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Field of Research (2 keywords): kidney transplantation/outcomes research

Department: Multiorgan Transplant Program

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No: Yes

If YES, please name: IMS

Project Title: Ethnocultural barriers to living donor kidney transplantation (LDKT)

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

We investigate ethnocultural barriers to LDKT in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). The new knowledge will inform the development of culturally appropriate education tools to facilitate equal access to LDKT. Compared to dialysis or deceased donor kidney transplantation (KT), living donor KT (LDKT) is the optimal treatment for most patients with advanced CKD. Approximately 30-35% of the patients with CKD in Ontario are of Asian or African Canadian background. Compared to Caucasians, patients with these backgrounds are less likely to receive LDKT. The reasons for this ethnic disparity are unknown. Socio-economic, cultural and religious factors may play a role.

In this mixed methods study we assess ethnocultural background; transplant knowledge and readiness to accept LDKT using validated questionnaires completed on tablets. Ethnocultural barriers will also be assessed in focus groups.

Hypothesis: Compared to Caucasians, patients of East or South Asian or African background are less likely to have a potential living donor identified and are less ready for LDKT. Focus groups will facilitate understanding the attitudes and beliefs among patients of Asian or African Canadian background pertinent to LDKT.
The study will be conducted at two research sites: the Kidney Transplant Programs at the Toronto General Hospital and at the St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto. All consecutive patients who are referred for assessment for KT will be invited to participate. Patients will be recruited until the desired sample size of 600 study patients is achieved. A subset of patients will participate in focus groups.

**Students’ role:** Literature review; enrolling patients using electronic data capture; organizing focus groups; data entry; data analysis data (STATA); preparing abstracts, posters, writing manuscripts.