Since the mid-19th century, organ and tissue transplantation is accepted as a valid and advanced treatment method applied in many chronic organ diseases. Organ transplantation achieved a significant breakthrough in medicine, and thus made the impossible possible. Today, many chronic organ disease patients, especially kidney and liver transplant patients, start their new and completely healthy lives following transplantation.

However, organ shortage remains as the most significant challenge facing the field of organ transplantation today. Millions of people die and are buried with healthy organs, which could save lives of many patients. Donor selection criteria is crucial in determining eligible donors and it should be regularly reviewed in order to be able to expand the donor pool.

In the light of these, the International Symposium on Deceased and Living Donor Recent Criteria organized by Professor Mehmet Haberal as the Founder and President of the Turkish Transplantation Society (TOND), the Turkic World Transplantation Society (TDTD), and the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT) on May 5-6, 2022 at the Kizilahamam Thermal Resort Hotel in Ankara, Turkey as a hybrid meeting.

The International Symposium on Deceased and Living Donor Recent Criteria reviewed and evaluated living and deceased donor selection criteria especially in the fields of infectious diseases, oncology and neurology in order to propose various strategies to expand the donor pool and in order to help more chronic organ and tissue disease patients. During the Symposium, participants exchanged ideas around the latest developments and the current practices. The program embraced keynote lectures by world-renowned professionals specialized in their respective fields as well as oral presentations from the world.

The Congress, boasted 33 invited speakers worldwide including TTS President Professor Marcelo Cantarovich, MESOT President-Elect Professor Mohammad Ghnaimat.
and the MESOT Past Presidents Professors Adibul Rizvi, Antoine Stephan, Faissal Shaheen, Mustafa Al-Mousawi, Anwar Naqvi, Marwan Masri, S. Ali Malek-Hosseini, Bassam Saeed, Refaat Kamel. MESOT Executive Committee Members and Councilors, President of the African Society of Transplantation (ASOT) Professor Gamal Saadi, TTS Past Presidents Professors Jeremy Chapman and Francis Delmonico, TTS Councilors Professors Marti Manyalich and Vivek Kute, President-Elect of the African Society of Nephrology Professor Hani Hafez, as well as renowned scientists in their respective fields including Professors Ignazio Marino, Atsushi Aikawa, Peter Friend, Hasan Yersiz, Ann E. Woolley, Stefan Schneeberger, Nabil Mohsin, Ali Al Obaidli, and May Hassaballa.

The Opening Ceremony started with the welcome speeches of Prof. Mehmet Haberal, the Symposium Chair, Prof. Mohammad Ghnaimat, MESOT President-Elect, Prof. Gamal Saadi, President of the African Society of Transplantation (ASOT) and Prof. Marcelo Cantarovich, President of the Transplantation Society (TTS).

Around 200 guests from 34 countries including Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrein, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA, Uzbekistan attended the symposium physically and virtually. 33 keynote lectures and 29 oral presentations were scheduled. Discussions took place at the highest level and attendees had a chance to share and learn from each other.

At the end of the Symposium, a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Health Department of Aktobe Region, Aktobe, Republic of Kazakhstan and Başkent University.

Professors Mehmet Haberal, Marcelo Cantarovich and Mohammad Ghnaimat closed the meeting with a final word of thanks to all attendees and everyone involved in the organization. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, The International Symposium on Deceased and Living Donor Recent Criteria proved to be a great success with high positive feedback from all who were in attendance. They were all in consensus that the international transplant community should continue to collaborate in order to decrease global organ shortage especially in countries with low donor and transplantation rates.
Memorandum of Cooperation between Health Department of Aktobe Region (Aktobe, Republic of Kazakhstan) and Başkent University (Ankara, Republic of Turkey)

Photo taken during the Closing Ceremony