

# The History of Transplantation – the women behind the scenes

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**I have no disclosures**





# Background: Early History of Transplantation

# Historical Data

Dr. A Carrel received a Nobel Prize "in recognition of his work on vascular suture and the transplantation of blood vessels and organs".

Joseph Murray and team performed the first successful kidney transplant at Brigham Hospital, Boston.

1945

1912

1954

The very first renal transplant at Brigham Hospital –for acute renal failure following an obstetrical complication. Poor function resulted, but patient's own kidneys recovered.

## Dr. Winifred Ashby: Determining the Length of Red Blood Cells Survival

- The Ashby Technique – developed by Dr. Winifred Ashby to determine the volume and life span of red blood cells in human. Her work was published in 1919.
- The technique involves injection of compatible donor red blood cells of a different blood group into a recipient, followed by blood testing periodically afterwards. Differential agglutination of the red cells is then used to determine the number of remaining donor cells, allowing the survival rate to be determined.



# Olga Jonasson, MD, FACS

## 1934 -2006

- One of the pioneers in kidney transplant surgery
- First woman to chair an academic surgery department at a coeducational school of medicine
- Pioneer in clinical transplantation and histocompatibility – developed one of the first clinical transplant services for histocompatibility testing and donor-recipient matching.



# Dr. Olga Jonasson

After completing medical education, she completed her first postgraduate fellowship in immunochemistry at Walter Reed Army Research Center.

Dr. Jonasson's second fellowship in transplantation immunology occurred at Mass General Hospital.

She joined the faculty of Univ. of Illinois and developed the transplant division. She performed the 1<sup>st</sup> kidney transplant in Illinois in 1968

# First Female Transplant Surgeon at University of Minnesota

“Women in surgery were very unusual. The first one I ever trained was the first one **ever** trained in Minnesota, at the University of Minnesota.’

Dr. Caliann Lum

“She’s a redheaded Chinese woman. She dyes her hair red, bright red. ... not just a little red; I’m talking bright red. She is an absolute gem, one of the smartest people around and one of the nicest people.”  
quote by Dr. Najarian



# Nancy Ascher, MD., PhD

- First woman to perform a liver transplant
- Appointed Chief of Transplantation in 1991
- Performed the first living adult to child liver transplant at UCSF in 1993
- 1999 became Chair of Department of Surgery until 2016



# Roslyn Mannon, MD



Past President of the American Society of Transplantation  
Professor of Medicine at Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center  
and Vice Chair of Academic Development and Research

Past Medical Director for the Kidney/pancreas NIDDK  
intramural transplant program.

Section Chief of Transplant Nephrology at University of  
Alabama at Birmingham

# Kathryn J. Wood, MD

- Emeritus Professor of Immunology at Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford.
- Dr. Wood's research focuses on the immune response that leads to transplant rejection, and immune regulation as a strategy to achieve immunological tolerance
- Author of "Handbook of Transplant Immunology" published in 1993



# Megan Sykes, MD



- Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Surgical Sciences (in Surgery)
- Michael J. Friedlander Professor of Medicine
- Director, Columbia Center for Translational Immunology
- Director of Research, Transplant Initiative
- Director, Bone Marrow Transplantation Research, Division of Hematology/Oncology



# Dr. Adriana Zeevi

- Director of Tissue Typing Laboratory for solid organ and bone marrow transplant programs at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, VA, and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Her Clinical expertise is in the area of immunogenetics and histocompatibility. Her work also includes alloantibodies in pediatric cardiac transplantation.
- Over 30 years experience in immune monitoring of transplant recipients.



- Anne I. Dipchand, MD is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto and a Pediatric Cardiologist
- Head of the Heart Transplant Program at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto.
- Her clinical research activities are focused on pediatric heart failure and transplantation.

## **Dr. Anne I. Dipchand**

# Past (Female) Presidents of the American Society of Transplantation (AST)

- Nancy Goeken, PhD – 1986-1987
- Barbara Murphy MD – 2008-2009
- Mary Johnson MD – 2010- 2011
- Roslyn Mannon, MD – 2012-2013
- Dianne Mckay, MD -2018 – 2019
- Emily Blumberg, MD 2019 - 2020

# Past (Female) President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons

- Nancy Ascher 2000 – 2001
- Kim Olthoff 2012 - 2013

# What are the challenges to getting more women in Transplantation?

- Traditional male-dominated surgical fields
- Despite appropriate skills and passion, academic support may be inadequate
- Concerns about work-life management
- Mentoring and guidance often lacking for females compared to males
- Extended support beyond fellowship

# **“Recognition Matters: only one in 10 awards are given to women”**

**Rosemary Morgan et al. The Lancet, June 24, 2017**

- Awards validate and bring visibility
- Help attract funding
- Hasten career development

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**Quote Her**



# Women in Transplantation : an initiative of the Transplantation Society (TTS)

- Mission: to advance and inspire women transplant professionals and champion issues of sex and gender in transplantation
- One of the guiding principles: Advocacy, education, engagement and connection across genders, cultures and professional domains in the field of transplantation are critical to WIT's success and impact

## WOMAN LEADER IN TRANSPLANTATION AWARD

### PREVIOUS AWARDEES



2020 - Elaine F Reed



2020 - Anita S-F Chong



2018 - Karen Dwyer

## UN Sung HERO AWARD

### PREVIOUS AWARDEES



2020 - Vasanthi Ramesh



2020 - Yingzi Ming



2020 - Rose Marie O. Rosete-Liquete

# Conclusion: The “Hidden Figures”

- While we are grateful for all the work of the founding fathers of Transplantation, we also must recognize and salute the many women whose names go unpublished in the field of transplantation.
- The bench researchers, the assistants, the co-authors, the spouses, and support staff who make our work successful.



**Thank You**