



BOLD IDEAS FOR REIMAGINING ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

OCTOBER 11 - 13, 2026 | THE ESTANCIA LA JOLLA HOTEL AND SPA, LA JOLLA, CA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

2:30 - 2:40 p.m. **WELCOME**

Gabe Schnickel, MD, MPH, Executive Director,
The UC San Diego REIMAGINE Center.

2:40 - 2:45 p.m. **INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICING MINDFULNESS AND SELF-COMPASSION**

Shireen Mansouri, MD CCFP(EM) FCFP,
Compassion Institute

2:45 - 4:00 p.m. **SESSION 1:**

The Weight We Carry: Grief, Compassion, and
Humanity in Organ Donation and Transplantation

Susan Angel Miller, Grief Educator, SODA National Board
Member, Author of Permission to Thrive, and Donor Mom

Sunil Geevarghese, MD, Professor of Surgery,
Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt
University Medical Center

Hedi Aguiar, RN, MSN, Founding Principal,
Fundamental Roots

4:00 - 4:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT INTRODUCTION**

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

(Breakout A) Self-compassion Workshop - Compassion Institute
Shireen Mansouri, MD

(Breakout B) Compassion Communication Workshop
Gary Buckholz, MD, HMDC, FAAHPM Clinical Professor,
Palliative Medicine, Center for Compassionate
Communication, Sanford Institute for Empathy and
Compassion

Kelsey Brennan, Compassionate Communication
Facilitator and Coaching Consultant, T. Denny Sanford
Institute for Empathy and Compassion, UC San Diego

5:15 p.m. **KEYNOTE SESSION**

6:00 p.m. **WRAP UP**

6:00 p.m. **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

7:00 a.m. **GROUP HIKE or MINDFULNESS MEDITATION**

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST**

8:30 - 10a.m. **SESSION 1:**

More than Altruism: Building the Future of
Living Donation

Lloyd Ratner, MD, MPH, Professor of Surgery, Director,
Renal and Pancreatic Transplantation, Columbia
University Irving Medical Center

Amit K. Mathur, MD, Professor of Surgery, Mayo Clinic;
Director, National Living Donor Assistance Center

Amit Garg, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine - Division of
Nephrology and of Epidemiology and Biostatistics,
Western University in London, Ontario; Medical Director,
Living Kidney Donor Program, London Health Sciences
Centre

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **BREAK**

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. **SESSION 2:**

The System at a Crossroads: Modernizing Donation
and Transplantation

John Magee, MD, President, Organ Procurement
and Transplantation Network (OPTN); Jeremiah and
Claire Turcotte Professor of Transplant Surgery,
University of Michigan

Harry Wilkins III, MD, MHCM, FACS President and
CEO Gift of HopeOrgan & Tissue Donor Network

Henry Randall, MD, MBA, President, American Society
of Transplant Surgeons

Noon - 1 p.m. **LUNCH AND A CONVERSATION WITH AMY PURDY**

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. **EXERCISE IN SELF-COMPASSION**

Shireen Mansouri, MD CCFP(EM) FCFP ,
Compassion Institute

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. **SESSION 3:**

The Architecture of Belonging: Designing
Communities that Drive Change

Brittany Clayborne, PsyD, Founder, Transplant Teenz,
Transplant Recipient

Jen Benson, Founder and CEO, Transplant Journey, Inc.,
Founder, The Transplant Collective, Transplant Recipient

Nicole Nidea, Executive Director,
SODA: Student Organ Donation Advocates

3:00 - 3:30 p.m. **BREAK**

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. **SESSION 4:**

One Piece of the Puzzle: Where Xeno Fits In
the Future of Organ Donation and Transplantation

Macey Levan, JD, PhD, Director of Policy and External
Affairs - Transplant Institute; Director, Center for Surgical
and Transplant Applied Research Qualitative Core,
NYU Langone Health; Associate Professor, Surgery and
Population Health, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Robert Montgomery, MD, D.Phil, FACS Chair & Professor
of Surgery NYU Langone Health; Director NYU Langone
Transplant Institute

Josh Mezrich, MD, Professor of Surgery, Mark A. Fischer
Chair in Transplantation, University of Wisconsin School
of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI

5:00 - 5:45 p.m. **KEYNOTE**

Alison Conklin, Editor-in-Chief, *Bonus Days Magazine*,
Heart Transplant Recipient

5:45 p.m. **RECEPTION**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

7:00 a.m. **GROUP HIKE or MINDFULNESS MEDITATION**

7:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST SERVED**

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **SPECIAL SESSION**

Beyond the Post: The Work of Turning Purpose
Into Impact

Amy Purdy, 3-time Paralympic Medalist,
New York Times Best Selling Author

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. **SESSION 1:**

Reimagining the Transplant Journey: Connection,
Technology, and Trust

Mamatha Bhat, MD, Transplant Hepatologist, Ajmera
Transplant Centre, University Health Network, and
Associate Professor, University of Toronto, Toronto,
Canada

Elisa J. Gordon, PhD, MPH, Professor of Surgery
and Bioethics, Vanderbilt Health

Sarah R. Lieber, MD MSCR; Assistant Professor;
UT Southwestern Medical Center

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. **SESSION 2:**

Collective Commitments: Moving Big Ideas
Forward

David Lee, MD, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical
School, surgical director for liver transplantation,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Chris Zinner, Managing Director, Accenture Health

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. **CLOSING and FAREWELL**

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**REGISTER
TODAY AND
SECURE
YOUR SPOT**



UC San Diego
REIMAGINE CENTER

[HTTPS://SURGERY.UCSD.EDU/CENTERS/REIMAGINE/EVENTS.HTML](https://surgery.ucsd.edu/centers/reimagine/events.html)

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