

Transplant Trends

Transplantation Services in Arizona

Deal Sealed Three Decades Earlier --

Marriage of 30 Years Results in True ‘Bonding’ Through Wife-to-Husband Kidney Transplant

Hugs were plentiful in the pre-op unit at Mayo Clinic Hospital just before Ellen Jablonow was wheeled off to surgery on Dec. 18, 2007. She was about to fulfill a promise to donate one of her kidneys to her husband, Scott. Scott’s final “I love you” echoed down the hall as onlookers marveled at Ellen’s generous gift of life to her husband of 30 years.

But the deal was sealed long before that.

The unthinkable happened for Scott Jablonow in 1977, when he was just 27. While doing the final buffing of the hub caps on his car at a self-serve car wash in Florida, a runaway second car struck him. Hard. That single event would forever change the course of Scott’s life. The severe hit propelled him 25 feet into the air and immediately ruptured his spleen, collapsed his lungs, broke several ribs, destroyed one kidney and severely damaged his remaining one.

Scott was flown to the intensive care unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where he remained for three months and underwent dialysis for five months. It was there that he met Ellen, who admits she “fell hard” for the young man who exhibited such positive spirit, tenacity and the resolve to heal. Scott vowed that his remaining



A final kiss goodbye in pre-op for Ellen, the kidney donor, and Scott, her husband, the recipient

kidney would recuperate enough to function without long-term dialysis – which it did.

Ellen had been warned by a doctor in the ICU to “not fall in love with Scott, because he probably wouldn’t make it.” (They said his chances of survival were less than 5 percent.) It was advice she chose to ignore. For one thing, Scott’s accident had happened on her birthday, and she felt invested in his care and longevity.

Scott and Ellen were married six months later. On Nov. 15, 2007, they celebrated their 30th anniversary, and Ellen continues to profess that Scott remains “the love of her life.”

But the time had come, those three decades later, for Scott to undergo a kidney transplant. Despite his positive attitude and healthy lifestyle, his kidney had deteriorated to 10 percent function. Still, Scott and Ellen celebrated what they describe is tantamount to a miracle. Ellen, to the surprise of their families, shares Scott’s same blood

and tissue types and qualified to be her husband’s kidney donor.

Mayo Clinic nephrologist Dr. Marek Mazur saw the possibilities – and the moment was not lost on him when he learned of the couple’s story, their 30-year history and the confirmation that Ellen was an excellent match for Scott. He is especially impressed that Scott’s family has established a fund in

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Marriage of 30 Years (continued from page 1)

another state to assist patients with medical expenses – and to raise awareness of organ donation.

All that good fortune and optimism coalesced on the morning of Dec. 18, when Scott and Ellen, surrounded by family members, said their goodbyes and were wheeled to separate operating rooms. In operating room 2, Dr. Paul Andrews skillfully removed Ellen’s kidney laparoscopically, explaining that the minimally-invasive procedure results in less post-operative pain and allows patients to be discharged from the hospital sooner (typically in two days). As Dr. Andrews continued his careful cutting and cauterizing to remove

the kidney, he remarked that the minimally invasive procedure is a “huge advantage” for the patient and an incentive for people to consider living donation. He did note, “You have a lot of respect for these donors – healthy people who are willing to have surgery to help someone else in such a profound way.”

A call was placed to operating room 9, saying that within 10 minutes, they would be ready to turn over Ellen’s healthy kidney. On the exact schedule, Dr. Adyr Moss, Scott’s surgeon, arrived with a basin of ice to prepare and transport the kidney. Even though such action takes place multiple times

at Mayo Clinic Hospital (nearly 90 such living donor kidney transplants took place in 2007 alone), it a moving moment to witness by those in the operating room. Ellen’s kidney, as confirmed by both Drs. Andrews and Moss, was “beautiful.”

Dr. Moss and the team carefully walked the kidney to the awaiting operating room and then implanted it into Scott’s abdomen, where the operating team looks forward to the moment when the new kidney begins to function and produce urine. That moment arrived, and Scott is able to celebrate the new year with a new kidney and a prospect for renewed health.

Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Patient Completes 35-Mile Bicycle Event in El Tour de Tucson

Mayo Clinic kidney/pancreas transplant recipient Bob Payne has faced formidable medical challenges over the span of his young 47 years. But not enough to keep him off his bike – or from riding 35 miles in the highly-acclaimed El Tour de Tucson on Nov. 7, 2007.

The event is considered America’s largest perimeter biking event, and since its beginnings in 1983, now attracts nearly 10,000 participants. Bob was proudly one of them, and according to his friend, Christophe Prosnier, “It was through great determination and willpower that Bob completed his goal, riding in the El Tour.”

Because he is a left below-the-knee amputee, Bob used a special cycling prosthesis to enable him to do the bike tour. Christophe, also Bob’s prosthetist, was at his side to provide support.

Equally remarkable is that Bob,

who had been diagnosed with diabetes at age 21, had undergone the difficult amputation just six years ago and on April 6, 2007, just six months before the bike event, underwent a combination kidney/pancreas transplant. And to further complicate his training schedule, he fell off his bike three weeks before the Tour and broke his knee, considerably limiting his training time.

But, as is obvious in the photo, Bob was up to the challenge, is back at work as an orthopedic technician and vows he will do the full 109-mile race next time!



Bob Payne readies his bike for the big ride at El Tour de Tucson in November

Judy Beaumont Experiences Three Hearts in 13 Days

First Artificial Heart Patient Faces Cameras, Lights

She calls herself a “reluctant celebrity,” but Judy Beaumont succumbed to the fanfare in good spirits amid a phalanx of cameras, lights and microphones in late September 2007 at a press conference at Mayo Clinic Hospital.

She wasn't reluctant to tell her story – because of the potential hope for other patients who, like her, had experienced severe cardiac problems and ultimately, heart failure. Her problems were severe enough that she was listed for a heart transplant.

But Judy Beaumont, 56, Gilbert, Ariz., was the hero of the day because, outside of Tucson, Ariz., she was the first in the Southwest and on the west coast to be implanted with an artificial heart. The device, called the Total Artificial Heart (TAH-t), kept her alive for 13 days until a donor heart became available.

Judy's stunning reality: In a period of just 13 days, she felt the beating of three different hearts, all within her own chest. First, her own, failing heart. Then, the groundbreaking artificial heart. And, on the 13th day, a donor heart.

It was no wonder that Judy captured media attention, being a “first” and exhibiting courage for the long haul ahead with her rehabilitation and recovery.

The TAH-t, a pneumatic, biventricular system manufactured



Light, cameras and then action at the press conference for Mayo heart transplant patient Judy Beaumont

in Tucson by SynCardia Systems, is unique in that unlike ventricular assist devices that are implanted next to the human heart, it totally replaces the heart. Two artificial

ventricles provide for blood flow. The artificial heart is attached to an external power system.

Mayo heart surgeon Dr. Francisco Arabia implanted Judy's artificial heart, as well as her donor heart. When asked about how she managed the courageous decision to agree to the artificial heart, she said she didn't want to consider the “alternative,” noting, “I have a new grandbaby to think about.”

Since Judy's artificial heart, four more artificial hearts have been implanted at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.



Judy Beaumont, with her husband, John, was a good sport to face cameras

Under the 'Big Tent' --

A Time to Celebrate the Gift of Life for Transplant

Nearly 1,000 kidney, liver, pancreas and heart transplant patients, donors, family members and friends gathered in November 2007 to share stories, reconnect with the Transplant team and encourage each other at the 2007 Transplant Reunion on the Phoenix campus of Mayo Clinic. It was the same morning that a ceremonial ground breaking was held to launch the new Village at Mayo Clinic, a home-away-from-home for transplant and cancer patients.



Liver transplant patient, **Stewart Elson**, and wife, **Polly**, share their story about being guests at the Arizona Transplant House



Flying dirt is representative of the ground breaking for the new Village at Mayo Clinic. Mayo CEO **Dr. Victor Trastek**, far left, leads the charge with numerous representatives and champions for the cause



Keynote speaker **Chester Szuber**, who told the compelling story of how his beloved daughter became a heart donor, is greeted by emcee **Mark Burns**, Transplant Medicine

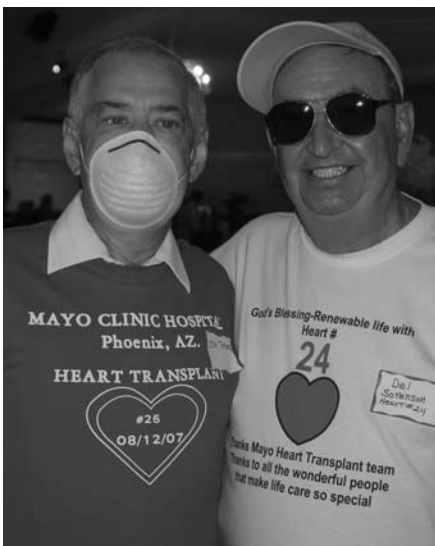


Dr. Robert Scott, left, and **Diane Casper**, heart transplant coordinator, far right, socialize with heart transplant patient, **Roger Sievert**, who must also be a "Cheese Head," as in the Green Bay Packers!

Transplant Patients



Liver transplant coordinator Joe Kears enjoys the day with liver transplant patient Wilbert Dayzie



Heart transplant patients number 26, Jim Totcke, left, and number 24, Del Sorenson, proudly convey their feelings with messages on their t-shirts about the gift of life

A Night of Denim N' Dreams -- **A Night to Celebrate Future of The Arizona Transplant House**

It was a magical evening in November, with a great turnout and great commitment to all that the Arizona Transplant House has been, and all that it will be as it morphs into the new Village at Mayo Clinic in the near future. The home environment will bring serenity and camaraderie (and much more space!) for transplant and cancer patients.



Auctioneer Greg Knowles wore denim and was convincing in inspiring the audience to dig deep and give to the Transplant House



Mary Davie, president of the board of the Transplant house, and Tom Davie, Executive Director, were all smiles



Emcee Eric Erickson, Mayo Clinic, not only has excellent hosting abilities, but entertains with music as well



Celebrity emcee, Sabra Gertsch, Fox 10 TV, recounts tender stories she has done about transplant patients

One Bonus: Winner of Raffle

400th Liver Transplant Patient Vows To Educate about Hepatitis B Virus

Cara Foster and her four siblings were dealt a tough blow. All five contracted hepatitis B through their birth mother – a virus that attacks the liver and can cause lifelong infection and cirrhosis.

Two of her brothers have had liver transplants and one sister died from complications of the disease. Now Cara is convinced that her son, who also has hepatitis B, will likely require a liver transplant.

Cara's life has been defined by drama. She and her husband, Stan, work for Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. They own their own airplane and have flown all over the country as members of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Air Posse.

But the reality of her failing liver was a bit too much drama for Cara. In fact, her liver was damaged to the point where she needed a shunt in her liver to release the blocked blood caused by scarring.

That procedure, Cara said, is considered the "point of no return." To make matters worse, her liver, already vulnerable, developed cancer. She was placed second on the transplant list when she got her life-saving liver transplant. That was on Sept. 2, 2007.

By Nov. 3, just two months post-transplant, Cara felt energetic enough to attend the 2007 annual transplant patient reunion on the Phoenix campus of Mayo Clinic. It was there that she spied the 50-inch plasma TV that was being raffled off to benefit the Arizona Trans-



Winners! Mayo's 400th liver transplant patient, Cara Foster, and husband, Stan, won the raffle for the plasma TV at the 2007 Transplant Reunion. Proceeds go to help fund the Arizona Transplant House.

plant House. She went for broke and bought six raffle tickets.

Finally, at least in one small way, the roll of the dice went her way. She won! Not only that, Cara is considered a "milestone" patient, in that she was the 400th liver transplant at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

"It's life-altering," avows Cara, speaking of her transplant and giving praise to her surgeon, Dr. Kunam Reddy. "You look at things so differently."

Now she is on a mission to educate people about hepatitis B, the almost "forgotten" virus, she laments, knowing how virulent it can be once it attacks the liver. She explains that the virus is more common among Asians (her mother was born in China) and countries

in the Middle East and the Pacific islands. Cara notes further:

- Hepatitis B is spread by direct contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person and can be transmitted from an infected mother to her baby at birth. It is not spread through food or water or casual contact.

- Most adults (more than 95 percent) with hepatitis B will recover and become immune to a future infection. Some 4,000 to 5,000 people in the U.S. die each year from liver disease or liver cancer related to the virus.

- The good news is that there is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis B, and it is safe for newborns, children and persons of any age whose activities or job puts them at risk for hepatitis B.

Blood and Marrow Transplant Patient Reunion 2007

In early December, under the tent on the Phoenix Campus of Mayo Clinic, a joyful event brought together patients, family members, friends and BMT caregivers to celebrate hope and life. Because a number of the patients (from Phoenix Children's Hospital) are young in both age and spirit, the day honored them, as well as adults. Our littlest patients took part in "golf," face-painting, balloon sculpture and, importantly, kid-friendly food.



A pint-sized buffet for pint-sized guests at the BMT reunion provided not only healthy veggies, but, later, ice cream, cupcakes and sprinkles



Dr. Roberta Adams, right, shows pride and affection for her very young patient, Bella, who is busy scanning the options at the bountiful buffet



Patient and staff honor the gift of life for BMT patients and donors



Face painting is serious artistic business at the event, which was only one of a number of fun activities for the younger set

Outcome Statistics: Kidney Transplantation

Total 6/99 - 1/31/08	807
Living Donor Transplants	464
1 yr. graft survival	93.99%*
1 yr. patient survival	97.54%*
30 day patient survival	99.22%*
30 day graft survival	96.97%*
Median length of hospitalization	4 days

Outcome Statistics: Kidney/Pancreas Transplantation

Total 7/03 - 1/31/08	70
1 yr. graft survival (kidney)	97.37%*
1 yr. graft survival (pancreas)	100%*
1 yr. patient survival	100%*
30 day patient survival	100%*
30 day graft survival (kidney)	100%*
30 day graft survival (pancreas)	100%*
Median length of hospitalization	7 days

* www.ustransplant.org 07/01/2004 through 12/31/2006 for the 1 Month and 1 Year Cohorts

Outcome Statistics: Liver Transplantation

Total 6/99 - 1/31/08	416
Living Donor Transplants	77
1 yr. graft survival	85.59%*
1 yr. patient survival	88.87%*
30 day patient survival	95.12%*
30 day graft survival	92.37%*
Median length of hospitalization	7 days

Outcome Statistics: Pancreas Transplantation

Total 7/03 - 1/31/08	
1 yr. graft survival	87.84%*
1 yr. patient survival	94.12%*
30 day patient survival	100%*
30 day graft survival	100%*
Median length of hospitalization	6 days

Outcome Statistics: Heart Transplantation

Total 10/05 - 1/31/08	40
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Attention Physicians – 24-Hour Physician Referral Line: 1-800-344-6296 or 1-800-446-2279



Mayo Clinic
13400 East Shea Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona 85259
www.mayoclinic.org

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Editor: Lynn Closway, 480-301-4337
closway.lynn@mayo.edu

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