



Travel Grant Report Form

Name and origin of applicants

Jenni Kippola, National Living donor coordinator

Helsinki University Hospital, Finland

Purpose granted

Travel Grant was granted in 2020 for visiting other Scandinavian transplant centers. Purpose of the visits was to share knowledge about living kidney donation process and learn about the role of living donor coordinator in other Scandinavian transplant centers.

The role of national LD coordinator in Finland was new (established 2019).

After changes in Finnish legislation (2019) it became possible to participate STEP program and to perform kidney transplantation from an anonymous donor.

Visits were planned to Sahlgrenska Hospital Gothenburg Sweden and Oslo University Hospital Norway during 2020.

Amount granted

14 000 DKK

Time and place of visit

May 3.-5.2022, Rikshospitalet, Oslo

(Due to Covid-19 related restrictions in work-related travel, this visit was postponed by almost two years)

Report

Visit was hosted by living donor coordinators Kjersti Lonning and Fanny Bruserud in Rikshospitalet. They had prepared an excellent program for three days, which covered all stages of living kidney donation process from evaluation in local hospitals to follow up after donation.

I had many interesting discussions with all these wonderful professionals.

| | Tuesday | |
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| 9.30-10.00 | Welcome and introduction | <i>Kjersti Lønning & Fanny Bruserud, nurses</i> |
| 10.00-11.00 | After donation, short and long term | <i>Käthe Meyer Transplant coordinator/nurse</i> |
| 11.00-12.00 | Lunch and sightseeing in the hospital | |
| 12.00-13.00 | Time to donate, what happens at Rikshospitalet | <i>Tone Vidnes & Kari Gire Dahl nurses</i> |
| 13.00-13.45 | Preparing for multi-disciplinary meeting (MDT) | <i>Kjersti</i> |
| 14.00-15.30 | MDT evaluation meeting donor and recipient | <i>Fanny</i> |
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| | Wednesday | |
| 9.30-10.00 | Coffee and questions from yesterday | <i>Fanny & Kjersti</i> |
| 10.00-11.00 | An overview of the Norwegian living donor program | <i>Kjersti</i> |
| 11.30-12.00 | Lunch | |
| 12.00-12.45 | National living donor coordinator, what are we doing | <i>Fanny</i> |
| | Transport to Ullevål hospital | |
| 13.00-14.30 | Pre donation information and evaluation | <i>Tone Rambjør Heimstad Nurse & Kjersti</i> |
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| | Thursday | |
| 9.30-10.00 | Coffee and questions from yesterday | <i>Kjersti & Fanny</i> |
| 10.00-11.00 | The psycho-social evaluation | <i>Gunn Siri Moen</i> <i>Social worker</i> |
| 11.00-12.00 | Living donor evaluation and follow up from the view of a nephrologist | <i>Geir Mjøen</i> <i>nephrologist</i> |
| 12.00-12.45 | Lunch | |
| 12.45-13.30 | The national living donor group and the living donor registry | <i>Fanny & Kjersti</i> <i>Anna Varberg Reisæter</i> <i>nephrologist</i> |
| 13.45-14.30 | Summing up and time to say good bye | <i>Kjersti & Fanny</i> |

Evaluation

I am very thankful for receiving this travel grant from Scandiatransplant and finally being able to use it. Visit to Oslo offered an excellent opportunity to reflect similarities and differences in our national guidelines and in the role of LD coordinators between Helsinki and Oslo.

Living donation process

Norway has a long history of living kidney donation and their model is widely appreciated. Compared to Finland their national guidelines about living donation are clear and model of national living donor group is well established. At the moment Finland is aiming to similar model by building a network of assigned professionals (nurse + nephrologist) in each nephrological unit.

In discussions with coordinators, nurses and nephrologist we came to conclusion that there are similar problems in both countries in reaching potential donors (variation between hospitals) and in recognizing ethnical challenges when informing patients and potential donors.

Covering the expenses and loss of income related to living donation is something we in Finland are trying to solve at the moment and we could learn from Norwegian system; which is profound but complicated!

It is notable that we share same challenges in keeping the follow-up registry on living donors; and we can also share some of the ideas in resolving these challenges.

Role of national living donor coordinator

The role of living donor coordinator in Finland is still fairly new compared to Oslo. Main responsibilities of coordinators are similar; but Finnish coordinators could clarify their role as “leaders” or “consultants” to the network of professionals working with living donors.

There will be more co-operation between Scandinavian transplant centers in relation to living kidney donation, because of STEP program. This is one reason to create an active network of living donor coordinators within Scandiatransplant.
