
Reply

Regarding Renal Transplantation in Macedonia - the Endless Story! - Reply

We have read the letter to the editor on our editorial "Improvement in Kidney Transplant Program of Macedonia-What Might be the Clue" [1], and we are pleased to have a couple of comments from the pioneers and our predecessors of the kidney transplant program in Macedonia, Ivanovski and Popov [2]. In fact, we do not see a lot of different positions or any published data related to the content of our editorial to be confronted with, but we'll try to respond to each point by point:

1. There is no doubt and disagreement that the kidney transplant program in our country was well-established in the previous years and regardless of the type of donor the numbers were pretty low for the reported period 1996-2011 (13.5/year). The problem of multidisciplinary organisational infrastructure as common obstacle for deceased donor program development in majority of emerging countries and possibilities for organ commercialism has been recognized [3]. Hence, the question was what should have been done by the transplant professionals in order to increase the number of transplantations as best option to discourage paid transplantations [4]. In this regard, the number of transplants reported in 2012 (24) was worth mentioning as the best result ever achieved in R. Macedonia, particularly because it was achieved over the period of only 7 months [5].
2. We also agree that the reduced number of only 6 transplants in 2011 may be partially due to the financial difficulties and reorganizations of the health-care system in the country. However, it's a bit intriguing that the authors confirmed 20 kidney transplantations performed in 2003 under the same conditions.
3. The South-Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN) initiative and the support from the Regional Health Development Centre (RHDC) on Organ Donation and Transplantation established in Croatia (Zagreb) was initiated in 2011 with the first scientific meeting in Skopje, 27-28 May [6,7], and not in 2010 as stated in the letter of Ivanovski. As we reported the SEEHN initiative had shown to be of great value for improvement in the transplant program in Macedonia with 28 living donor kidney transplants performed in the first 7 months of 2013 [8]. We hope for the same or even better results reported in

the forthcoming period under the changes pointed out by Ivanovski.

4. We agree that deceased donor program is a question of local organization and interest with a support from the local authorities. Nevertheless, at present, we have succeeded in our commitment as professionals that the number of living related transplants have been increased as an immediate and prompt action [3,4].
5. We would like to express once again our appreciation and gratitude to our predecessors for their encouragement to continue their work in the field of renal transplantation and hope they might be proud of already reported results [9].

Conflict of interest statement. None declared.

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