

The Liver Transplant Team



Hepatologists:

Michael Heneghan, MD; Don Rockey, MD; Andrew Muir, MD.
not pictured: John McHutchinson, MD, Alastair Smith, MD.



Transplant Surgeons:

Betsy Tuttle-Newhall, MD; Paul Kuo, MD;
Bradley Collins, MD



From Left:

Darla Phillips, RN, MSN;
Julie Tart, RN, MSN;
Judy Gentile, RN, ANP;
Geannine O'Brien, RN, BSN

The Duke Liver Transplant Team is made up of a diverse group of healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dieticians, and medical psychologists. Initially, these specialists will help you determine if a liver transplant is the right treatment for you. If and when you become a transplant patient, the same group of professionals will take care of you.

The following is a list of Liver Transplant Team members and a brief description of their roles. We suggest that you write down the names of your team members as you meet them to help you remember who they are.

The Duke Liver Transplant Center uses a team approach to care for you throughout your illness and recovery to new health. After you have been listed for transplant, you will attend the Liver Transplant Clinic. Until this time you may have seen only one of the medical doctors. Each doctor is not in clinic each day. That means you will eventually meet each of the doctors on the team. If you are admitted to the hospital, the doctor who is rounding that week on the inpatients will care for you. When you have your surgery, the surgeon who is “on-call” will perform your surgery. The advantage of getting to know each doctor is that they will have met you and will know you when it is time for your transplant.

Transplant Coordinator: This advanced practice nurse will discuss the overall course of events before, during, and after liver transplantation. The nurse coordinator is your fastest and most direct access to assistance regarding new problems, questions or results.

Transplant Hepatologist: This doctor specializes in liver disease and liver transplantation. He or she will evaluate your current liver disease and will discuss the option of liver transplantation with you.

Transplant Surgeon: This is the doctor who performs the operation. He or she will explain the liver transplantation surgery to you.

Social Worker: This specialist will help determine your ability to cope with the impact of liver transplantation on you and your family by asking you about your family life and social habits. She may provide counseling or be a resource for social and community resources.

Medical Psychologist: Having a liver transplant is a tremendous emotional stress. To help us understand how you might react to this stress, you may visit with our team psychologist even if you have no history of mental illness. Our psychologists have a great deal of experience in dealing with patients before and after their liver transplant.

Nutritionist: This team member will be available to you and your family to help you understand your nutritional needs and restrictions. If you are placed on a special diet, the nutritionist will help educate you as to the best food choices for you.

Financial Coordinator: This member of the transplant team works closely with you and your insurance carrier to determine that your transplant is financially approved before you are placed on a waiting list for your new liver. They may also advise you about fundraising methods if necessary to pay for expenses not covered by your insurance.

Anesthesiologist: This physician will talk to you about how you will be put to sleep during surgery and how any postoperative pain you may experience will be managed.

The members of the Liver Transplant Team want to help you as much as possible. Please feel free to ask us any and all questions you may have as they arise by contacting us through the Transplant Office. The secretaries who answer your call can help you with many of your questions, or direct your calls to those who can.

Transplant Team Members

Transplant Coordinators

Judy Gentile, RN, ANP	919-668-2466
Darla Phillips, RN, MSN	919-668-2466
Julie Tart, RN, MSN	919-684-3570
Geannine O'Brien, RN, BSN	919-684-2339

Liver Transplant Nurse

on call for urgent issues 919-684-8111

Transplant Hepatologists

Michael Heneghan, MD, MRCPI	919-681-4044
Andrew Muir, MD	919-684-2052
John McHutchinson, MD	919-668-7178
Don C. Rockey, MD	919-684-8727
Alastair Smith, MD, MB, CHB, MRCP(UK)	

Transplant Surgeons

Paul Kuo, MD	919-668-1856
Bradley Collins, MD	919-681-3855
Betsy Tuttle-Newhall, MD	919-684-5923

Transplant Social Worker

Karli Pontillo, MSW, LCSW	919-684-4480
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Transplant Dietician

Laura McGee, RD, LDN	919-681-3991
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Transplant Pharmacist

Kimberly Hollar, Pharm.D	919-684-6134
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Transplant Financial Coordinators

Julia Boatwright-Holden	919-681-4880
Joseph Robbins	919-684-6865

Contacting the Liver Transplant Team

Mailing Address:

Duke Liver Transplant Office

DUMC Box 3876

Durham, NC 27710

Phone: 919-684-6419

Fax: 919-681-7930

Directions to Duke University Medical Center

- Coming by I-85 from the south or north, take the Hillandale Road exit #174. Take a right at the top of the ramp. Follow Hillandale Road to Erwin Road. Turn left onto Erwin Road. Follow the signs for the clinics or the Emergency Room.
- Coming by US 70 from the east or I-85 from the north, take Hillandale Road exit #174. Take a left at the top of the ramp. Follow Hillandale Road to Erwin Road. Turn left onto Erwin and follow the signs for the clinics or the Emergency Room.
- Coming by US 15-501 Bypass from the south, exit onto the Durham Freeway (Highway 147) eastbound, proceed to the Fulton Street exit, then follow the signs to Duke and VA hospitals.

- Coming by Durham Freeway (Highway 147) from the east, follow the freeway into Durham. Take the Fulton Street exit and follow the signs.

Directions to the Duke Liver Transplant Clinic

- The Transplant Clinic is on the second floor of the main clinic building. From the clinic parking deck you may use the above ground walkway to the main reception building. The Transplant Clinic is 2C which is the first clinic on the right near end of the walkway. If you use the main entrance, you should use the elevators to go to the second floor. Turn right off the elevators and the clinic is on the left. Valet parking is available at main entrance for a fee of \$7.00, which includes your parking fee.