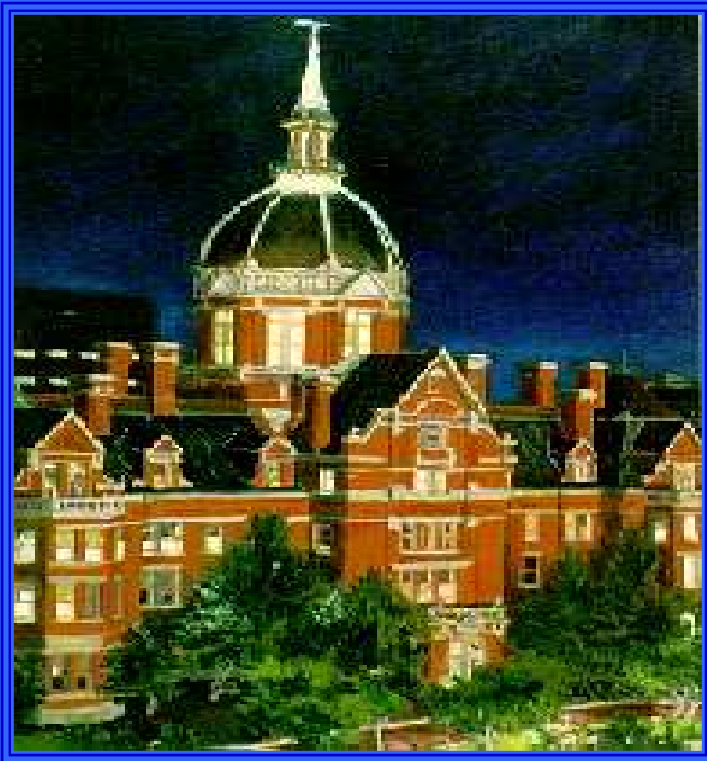


# Organ Donation : System Changes?



**Pamela A. Lipsett, MD**  
**Professor**

**Surgery, Anesthesiology, Critical  
Care Medicine and Nursing**  
**Johns Hopkins University Schools  
of Medicine and Nursing**

# Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?

- 1 Do we understand what is wrong?
- 1 Identifying the problems is key
  - Local , regional, or national
- 1 National
  - Lack of public knowledge
  - Lack of understanding about brain death
  - Disbelief that death will occur
  - Fear and mistrust
  - Lack of self-determination, distribution of decisions
  - Presumed consent in conflict with self-determination

# **Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?**

- 1 Identification of ALL eligible patients**
  - Systems and processes in place for automatic identification**
  - Family support from the beginning**
  - Performance report to local units**
  - Local and regional support and need for expertise**

# **Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?**

## **1 Need for expertise**

- Brain death is an uncommon clinical scenario**
- Misconceptions common among HCW and families**
- Complex end-of-life issues best concentrated in areas of expertise/prior training**
- Training should be supported and funded**
- Interdisciplinary and experiential**

# **Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?**

- 1 Develop learning modules with local and community input**
  - Enhances realism of experience, avoids stereotypes**
  - Faculty experience may be lacking in character development, context and responses due to particular local cultural or socioeconomic experiences**

# **Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?**

- 1 Devote time, energy and resources into local expertise**
  - Local champions committed and respected**
  - Families require time to adjust**
  - Communication delicate and evolving**
  - Time necessary for all to occur maybe in conflict with ICU resources**
  - Triage to specialized unit area on/off site?**

# Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?

## 1 Performance measures

- **Consent as an end-point ethically problematic could enhance conflict of interest and conflict of commitment**
- **Focus should be on process and family support**
- **Dual benefit**

# **Short-term and long-term priorities for system changes?**

- 1 Define and implement best practices**
  - Define local issues, core values**
  - Consider cultural and religious diversity**
  - Develop consensus among key opinion leaders**
  - Implement with local champions**
  - Dispel mistruths and misconceptions**

# **Initiatives that could address equity issues and concerns**

- 1 Removing disincentives/incentives**
- 1 Local community leaders involved in education**
- 1 Local community involved in family advocacy**

# **Initiatives that could address equity issues and concerns**

- 1 Provision of financial supplements**
  - Public opinion of discrepancy for financial and cultural status**
  - Financially disadvantaged vulnerable to added effects, protections necessary**

# **Research regarding the request process? Donation process ?**

- 1 Identify national core values and processes that are universal/cross-culture, religious, socioeconomic boundaries**
- 1 Allow local considerations**
- 1 Best-practices for donor management**