



[PRESS RELEASE]

January 18, 2018 – Philadelphia, PA –

Transplant Recipients International Organization, Inc. (TRIO) held its annual Board of Director's meeting January 12th and 13th at the Philadelphia based Gift of Life Donor Program's office, the regional organ procurement organization (OPO) serving Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and the state of Delaware. Keynote luncheon speaker, **Howard Nathan**, CEO and President of the Gift of Life Donor Program, shared history and predictions of the organ procurement process, announcing yet another record breaking year for the organization of organs recovered and placement of both organ and tissue transplants.

Friday evening members and honorees from across the country gathered to celebrate TRIO's 30th Founding Anniversary with a 2017 Awards banquet hosted at the beautiful Penn Medicine's **Smilow Center for Translational Research** in downtown Philadelphia. The evening's theme was "**Transplant Excellence: PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE**"

At the Awards gala event, nine TRIO special awards were presented to distinguished transplant notables:

Celebrating TRIO's PRESENT . . .

Note: each honoree spoke for 5 minutes offering a message from their unique PRESENT role and perspective in the world of organ donation and transplantation to the transplant community

- A **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Howard Nathan**, CEO and President of the Gift of Life Donor Program, for his decades supporting TRIO, his contributions to the transplant community and 40+ years of worldwide organ donation and transplant leadership.
- A **TRIO World Leadership Award** was presented to **Brian M. Shepard**, the CEO and president of United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), for his dedication and leadership to the world of organ donation and transplantation.
- The **TRIO Presidential Award** was presented to **Christopher J. Miller**, MD, for his support of TRIO's post-transplant cancer campaign and a career of exceptional dermatological care to transplant patients.
- A **TRIO Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented personally by TRIO president and heart transplant recipient, Jim Gleason, to **Michael A. Acker**, MD, for his career of life-saving heart transplant surgical expertise and patient care. Mike Acker performed Jim's heart transplant at the Hospital of the University almost 24 years ago. At their table, some of Dr. Acker's other transplant patients, one out just a month, a second out 4 years now, joined to give testimony to his skilled lifesaving work.

- The **TRIO Transplant Innovation Award** was presented to **Peter Maag**, MD, President and CEO of San Francisco based CareDx, for his support of TRIO and exceptional transplant innovation and corporate leadership.
- **Marty Maren**, immediate past president of the Maryland TRIO chapter, was presented with the **TRIO Chapter Leadership Award**, for his years of transplant patient leadership and support in founding and growing the TRIO Maryland chapter.

Celebrating TRIO's PAST . . .

- The **TRIO Founders Award** was presented to **Mary Reames**, of Greenville, PA, for her and her husband Brian's role in founding and guiding TRIO's Pittsburgh beginning 30 years ago. In honor of our theme "**PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE**" Mary gave a moving story of her and Brian's role in TRIO's founding days.
- The **TRIO Founder Family Award** was presented in memory of **Frank Rowe** honored for his founding, supporting and guiding TRIO 30 years ago. His son, Marc Rowe emotionally accepted the award on behalf of the Rose family. Marc shared memorabilia and memories of those 1980's from his experience as a 10 year old child at that time.
- The **TRIO Lifetime Support Award** was presented to TRIO Philadelphia chapter founder and past TRIO national board president, **Elizabeth Rubin**, for her decades of TRIO local and national support and leadership. Elizabeth is a liver recipient recently joining the Quarter Century Club of transplant recipients out 25+ years.

And finally,

Celebrating the FUTURE . . .

- Penn's project manager, **Stephen Greulich**, shared in pictures the vision of their future 500 bed hospital, the Pavilion, currently under construction with opening scheduled for 2022. Attendees were offered a guided tour of the construction, looking out over the huge site of steel framework and concrete floors adding to the reality of his slide show

TRIO (Transplant Recipients International Organization, Inc.), founded in 1987 in Pittsburgh, PA, is an international non-profit organization committed to improving the quality of lives touched by the miracle of transplantation through support, advocacy, education, and awareness. TRIO serves organ transplant recipients, donors and their families through its chapters across the United States and Internationally.

The full TRIO 30th anniversary event video is viewable via the Internet on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/tyXu26BqBic>

TRIO can be contacted at 1-800-TRIO-386.

