



FULBRIGHT



The European Society
for Organ Transplantation

Comprehensive Workshop on Brain Death Declaration, Donor Management & Organ Donation Process.

Kathmandu, April 5-10, 2026

Introduction:

Brain death donation came into existence in 2016 in Nepal from an amendment in Human Body Organ Transplantation Act established in 1998. Despite spending millions of rupees by the government in this program only one Brain death organ donation occurred in the year 2024 and 7 in total since the existence of this law. There are several factors associated, of which the most important is lack of training of the healthcare workers on the management of Brain death patients in the ICU and at operating room. Brain death management is a critical component of modern healthcare, enabling ethical organ donation and transplantation while respecting patient dignity. In Nepal, challenges persist in diagnosing brain death, maintaining physiological stability in ICU patients, and coordinating organ retrieval in operating theaters.

Objective:

This intensive two-day workshop is designed to provide healthcare professionals (physicians, intensivists, nurses, transplant coordinators) with the essential knowledge and practical skills required for the medical, ethical, and communicative aspects of brain death declaration, donor management and the subsequent organ donation process. This program being selected by Fulbright Specialist Program aims to deliver hands on practical knowledge for participants from 30 different hospitals throughout the country.

Target Audience: Intensivists, Neurologists, Anesthesiologists, Critical Care Fellows, ICU Nurses, Transplant Coordinators.

Group 1 (10 Private Hospitals, Kathmandu Valley): **April 5-6, 2026**

Group 2 (10 Government Hospitals, Kathmandu Valley): **April 7 - 8, 2026**

Group 3 (10 Hospitals outside Kathmandu Valley): **April 9 - 10, 2026**

Each hospital team consists of 3 members

- Intensivist (if not available then Anesthesiologist/Physician/Neurologist)- 1
- Transplant Coordinator(if not available then Head Nurse)-1
- Senior ICU Nurse- 1

Program Details:

<u>Day 1 Schedule</u>			
Time	Session	Facilitator	Description
09:45 - 11:30	Organ Donation & Brain Death Fundamentals	Cinnamon L. Sullivan, MD, FASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of Organ Donation • History and Definition of Brain Death • When to Initiate Brain Death Examination • Necessary Tests for Declaration
11:30 - 11:45	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>		
11:45 - 13:30	Family Approach & Donation Process	Hope A. Weed, RN, CPTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Approaching Relatives • Breaking the News of Brain Death • Grief Counselling

13:30 - 14:30	Working Lunch & Practical Demonstration	Cinnamon L. Sullivan, MD, FASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of Brain Death Tests on the 3G Sim mann Simulator • Preparing the Patient for Organ Donation
14:30- 15:30	ICU Management of the Potential Donor	Cinnamon L. Sullivan, MD, FASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining Hemodynamic Stability • Ancillary Workup • Organ Procurement and Preservation
15:30- 15:40	Coffee Break		
15:40- 16:00	Video Lecture - ESOT	Alberto Sandiumenge	
16:00 - 16:15	Participant Evaluation Questionnaire	Course Coordinators	

<u>Day 2 Schedule</u>			
Time	Session	Facilitator	Description
09:45 - 10:45	The Nepalese Context	Pradez Sapkota, MD, FACS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organ Donation & Transplantation in Nepal • The Human Body Organ Transplantation Act, 1998

10:45- 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 - 12:00	Deep Dive: Donation Systems & Family Care	Hope A. Weed, RN, CPTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Review of the US Allocation System • Sustaining Relations with Donor Families
12:00- 12:30	Video Lecture- ESOT	Orsolya Deme	
12:30 – 14:00	Working Lunch & Practical Session	Cinnamon L. Sullivan, MD, FASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration: Brain Death Tests & Apnea Test on 3G Sim Man Simulator • Case Scenario Demonstrations (2 cases) • Hands-on Practice for Participants
14:00 - 16:00	Team Competitions & Assessment	Faculty Panel (All Facilitators)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role-Play: Each team performs brain death testing and family consultation scenarios. • Teams are scored on their performance. • The top 3 teams are selected for awards.

April 10th, 2026 - Gala Event (All Groups)		
Time	Session	Presiding Over
18:00 - 21:00	Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony at Hotel Himalaya	Officials, Participants & Facilitators

Key Faculty

- Cinnamon L. Sullivan, MD, FASA:** Dr. Cinnamon L. Sullivan is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs in Anesthesiology and a Director of Transplant Anesthesiology at Emory University, USA, specializing in transplant anesthesiology and critical care medicine. She is a Fulbright Specialist (2025-2028) with extensive experience in global health, having led medical initiatives in Haiti, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Rwanda. Her research and clinical leadership focus on liver transplantation, perioperative ultrasound, and disaster management. A dedicated educator, she has developed fellowship programs and frequently lectures nationally and internationally. Dr. Sullivan is a Fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiology (FASA) and has received multiple awards for teaching and clinical excellence.
- Hope A. Weed, RN, CPTC:** Hope A. Weed is a Certified Procurement Transplant Coordinator (CPTC) and Registered Nurse in the USA with over 15 years of specialized experience in organ procurement. She currently serves as the Executive Director at LifeLink of Georgia, where she leads multi-state operations and strategic initiatives to increase organ donation and transplantation rates. Her expertise encompasses clinical donor management, family communication, regulatory compliance, and team leadership, having advanced through several senior roles at LifeLink. She is also an experienced critical care nurse and public speaker on organ donation topics.
- Pradez Sapkota, MD, FACS:** Dr. Pradez Sapkota is a Nepal Medical Council-registered Liver Transplant and HPB Surgeon, and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is the Founder/President of the Nepal Organ Donation Foundation and a consultant surgeon at several major hospitals in

Kathmandu. His training includes a post-doctoral fellowship in HBP Surgery and Liver Transplantation from Dr. Rela Institute in India and observerships in the USA, Thailand, Japan, and South Korea. Dr. Sapkota is an active researcher and presenter, focusing on liver transplantation and surgical techniques. He is a member of several prestigious international surgical societies.



Conclusion:

Despite the legal framework, brain death organ donation remains critically low in Nepal. This workshop addresses the urgent need for standardized training in declaration, donor management, and family communication. By equipping multidisciplinary hospital teams with essential knowledge and hands-on skills, it aims to build a sustainable national system. Ultimately, this initiative seeks to honor patient dignity, support grieving families, and significantly increase the number of life-saving transplants.