safety events that must be reported as required by OPTN/UNOS policy
- who should report and how to report the events
- tools and resources for conducting root cause analysis and action plans
- reports of effective patient safety practices contributed by members and, as appropriate,
- data of the top safety events reported by members.

Featured articles in the inaugural issue include, for example, how the OPTN patient safety system works and what happens after a safety event is reported, the role of compliance monitoring in ensuring patient safety, and much more.

A significant similarity between *Zooming Past the No's* and *Patient Safety News*? Both have been designed to help OPTN/UNOS members do their jobs more effectively, stay in compliance with OPTN/UNOS policy and, in doing so, save more lives by creating a safer environment for transplant patients and donors. **U**

**ONLINE** To access the OPTN/UNOS operations and safety committee's (OSC's) *Patient Safety News* as well as its effective screening work group's *Zooming Past the No's*, visit UNOS' communication archive at <http://communication.unos.org>. One of the most efficient ways to access the newsletters is to use the search box in the upper right-hand corner. Note the hotlink "read newsletter now" at the bottom left.

By way of reminder, the OPTN/UNOS ad hoc disease transmission advisory committee's (DTAC's) e-bulletin, *DTAC News*, is also available on the communication archive.

Note that the home page of the member communication archive—with its search feature as well as Recent Posts, Categories and Tags—offers a multitude of ways to explore the site's wealth of information. The home page also offers the option of signing up for an RSS feed, which will alert you whenever new content is added.

## REQUESTING YOUR ASSISTANCE

### HELP BEAUTIFY UNOS

When UNOS moved into its new building in 2002, there was an employee contest to name the various conference rooms, located on all four floors of the building. One of the winning names for a conference room was "UNOS Members."

UNOS is now in the process of updating the conference rooms, and for "UNOS Members," we would like to decorate it with posters designed and produced by—you guessed it—UNOS members.

"Our main requirement is that the posters have something to do with promoting organ donation or celebrating organ transplantation," said Andy Swartz, UNOS senior graphic designer, who's in charge of the project.

"Over the years, we've seen beautiful artwork produced by various OPTN/UNOS members, and we'd be delighted to feature some of that artwork in the UNOS Members conference room," Swartz added.



The posters don't have to be framed, but they must be packaged and mailed so that they arrive creaseless. Please mail submissions by Labor Day (Sept. 5) to Andy Swartz, Communications, UNOS, 700 N. Fourth St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Questions? Please send an e-mail to Andy Swartz at [andrew.swartz@unos.org](mailto:andrew.swartz@unos.org).