

ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANTATION

*“We are pleased to support
Abdominal Transplantation.*

*Our son is doing
well and we remain very
grateful for what they did
for him and the great
care he received.”*

—Richard & Carol Beauchine



Helping Patients Receive the Gift of Life

Richard Perez was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver due to hepatitis C and was placed on the transplant waiting list in 2002. After a 10-month wait—with a health condition that was worsening—he received a liver transplant at UR Medicine’s Strong Memorial Hospital. Richard now lives a relatively normal life and is the leader of the Organ Transplant Volunteer Program at Strong, where he provides help and support to other patients as they prepare for their own transplant journey. “My life has changed in ways I cannot explain and every day I’m so thankful to my donor and their family. Because of my transplant, I was able to see my son graduate from college and get married, and spend time with my twin grandsons!”

Success stories like this happen thanks to organ donors and Abdominal Transplantation at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). The division provides liver, kidney and pancreas organ transplant services to the western New York region. URMC is the only multi-organ transplant program in New York State—outside the New York City metropolitan area—providing a critical service for patients close to home.

The multidisciplinary structure of our transplantation team helps us provide comprehensive care to patients and their families. Transplant physicians and surgeons are supported by a

wide range of experts including cardiologists, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, nurses, and administrative support personnel.

For many years, organs like kidneys and livers had to be transplanted from people who had died. Years of waiting resulted in additional treatments and complications from organ failure. Today, families, friends, even total strangers are helping others with the gift of living organ donation. Our Abdominal Transplantation team performs more living donor kidney transplants than any other program in upstate New York. Living kidney donor surgeries are performed laparoscopically with minimal incisions and rapid recovery time for the donor.

We are also implementing a living liver donor program with two surgeons who trained in Japan where the procedure was developed.

Additionally, we are working to bring machine perfusion for liver transplantation to our region. This breakthrough treatment to preserve organs and improve their viability will enable us to assess the function of livers prior to transplantation, improve the condition of the organ, and provide better outcomes for our patients.



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER
MEDICAL CENTER

MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

Help us Give the Gift of Life

Your generosity will help us invest in clinical and basic research to move our innovative ideas from the bench to the bedside, grow our fellowship program, and purchase equipment to enhance patient care.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS—\$1,500,000

Endowed professorships are permanent funds that honor acclaimed leaders, recognize and foster faculty excellence, and are both the highest distinction the University can bestow upon its faculty, as well as a vote of confidence in the faculty who receive them. They also serve as a powerful recruitment tool, drawing new faculty. Your support will allow our program chief to invest in research, innovation and leadership.

MACHINE PERFUSION DEVICE—\$350,000

Your support will help us acquire a device for machine perfusion, a technique used to preserve transplanted organs and train staff to manage the process. The technique emulates the natural process of oxygenated blood being delivered to the tissues of the body.

ENDOWED FELLOWSHIPS—\$250,000 PER YEAR

Endowed fellowships provide permanent support that allows young surgeons to complete their training without having to devote time to working outside their field, or resorting to additional loans for support. With your support, we will train the transplant surgeons of tomorrow by allowing them to work closely with our experienced surgeons, hone their clinical skills, increase their knowledge in their chosen area of expertise, assimilate scientific evidence, and provide the best care in a rapidly changing clinical environment.

TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT—\$70,000

Your support will help us provide the latest technology and state-of-the-art equipment to help our patients. For example, a FUJIFILM Medical System will allow us to do in-house 3D modeling prior to live donor liver and hepatobiliary surgery. This offers simultaneous mapping of the four structures inside the liver which allows the surgeons to plot out the specific details of the operation in advance.

GEORGE EASTMAN CIRCLE—\$7,500 TO \$50,000

The George Eastman Circle is the University's leadership annual giving society. Pledges, payable for five years, provide crucial, flexible support. Funds can help provide ongoing support for education, research, and patient care to Abdominal Transplantation.



Roberto Hernandez-Alejandra, MD, is chief of Abdominal Transplantation. His special interest is caring for patients diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. He is one of the world's foremost authorities on an innovative procedure called Associating Liver Partition and Portal vein ligation for Staged hepatectomy—commonly called ALPPS. The surgery is extending lives and improving quality of life, and expanding the number of patients undergoing major liver resections that were not previously considered possible because of risk. Dr. Hernandez-Alejandra was the first surgeon in North America to perform the procedure, and is still one of only a handful of surgeons in the world who possesses this expertise.

His clinical interests include liver regeneration, colorectal liver metastases, donation after cardiac death, and living donor liver transplantation. Dr. Hernandez-Alejandra's research endeavors are primarily focused on liver regeneration and ischemia reperfusion injury.