



EMBARGOED until December 17, 1:00 p.m. EST

AOPO Commends LifeBanc and Cleveland Clinic for Historic Transplant Milestone

The Cleveland Clinic, in partnership with LifeBanc, has announced the first near-total face transplant in the United States. The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, of which LifeBanc is an accredited member, commends LifeBanc and their work with the Cleveland Clinic to ethically, medically and logistically facilitate this remarkable donation.

LifeBanc is one of 58 federally-certified organ procurement organizations dedicated to helping save lives through organ and tissue donation. LifeBanc worked closely with the Cleveland Clinic on this extraordinary set of circumstances to bring a special donor together with an individual in need of a unique transplantation procedure.

This case involved a special consent process above and beyond what other registered donors have authorized. The special consent provided in this case does not apply to the more than 70 million Americans who have compassionately registered as organ and tissue donors. This donor's family has shown great strength and kindness in giving this generous gift, and the members of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations extend their deepest sympathy on the loss of their loved one.

The historic medical advancement that has taken place at the Cleveland Clinic continues the life-healing and life-saving mission of LifeBanc and all organ procurement organizations. We wish the transplant recipient a long, healthy life.

Sue Dunn
President

Bruce Wilson
Executive Director

***The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO)** is a national non-profit organization representing all federally-designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs) - otherwise known as Donate Life Organizations. AOPO serves OPOs through advocacy, support and development of activities that will maximize the availability of organs and tissues and enhance the quality, effectiveness and integrity of the donation process. AOPO is located at 1364 Beverly Road, Suite 100, Vienna, VA 22101 and can be contacted at (703) 556-4242.*