

**Organ and Tissue Authority and the
Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand**

COMMUNIQUÉ

AUSTRALIAN PAIRED KIDNEY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

26 May 2017

The inaugural National Clinical Director of the highly successful Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) program, Professor Paolo Ferrari will soon be leaving this role to pursue an exciting new work opportunity in his native Switzerland. The AKX program Coordinator Claudia Woodroffe has advised the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) that she will also be retiring from the AKX Program and commencing a very well deserved vacation.

As a consequence of this the OTA and the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) recently called for expressions of interest (EOI) for a suitably qualified professional to fill the position of the National Clinical Director to manage the AKX program.

After a rigorous selection process it is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of A/Professor Peter Hughes to the role of Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) program National Clinical Director.

The selection panel would like to formally recognise the high quality and strength of all applications submitted for the position of AKX National Clinical Director and thanks all applicants for taking the time to participate in this process.

The level of interest and the strength of the applicants, demonstrates the great success of the AKX program and the high regard for this program in the sector.

As a consequence of the appointment of A/Professor Peter Hughes, the AKX program will relocate to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Dr Stella McGinn will continue in her capacity as Deputy Director of the program. An EOI seeking applications for an AKX program Co-coordinator will be released shortly.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the South Metropolitan Area Health Service and Fremantle Hospital and to South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and the Prince of Wales Hospital, for their collaboration in hosting the program over the last 7 years.

Since the AKX program's inception in 2010, the program has facilitated 26 match runs with 209 kidney transplants successfully completed. In 2016 AKX contributed to almost 1 in 5 of all living kidney donor transplants in Australia. Transplant outcomes from the program have been excellent.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the hard work and dedication that both Paolo and Claudia have given the program over the last 6 years, achieving excellent outcomes and ensuring that the AKX program has become an integral part of kidney transplantation in Australia.



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