

# Abdominal Transplant Surgery



## Services

**T**he UTMB Abdominal Transplant Service is a long-standing, regionally recognized transplant program started in 1967 by Dr. Jay Fish. The program has performed 2367 total transplants with over 2340 kidney and 165 pancreas (for type 1 diabetes) transplants. All chronic kidney disease patients secondary to any etiology are welcome in our center for evaluation and possible transplantation. We have performed transplant procedures on patients from all over Texas as well as surrounding states and as far away as California and Tennessee.

A phone call to our transplant coordinator office initiates the kidney and pancreas transplant services. Information is taken over the phone, and the process of evaluation begins. A program of three days of intense education, laboratory and physical evaluation, and discussion with the transplant nephrologist and surgeon is scheduled. Information is retrieved from the patient's dialysis center and/or nephrologists to complete the pre-evaluation process. When all data is gathered, a multi-

disciplinary committee is convened and the patients are presented. This committee meets weekly. When the patients are found to be suitable candidates for the transplant operative procedure, they are either placed on the national UNOS deceased donor waiting list or a living donor is identified and evaluated. The waiting time at our institution for a deceased donor transplant is one of the shortest in the state.

With the living donors, the transplant is scheduled at a convenient time for all parties. The laparoscopic living donor program has been in place since 1998. This procedure has decreased the morbidity for post-operative pain as well as decreasing the length of stay in the hospital and the total recovery time by at least 50%. The outcomes of the transplants are equal to the outcomes of transplants from open nephrectomies (the previous gold standard).

The scope of our transplant services extends to patients that require kidney transplant alone to combined transplants of the kidney with heart, liver, and pancreas. We also provide general surgical procedures for all patients with end-stage organ disease. The primary non-transplant procedures that are performed are for the full range of dialysis access needs. The transplant surgeons perform interventional as well as complex surgical dialysis access procedures.

## Surgeons



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Professor

General Surgery and Transplant Services



**Luca Cicalese, M.D.**

Professor



**Philip G. Thomas, M.D.**

Assistant Professor

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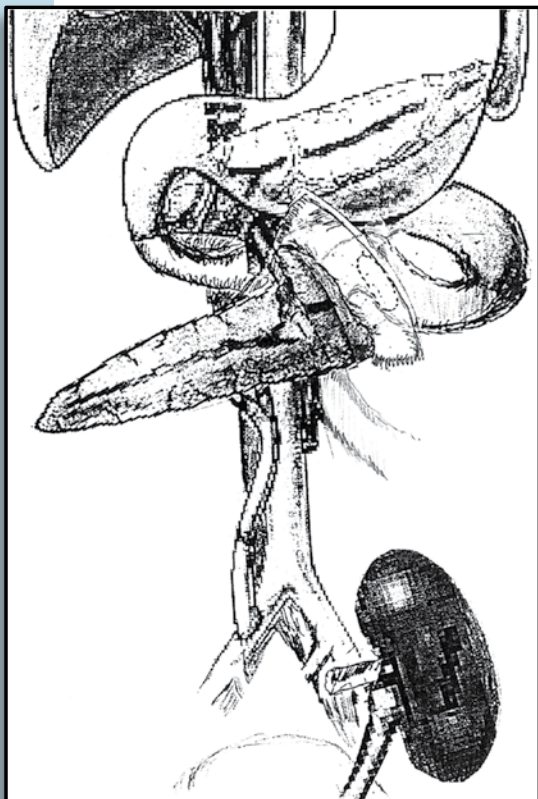


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